



# South African Qualification and Certification Committee for the Fire Industry

Reg. No.: 99/1937/08 a Section 21 Company  
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## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT - 2009-2010

Welcome to the 11th Annual General meeting.

Once again, the past year has been busy and the committee has amongst other items, spent time discussing the Pressure Equipment Regulations and has done considerable work on the combining of the industry in terms of Fire Detection and Gas Extinguishing Systems which has now somewhat gone into hibernation. The SAQCC Fire Constitution has undergone a complete overhaul with a view to this combining of the industry and is currently still being reviewed. Once this is completed, it will be submitted to everyone who is registered with SAQCC Fire for approval, before being accepted.

The above has not deterred the committee from spending the majority of time on our core function of registering competent persons, organising training for trainees and attending to disciplinary matters. The latter item will need more attention and consideration of how to handle these continuing problems.

SAQCC Fire have as at mid-May 2010, 1 085 registered technicians, up from 1018 at the same time last year, and 319 registered trainees in the system compared to 266 last year. Our base of both registered technicians and trainees is on the increase. This trend is interesting, especially as some major 1475 companies have actually cut back on registered technicians.

It has been mooted that we need to control trainees in the sense that they need to progress and in the committee's opinion, must not remain trainees ad-indefinitum. From 1st May 2010, trainees should only be registered for a maximum period of 24 months after which time they must have undergone a course or assessment ready to become a competent person.

Due to the close cooperation between SAQCC Fire and the SABS, I can report that currently, we have 442 registered SABS 1475 companies on our system and the SABS has 443, which is quite candidly, the best we have ever managed and shows how cooperation really can work. The same approach from the Department of Labour to assist our efforts in regard to accidents would indeed be a massive help to SAQCC Fire and our attempts to control the quality and safety of our registered technicians in actually carrying out the service.

We have members on committee at ECSA but deliberation at the Engineering Council also appears to be extremely slow. However, it has come to our notice that some action is taking place.

The SABS Inspectorate has been making full use of our website as are many others which is most encouraging. The website is continually updated and therefore a source of useful information.

On the financial side, we have Kobus Breedts who must be congratulated as he has continued to keep us on a sound financial footing. During the financial year, ending February 2010, the SAQCC Fire posted a surplus of R226 301 which gave SAQCC Fire a cash on hand of R1 579k. Currently, this stands at R1 800k but obviously, the incoming revenue is relatively static and monies will be used to keep our operations in the black. We need to consider these amounts and how they may best be deployed to the advantage of our registered persons and trainees.

We participated at Securex (28th to 30th June) at the Sandton Convention Centre which proved extremely successful and will be doing so again this year where it has been taken over and enlarged and will now be known as IFSEC-SA – 31st August to 2nd September.

The SABS has been active during the year under review and members of this committee have attended several meetings in Pretoria. This, along with the attendance at ECSA meetings is the extra mile that our committee members go to keep the committee updated on the important moves that effect our constituents.

The newsletter sent out by the advertising committee often contains information obtained from the above meetings. On the subject of the advertising committee, the members, Duncan Boyes and Lizl Davel have some exciting new ideas for the coming year which, as I understand, will not only enhance the image of the SAQCC Fire registered person, but be fun and generate income!

The incoming committee should take cognisance of the broad needs of the organisation and encourage registered persons to participate. I know time spent here might mean a loss of income but we desperately need to broaden our committee membership.

On a personal note, I would like to thank Rosemary Cowan for her outstanding commitment to SAQCC Fire and her enthusiasm for our organisation. Thank you Rose.

And finally in 2010 parlance – Go Bafana Go!



**BRETT JONES**  
**CHAIRMAN - SAQCC FIRE**