

23 February 2009

Dear ABVA Member

**RE: PHASING OUT OF NON-ACCREDITED AGENCIES**

Following the accreditation of the first eleven verification agencies, the presence of accredited verification agencies in the marketplace has left an unanswered question:

*What is the status of certificates issued by verification agencies who have not yet been accredited?*

Much consideration has been given to this issue since 9 February 2009, and a position has been reached by the dti and will be communicated to the marketplace shortly.

**Background**

To date, ABVA has maintained the position that all certificates issued by agencies that have applied to SANAS for accreditation are acceptable in calculation of procurement scores. This has often been incorrectly stated by some to infer that only ABVA member's certificates are acceptable.

Some Verification Agencies (VA's) have abused this position by merely submitting an application to SANAS, with a management system that is at worst non-existent, and at best non-compliant. Confirmation of receipt of the application is then issued by SANAS. Continued acceptance of certificates from these agencies is against the principles of accreditation, and jeopardizes the credibility of the system.

**Revised Position**

The following changes have been made:

- All new applicants applying to SANAS for accreditation will receive a pre-assessment letter, after they have completed the document review and pre-assessment.
- Findings from the pre-assessment visit will now be documented, and must be cleared before a pre-assessment letter is issued.
- From 1 July 2009, only certificates from VA's that have been accredited, or have received a pre-assessment letter, will be

acceptable as proof of BEE status for calculation of the procurement element.

- Phase I and II assessments will be combined into a single assessment.
- New Applicants will have 4 months to obtain a pre-assessment letter.
- After obtaining a pre-assessment letter, all applicants (existing and new) will have 4 months in which to complete the accreditation process).
- New VA's who have not yet applied will be required to obtain a pre-assessment letter before they are able to issue any certificates.

These changes allow the dti to phase out certificates from non-accredited agencies in a structured manner, and allow VA's seeking accreditation to participate in the market by issuing certificates, provided that they have obtained a pre-assessment letter.

The revised position, shared by ABVA, the dti, and SANAS, is that certificates issued by accredited verification agencies and certificates issued by agencies who have received a pre-assessment letter are acceptable. Accredited agencies will issue certificates with SANAS logo's. Any other certificate used in procurement calculations must be accompanied by a pre-assessment letter, after 30 June 2009.

**The effect on the 80 Verification Agencies that have applied to SANAS for accreditation**

The effect of these changes on verification agencies is as follows:

Status	Conditions	Effect on certificates issued before 30 June 2009	Effect on certificates issued from 1 July 2009
Accredited VA's	None	Valid	Valid
VA's completing final assessments (Phase I and II)	Will receive a Pre Assessment letter during March 2009	Valid	Certificates can only be issued up to 4 months after receiving the pre-assessment letter
VA's that have re-submitted their management systems for approval	Must complete Pre Assessment and clear all findings by 30 June 2009. Will then receive a Pre	Valid	Certificates can only be issued up to 4 months after



	<p>Assessment letter</p> <p>Will have 4 months from Pre Assessment letter to complete the accreditation process</p>		<p>receiving the pre-assessment letter.</p>
<p>VA's that have not yet re-submitted their management systems for approval, after failing the first document review</p>	<p>Must re-submit their management systems for approval by 31 March 2009.</p> <p>Must complete Pre Assessment and clear all findings by 30 June 2009.</p> <p>Will then receive a Pre Assessment letter</p> <p>Will have 4 months from Pre Assessment letter to complete the accreditation process</p>	<p>Valid</p>	<p>Invalid.</p> <p>Certificates can be issued again, after the VA has received a pre-assessment letter.</p>

Should you have any queries in this regard, please contact me on 086 111 ABVA or e-mail [accreditation@abva.co.za](mailto:accreditation@abva.co.za)

Yours Sincerely,



**Wade van Rooyen**  
**Director: Accreditation**



**Andile Tlhoale**  
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