



labour

Department:
Labour
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



**Approved Inspection Authorities
(AIA)**

**Guidance Notes on the
Major Hazard Installation
Regulations**

April 2005

Chief Directorate of Occupational Health and Safety

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1. Introduction

The Occupational Health and Safety Act (OHS Act) defines an Approved Inspection Authority (AIA) in Section 1(1)(i) as " an inspection authority approved by the Chief Inspector: Provided that an inspection authority approved by the Chief Inspector with respect to any particular service shall be an approved inspection authority with respect to that service only."

The Major Hazard Installation Regulations (MHI Regulations), which was promulgated under the OHS Act provides more specific for an AIA in terms of MHI Regulation 5. (5)(a) as " An employer, self-employed person and a user shall ensure that the assessment contemplated in Sub-regulation (1), shall be carried out by an Approved Inspection Authority which is competent to express an opinion as to the risks associated with the major hazard installation."

2. Risk assessment

It is the responsibility of the Chief Executive Officer of the installation to see to it that the risk assessment is carried out by an AIA.

The risk assessment must be carried out on all existing MHIs, all new MHIs prior to their erection, and on all modifications due to the change in procedures and capacity and at intervals not exceeding 5 years.

The employer must consult and inform the health and safety representative or health and safety committee on all risk assessment issues.

The minimum information that must be included in the risk assessment is laid down in Sub-regulation 5. (5) (b). An executive summary of the assessment will be adequate for the governing bodies. If the governing bodies require the complete assessment, they can request it.

Risk assessments for rolling stock are addressed in Sub-regulation 7.

People who have an interest or who are affected by a MHI, can request that the risk assessment be made available to them at any reasonable time, place and in a manner that is agreed upon between the parties.

3. South African National Accreditation Systems (SANAS)

The South African National Accreditation Systems (SANAS) was established as a Section 21 company during 1996. The board of directors was appointed by the Department of Trade and Industry.

Their accreditation is within stipulations of the international standards ISO/IEC 17020 and that of the accreditation principals drawn up for the Department of Labour.

The principals of the Department of Labour were drawn up by the Specialist Technical Committee (STC), whose members are representatives of government, organised business and organised labour.

4. Accreditation process

Candidates who want to become AIAs must first apply to SANAS for accreditation. A SANAS assessor will investigate the candidate according to the laid down principles and will recommend a successful candidate for approval. The successful candidate will then be recommend the to SANAS's management.

SANAS's management will issue a certificate of accreditation to the successful candidate.

SANAS can be contacted at:

DTI Campus
Private Bag X23
Sunnyside
0132

Tel: 012 3943760

5. Process of approval

After receiving a certificate of accreditation the candidate can request approval from the Department of Labour to become an AIA for MHI risk assessment.

The Department will issue a certificate of approval to the successful candidate.

The Department of Labour can be contacted at:

Chief Inspector
Occupational Health and Safety
Department of Labour
Private Bag X117
Pretoria
0001

Tel: 012 309 4387