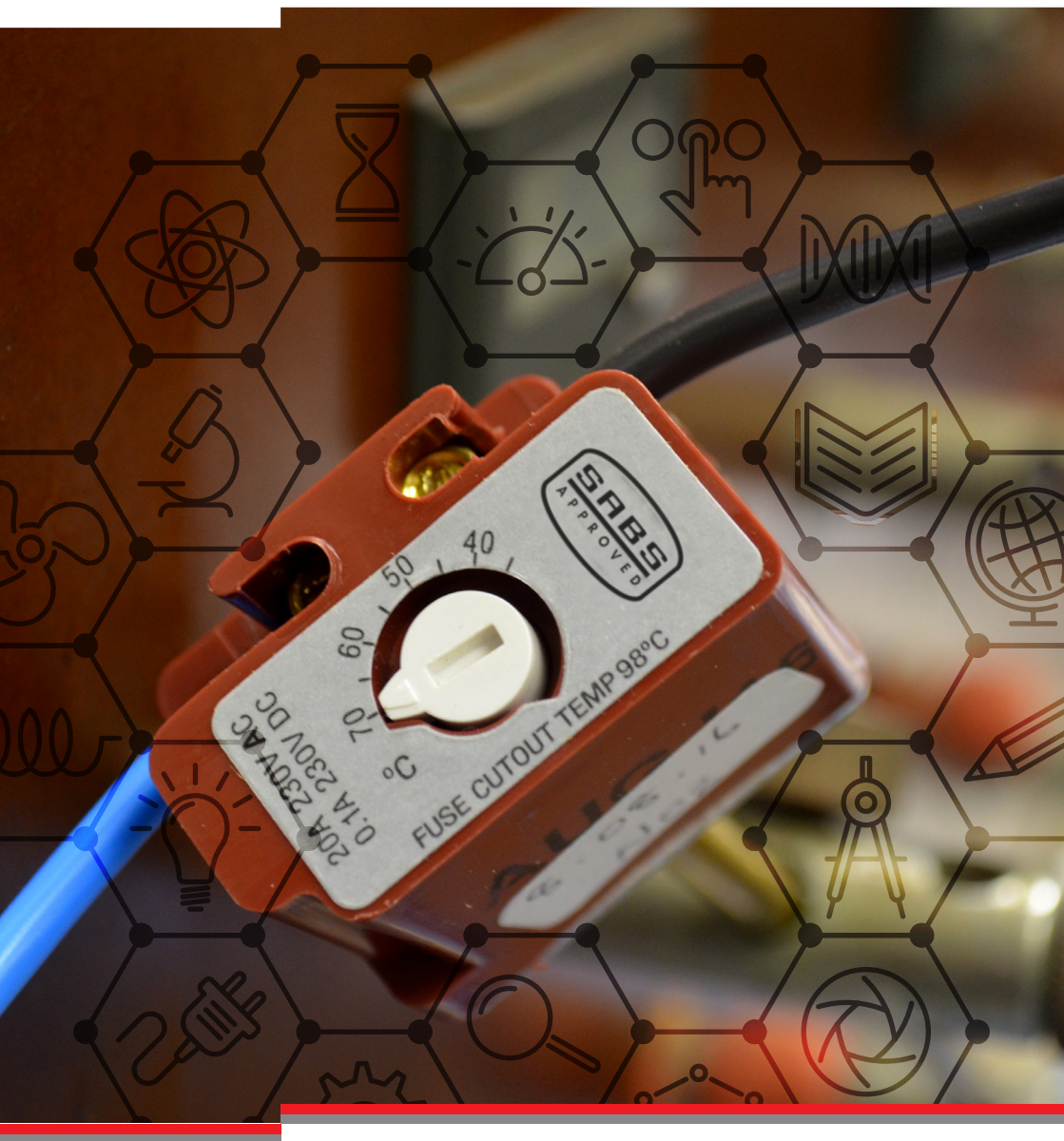


# **SABS**

## **SABS MARK SCHEME Product Certification**



## Introduction

The SABS Mark Scheme is a voluntary certification process by which a third party (i.e. SABS Commercial) gives assurance that a product fulfils specified requirements. The SABS Mark Scheme applies only to products/commodities for which South African National Standards (SANS) exist. The SABS Mark Scheme is accredited to ISO 17065 and an ISO 17067 type 5 & 3 accredited product certification scheme. The SABS Mark is applied to both locally manufactured and imported products/commodities.

## Manufacturing Processes

	Product Certification Scheme Type					
DETERMINATION OF PRODUCT CHARACTERISTICS	1	2	3	4	5	6
Type testing	x	x	x	x	x	
Assessment of services or processes	x	x	x	x	x	x
Design Appraisal	x	x	x	x	x	x
DECISION ON CERTIFICATION						
Granting permit, maintaining, suspending, withdrawing certification	x	x	x	x	x	x
ATTESTATION, LICENSING						
Issuing a certificate of product conformity	x	x	x	x	x	x
Granting the right to use SABS Mark of Approval						
SURVEILLANCE ACTIVITIES						
By quality system audits					x	x
Surveillance testing of product samples to conduct comparisons with originally accepted design		x			x	
By testing samples from the factory			x	x	x	

The SABS Mark is a highly recognisable symbol of credibility and a powerful marketing tool, which reinforces your product's intrinsic features. It strengthens your point-of-sale impact and gives your product greater credibility and prestige in the market place. The on-going improvement of your quality system is an essential part of the SABS Mark Scheme and is therefore a clear demonstration of your company's dedication to quality management.

The following are some of the many reasons why every South African manufacturer and importer of products should obtain the SABS Mark:

- You get real point-of-sale differentiation (SABS brand), resulting in more sales and greater revenue
- Our independent certification provides assurance and peace of mind to your management and customers that your product quality is maintained
- You can be very proud of the quality of the product(s) that you sell in the market place. Having your products independently tested and certified, proves that you have achieved your design and manufacturing objectives, and
- Your quality control/assurance system is regularly audited, thereby ensuring that your system continually improves and contributes towards the achievement of consistent good product quality.

### **Main Industries in which the SABS Mark Is Applied**

- Automotive/Transportation.
- Chemical.
- Electro-Technical.
- Food and Health.
- Mechanical and Materials.
- Civil and Building

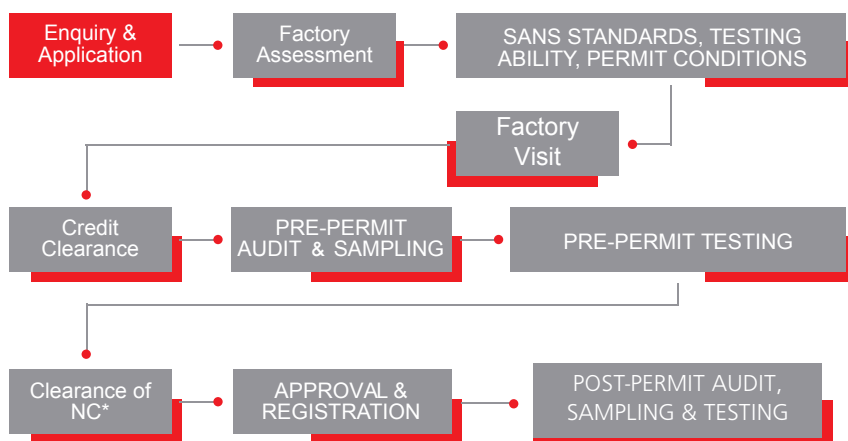


## How to Obtain the SABS Mark

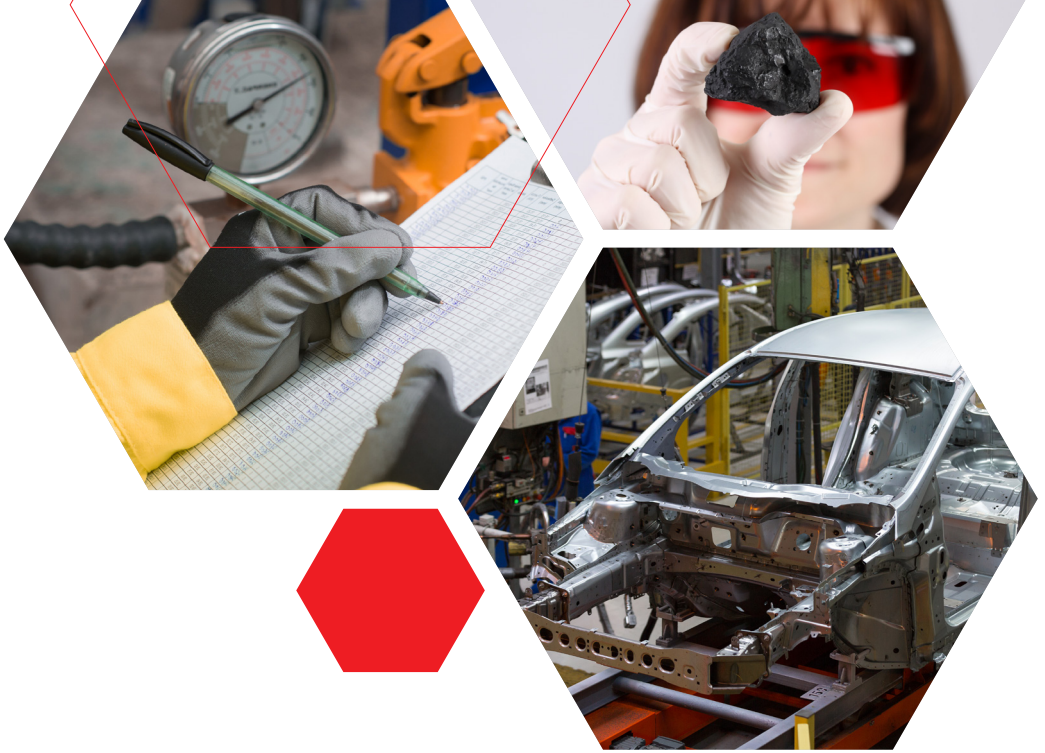
First enquire/apply at [info@sabs.co.za](mailto:info@sabs.co.za) or 012 428 7911. You will be given advice on the steps to take towards product certification (see certification process flow chart). This includes identifying the relevant SANS specification which -outline the characteristics and the performance and/or safety criteria that your product must comply with to qualify for the SABS Mark.

Next, access your factory's quality management system. which must ensure the proficiency of the production line to manufacture product(s) of consistent quality. A formal Quality Management System that is certified to SANS/ ISO 9001 "Quality Management Systems" is an advantage, but it is not a prerequisite to obtain the SABS Mark. If your company is not certified to this standard, SABS will prescribe the requirements for your company's quality control system which is contained in the SABS General Permit Conditions (GPC) document. Products should meet the specific permit requirements as stipulated in the SPC (Specific Permit Conditions).

## Certification Process



Once you have submitted your complete application the appropriate technical specification(s) can be identified for product testing.



If you do not operate a certified Quality Management System that complies with the requirements of ISO 9001 then your quality control system will be assessed during the pre-permit phase and the following quality control system requirements will be verified for compliance as a minimum:

- Appointed quality management representative.
- Record of internal quality audits.
- Control of documents and reports.
- Production planned and carried out under controlled conditions.
- Customer complaints and corrective action
- Purchasing and control of incoming materials
- Handling, storage, packaging, preservation and delivery of the product
- Calibration and verification of test and measurement equipment and accuracy of measurements
- Control of nonconforming product, and
- Compliance to regulatory requirements, when appropriate.

The quality control, performance shall at no time fall below the level prevailing at the time that the permit holder was assessed for the purpose of the issue of the Mark permit.



The SABS will issue your Mark permit once the SABS is satisfied that:

- The product and or commodity is manufactured to the applicable technical standard
- This standard can consistently be maintained during the production process
- The necessary controls are in operation within the manufacturing process
- The product(s) have passed full testing, and
- The factory audit is positive.

If the product has already been tested by another accredited test facility, or if the factory has been certified to ISO 9001 by another accredited certification body, SABS may consider the recognition of some of the results, saving you the cost of possible duplicate tests and assessments.

### **Post-Permit Surveillance Audits**

Once the permit has been issued, the SABS evaluates on-going compliance of the product(s) by:

- Regular post-permit sampling and testing, as specified in the Specific Permit Conditions (SPC) on product samples
- Regular surveillance audits of the quality system, and
- Regularly assessing the technical competency of the factory personnel and equipment.

## **Benefits of obtaining the SABS Mark**

### **Benefits to Manufacturers**

The SABS Mark on your manufactured product:

- Gives you a powerful feature (endorsement brand) for your marketing programme
- Reinforces your product(s) claims with your retailers, in government contracts, in tender submissions and in your export efforts
- Gives impact to your product(s) and adds prestige to your corporate image
- Is a valuable point-of-sale feature for all Mark bearing product packaging and promotional materials, and
- Enables your product(s) to comply with strict regulatory requirements, where appropriate.
- Give your company a marketing edge over your competitor
- To Ensure Consistency in the manufacturing of your product

### **Benefits to Importers**

The SABS Mark on imported product(s) increases market accessibility and acceptability. It also facilitates the compliance of imported product(s) to South African regulatory requirements, where appropriate.

## Benefits to Buyers and Retailers of Mark bearing products

Bulk purchasers, such as government departments, retailers and large companies prefer to buy certified products because it gives them peace-of-mind that a third party is looking after the product quality for them.

## Benefits to Consumers

The SABS Mark on a product:

- Gives consumers confidence in the quality and safety of the product(s) they purchase, and
- Provides a system of guaranteed redress to consumers for faulty Mark bearing products via the SABS.

## Benefits to Regulators

The SABS Mark Scheme provides the necessary evidence of product conformity that the regulators require from manufacturers and importers of product(s), that must comply with South African compulsory specifications.

The product conformity evidence provided through the SABS Mark Scheme enables the regulators to control product conformity for purposes of regulatory approvals. It also enables the regulators to ensure the public of ongoing product conformity through regular product testing, inspection of the production lines and the impartial verification and certification of compliance to product technical, safety and quality specifications.

Note that you will still have to apply for an LOA from the Regulator (NRCS)



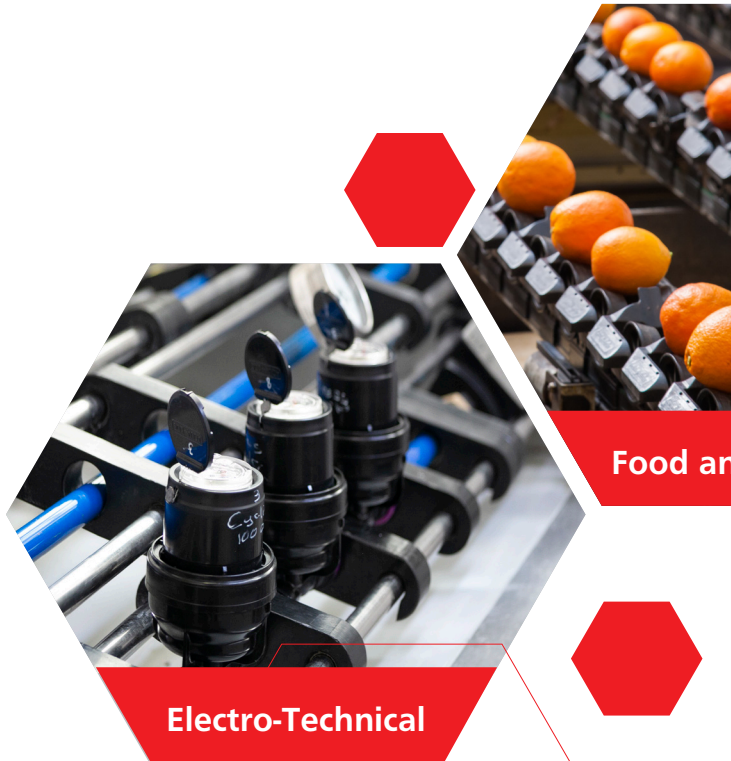
## Rules for Using the SABS Mark

The SABS Mark may be applied to a product/commodity only if the manufacturer is in possession of a valid Mark permit, issued by the SABS in respect of a specific factory site and trade name or trade mark and if the product/commodity complies with the relevant mark specification(s). A test report issued by a SABS test laboratory for a product(s) cannot be used in anyway whatsoever to claim SABS approval, SABS compliance or the right to use the SABS name, mark or logos.

## Accreditation

Accreditation is the procedure by which an accreditation body (SANAS) or RvA (Raad voor Accreditatie) gives formal recognition that a certification body is competent to carry out specific tasks.

SABS Commercial (SOC) LTD is accredited by the South African National Accreditation System (SANAS) against **ISO 17065— General requirements for bodies operating product certification systems.**





# Main Industries in which the SABS Mark is applied



**Chemical**



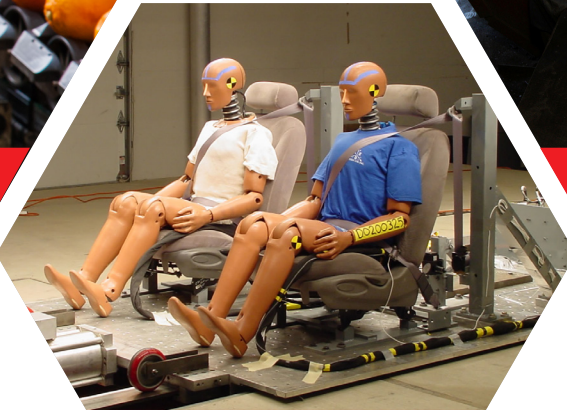
**Food and Health.**



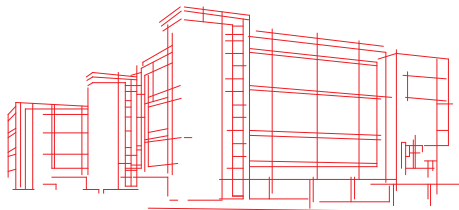
**Civil and Building**



**Mechanical and Materials.**



**Automotive/  
Transportation.**



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South African Bureau of Standards