



South African Qualification and Certification Committee for the Fire Industry

Reg. No.: 99/1937/08 a Section 21 Company

www.saqccfire.co.za

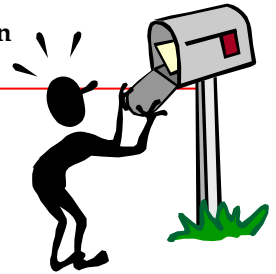
Postnet Suite #86 Private Bag X10020 Edenvale 1610

2nd Floor West ~ Helvetia House ~ Greenvale Road ~ Wilbart ~ Germiston

Tel: +27 -11 455 3157 Fax: 086 518 4374 - E-Mail: saqccfire@tiscali.co.za

SAQCC (Fire) TALK

July 2008 Edition



The SAQCC (Fire) chairman, Mr Brett Jones, expressed his concern during his report at the Annual General Meeting held in June that there were still technicians servicing extinguishers without being registered. SAQCC (Fire) is acting on complaints received and Mr Jones reiterated that the increase in disciplinary cases was putting a constraint on the SAQCC (Fire's) budget.



Mr Jones also warned that the SABS inspectors were accessing the SAQCC (Fire) website more frequently in different areas of the country to ensure that technicians were registered in the current year with the SAQCC (Fire). Continuous co-ordination between SAQCC (Fire) and the SABS also does result in companies with the 1475 permit being suspended or the permit withdrawn should they not have registered technicians.

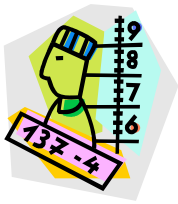
Actions taken against illegal servicing

Complaints that were received and dealt with include a Gauteng company replacing the original SABS-approved manufacturing labels with own company labels. A warning was issued at a disciplinary hearing. In another case a technician was called to a disciplinary hearing in March 2008 on a complaint that he was using another technician's registration number on signing off service labels. This hearing was postponed to August. A disciplinary warning was also issued to a technician in Bloemfontein for defacing an SAQCC (Fire) registration card by tippexing out a former company name and year and servicing without being registered.



The SAQCC (Fire) has furthermore referred a complaint to the SABS about a Gauteng company servicing in KZN when the only registered technician employed by the company was based in Gauteng. A similar complaint pending concerns the owner of a service company who is the only registered technician, but who allows other technicians in the company to service when he isn't present. Other alleged illegal actions pending at the SAQCC (Fire) involve a company who issued cards to their technicians after they went for training, but they were not registered with SAQCC (Fire). The company was manufacturing their own cards and printing the training certificate numbers on the cards.

The SAQCC (Fire) advises technicians to ensure that they are familiar with the legal requirements in the industry regarding registration and servicing procedures and that they follow these regulations. The SAQCC (Fire) will act on complaints received either by taking action itself if within its jurisdiction or - forwarding the case to the relevant institution such as the SABS or the Department of Labour.



Fraud leads to legal action

Similarly a case was reported to the SAQCC (Fire) by Fest Fire Security who filed charges against persons using their service label illegally. A Mr Stemmit Fortuin pleaded guilty and was charged with fraud on 15 October 2007. The penalty was R1000.00 fine or 10 months in jail suspended for 3 years.

Technicians to ensure that extinguishers are SABS-approved

Extinguishers installed in buildings need to be SABS-approved as per the legal requirements of SANS 10400. Manufacturers need to submit their extinguishers to the SABS for approval before their product can bear the SABS mark. Technicians must realise that the onus rests on them to ensure that the extinguishers they service in buildings bear the SABS mark. They should also attempt to ensure that the manufacturer has a current permit allowing them to display the mark legally or discuss with the 1475 mark-holder, i.e. the boss!

The SAQCC (Fire) and SABS herewith informs all technicians to look for the relevant approval mark on extinguishers' instruction labels as well as checking the SABS website to ensure that the manufacturer is listed as approved. Technicians can also approach the manufacturers to request a copy of their current SABS permit. Manufacturers displaying an SABS mark without current approval may be prosecuted by the SABS.



SAQCC (Fire) informs all technicians that should they come across extinguishers in public places that are not SABS-approved, such units must not be serviced in accordance with SANS 1475 and cannot be signed off.

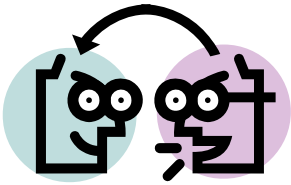
News flash & notices!

- ❖ The committee member responsible for training, Mr Tom Dreyer, informed SAQCC (Fire) during its annual general meeting that a special general meeting would be requested to address a change in the constitution to accommodate the request by the Department of Labour that registered technicians be re-assessed on a four yearly basis.
- ❖ SAQCC (Fire's) administrator, Ms Rosemary Cowan, reported at the June meeting that 1047 technicians were registered from 399 companies. 237 trainees were currently registered.

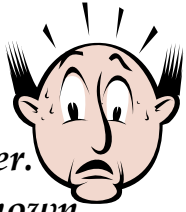
About the SAQCC

- The following office bearers were re-elected at the June 2008 AGM: Chairman: Brett Jones Vice-chairman: Tom Dreyer Treasurer: Kobus Breedt, Technical Committee Chairman: Jeremy Kellett Training Committee Chairman: Tom Dreyer.

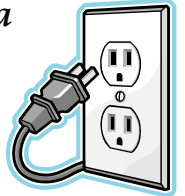




TIPS



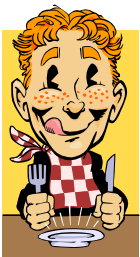
- * *The use of electrical tools in customers' premises can be a killer. The electrical supply for these tools in any building is an unknown hazard. The building circuit breakers not operating properly is a common fault. Make sure that you use a Ground Fault Circuit Breaker (GFCI) in the buildings electrical socket and plug your electrical tool into the GFCI. The GFCI will break the electrical circuit in case of a power surge and save your life.*



- * *This photograph was submitted to SAQCC (Fire) by one of its members. He reported that it was a CO² diptube, found curled up inside an aluminium CO² extinguisher that had to be refilled. It was taken up with the manufacturer and apparently there was a problem with the compatibility between the material and the CO². Technicians are advised to ensure that major overhauls are done on extinguishers as required by law, so that corrective action is taken on faulty extinguishers before the units malfunction when used. This has been reported to the SABS who had spoken to the manufacturers some time ago – SAQCC (Fire) awaits further reaction from the SABS.*

Case Dismissed

Fire extinguisher service companies watch each other like hawks. Forever ready to pounce on some misdeed that a serviceman has made. The following phone call was received by a representative of SAQCC (Fire).



"There I was having a quiet breakfast at Wimpy when this service guy walks out of the kitchen with a fire extinguisher. I watches him very, very carefully as he walks to his bakkie. He then opens his tailgate and proceeds to dust off the extinguisher with a rag. He then lights a cigarette and when his smoke is finished he comes back in. I goes to the owner and identifies myself as being in the fire business. I tells him that you can't service an extinguisher like this and he must refuse to pay!"



No you can't service a fire extinguisher like that ~ but now let's hear the serviceman's side of the story had he the opportunity to answer.

“There I was minding my own business servicing a fire extinguisher at Wimpy. The extinguisher is only two years old and in good nick, so I do an on-site inspection.

1. *Check the correct pressure by the gauge on the extinguisher*
2. *Check the condition of the cylinder, no dents, welding etc.*
3. *Check that the label is legible and correct for the type of extinguisher.*
4. *Check the moving parts are in tact (without operating the unit) and in a good condition.*
5. *Check that the component parts (valve handles, discharge hose etc.) are in a good condition.*
6. *Check the bracket condition on the unit and on the wall.*
7. *Weigh the extinguisher and check it with the full weight stated on the label.*
8. *Record the weight and other information on a service label and stick it on the extinguisher*
9. *Clean the extinguisher.*

I forgot my cleaning rag in my bakkie. I walk out to my vehicle and dust the extinguisher down and decide to have a fag.

When I go back inside Wimpy all hell breaks loose. “



Old Chinese proverb: Do your job right and fear no man

Contributed by James Nunnerley

Enclosed is a small supply of leaflets for distribution to customers and potential customers. This gives details of SAQCC Fire, and also highlights the fact that the “END USER” is liable for prosecution should they use a non-registered serviceman.

PLEASE USE THESE TO DISSEMINATE THE NECESSARY INFORMATION TO THE PUBLIC AND ASSIST IN RIDDING OUR INDUSTRY OF ILLEGALLY OPERATING COMPANIES AND TECHNICIANS.

