

**DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY
DEPARTEMENT VAN HANDEL EN NYWERHEID**

No. 73

6 February 2015

**NATIONAL REGULATOR FOR COMPULSORY SPECIFICATIONS ACT
(ACT 5 of 2008)**

**PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE COMPULSORY SPECIFICATION FOR
SWITCHES FOR FIXED INSTALLATIONS (VC 8003)**

It is hereby made known under section 13 (4) of the National Regulator for Compulsory Specifications Act (Act 5 of 2008), that, I Dr. Rob Davies, the Minister of Trade and Industry, intends to amend the Compulsory Specification for Switches for Fixed Installations, as set out in the attached schedule.

Any person who wishes to comment on the intention to thus amend the compulsory specification concerned shall submit their comments, in writing to the Chief Executive Officer, National Regulator for Compulsory Specifications, Private Bag X25, Brooklyn, 0075, on or before the date two months after publication of this notice.



**Dr. Rob Davies, MP
Minister of Trade and Industry**

SCHEDULE**COMPULSORY SPECIFICATION FOR SWITCHES FOR FIXED INSTALLATIONS
(VC 8003)****1. SCOPE**

1.1 This compulsory specification covers general purpose switches, for a.c. only, with a rated voltage in the range of 50V to 440 V and a rated current not exceeding 63 A, intended for household and similar fixed electrical installations, either indoors or outdoors.

1.2 This compulsory specification also covers:

- Manually operated switches;
- Switches that incorporate pilot lights;
- Electronic remote control switches;
- Electromagnetic remote control switches;
- Switches incorporating a time-delay device;
- Combinations of switches and other functions (with the exception of switches combined with fuses);
- Electronic switches;
- Switches having facilities for the outlet and retention of flexible cables and
- Switches and related accessories for use in home and building electronic systems (HBES),

1.3 This compulsory specification does not cover:

- Switches for appliances;
- Circuit-breakers;
- Contactors and
- Isolators (switch disconnectors)
- Isolating switches

2. DEFINITIONS

- 2.1 For the purposes of this document, the definitions in SANS 60669 series of standards, *switches for household and similar fixed-electrical installation, shall apply.*
- 2.2 In addition, the following definitions shall apply:
- 2.2.1 **applicant:** the manufacturer or importer seeking approval for a type of switch. The applicant shall be an existing legal entity within the Republic of South Africa.
- 2.2.2 **approval:** confirmation by the NRCS that a particular type of switch satisfies the requirements of this compulsory specification.
- 2.2.3 **declaration report:** a report, that is issued by an accredited conformity assessment body, indicating the equivalence of products and/or standards.
- 2.2.4 **NRCS:** National Regulator for Compulsory Specifications as established by the National Regulator for Compulsory Specifications Act, 2008 (Act No. 5 of 2008).
- 2.2.5 **proof of conformity:** documented evidence of conformity with the requirements of this compulsory specification.
- 2.2.6 **conformity of production:** proof that switches offered for sale has been manufactured to the approved design and continues to comply with the requirements of this compulsory specification.
- 2.2.7 **product certification:** is a certification system described in requirement 7.2.2 of this compulsory specification.
- 2.2.8 **valid test report:** copy of an original test report.
- 2.2.9 **valid product certificate:** copy of an original product certificate

- 3.1 The applicant shall ensure that each type of switch has been approved by the NRCS before offering it for sale, in accordance with the requirements of Annex A.
- 3.2 The applicant shall inform the NRCS of any change in design or materials affecting any mandatory requirement in terms of this compulsory specification. In the event of such change(s) the NRCS may, at its discretion, demand that the applicant submit a new application for approval.
- 3.3 The applicant shall, on request, provide the NRCS, within 5 working days, with satisfactory proof of conformity approval in respect of any type of switches included in the scope of this compulsory specification.
- 3.4 Failure to provide such proof shall constitute reasonable grounds for suspicion of non-compliance with the requirements of this compulsory specification.

4. SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS

- 4.1 **Electronic switches** shall comply with SANS 60669-2-1, *switches for household and similar fixed electrical installations, particular requirements for electronic switches*.
- 4.2 **Electromagnetic remote-control switches (RCS)** shall comply with SANS 60669-2-2, *Switches for household and similar fixed electrical installations ,particular requirements for electromagnetic remote-control switches (RCS)*
- 4.3 **Switches that incorporate a time-delay device** shall comply with SANS 60669-2-3, *switches for household and similar fixed electrical installations, particular requirements for time-delay switches (TDS)*.
- 4.4 **Other manually operated switches for fixed installations covered by this compulsory specification (see 1.1 and 1.2)** shall comply with SANS 60669-1, *Switches for household and similar fixed electrical installations (General requirements)*.
- 4.5 **Switches and related accessories for use in home and building electronic systems (HBES)**, shall comply with SANS 60669-2-5, *Particular requirements - Switches and related accessories for use in home and building electronic systems (HBES)*.

5. EQUIVALENCE OF STANDARDS

Standards issued by different standardization bodies such as ISO and EN, will only be accepted if it is proven, in the form of a declaration report from an accredited conformity assessment body, that they are technically equivalent to the relevant South African National Standard. The applicant shall be responsible for obtaining such a declaration report. Proof of conformity with such a standard shall be accepted as conformity with the corresponding South African National Standard.

6. CONFORMITY TO REFERENCED STANDARDS

- 6.1 For the purposes of this compulsory specification, a new edition of a referenced standard shall become effective twelve (12) months from the date of publication as a South African National Standard.
- 6.2 New products, or products resubmitted for approval because of a change in design or materials, shall in all cases be evaluated against the requirements of the latest edition of any referenced standard.
- 6.3 When a new edition of a referenced standard is published, products originally approved in accordance with the previous edition of that standard may have their approval extended for up to five years from the effective date of the new standard, subject to the requirements of Annex A, unless declared otherwise by the Minister.

7. EVIDENCE OF CONFORMITY

One of the following options of evidence shall be submitted to the NRCS as proof of conformity with the requirements of this compulsory specification:

7.1 Option 1, for switches with-out a product certification:

- 7.1.1 A valid test report in IEC format or any equivalent format acceptable to the NRCS and issued by an appropriately accredited and internationally recognized body being a member of an IAF/ILAC/IECEE mutual

recognition scheme in accordance with the NRCS's conformity assessment policy.

7.1.2 The test report shall prove conformity with all the applicable mandatory requirements.

7.1.3 Evidence of conformity shall be traceable to the specific type of switch.

7.2 Option 2, for switches with product certification:

7.2.1 A product certificate and a valid test report issued by an appropriately accredited and internationally recognized body being a member of an IAF/ILAC/IECEE mutual recognition scheme in accordance with the NRCS's conformity assessment policy.

7.2.2 The certification system administered by the product certification body in 7.2.1 shall include testing of the products and assessment of the quality management system of the manufacturer. Surveillance of the quality management system shall be conducted and samples of each type of switches intended to comply with the requirements of this compulsory specification, shall be taken from the point of production and shall be assessed for on-going conformity.

The certification system shall include the following:

- samples from the point of production requested by the certification body;
- determination of the characteristics of the samples by testing;
- initial assessment of the production process and quality system;
- evaluation of the test reports;
- decision on certification of the manufacturer;
- granting certification to the manufacturer;
- surveillance of the production process and quality system, and
- surveillance by testing of samples from the factory or the market.

A System 5 Certification contemplated in ISO/IEC Guide 67 which covers the requirements of this clause shall be deemed to comply with these requirements.

ANNEX A - APPROVAL FOR SWITCHES

A.1 APPLICATION FOR APPROVAL

An application for approval of each type of switch intended for sale shall include:

A.1.1 Details of the type of switch for which approval is sought and the standard/s to which it is claimed to conform;

A.1.2 Details of the manufacturing plant/s in which the type of switch is produced;

A.1.3 For new applications, proof of conformity, with all the requirements of this compulsory specification, issued less than 36 months before the date of submission to the NRCS;

A.1.4 For switches with-out a product certification prescribed in 7.1: On expiry of the approval, an application for an extension may be granted, provided that all the conditions of the previous approval were met. In this case, proof of compliance, with all the requirements of the relevant compulsory specification, issued less than 60 months before the date of submission to the NRCS, shall be required;

A.1.5 For switches with a product certification prescribed in 7.2: On expiry of the approval, an application for an extension may be granted, provided that all the conditions of the previous approval were met. In this case, a valid product certificate and conformity of production issued less than 24 months before the date of submission to the NRCS shall be required;

A.1.6 Identification markings and other information appearing on the product; and

A.1.7 Any reasonable additional information in order to clarify the above that may be requested by the NRCS.

A.2 APPROVAL

A.2.1 The NRCS shall assess the evidence of conformity supplied by the applicant and shall decide to grant approval or not, at its sole discretion.

A.2.2 The NRCS shall assign a unique number to each approval.

A.2.3 The NRCS shall issue a letter of authority certificate (LOA) for each successful application, to the applicant, when all the requirements have been met. The validity period of an LOA shall be three (3) years and three (3) years for an extension.

A.2.4 The approval granted with respect to each type of switch that is pursuant to this compulsory specification may be withdrawn at any time, after the manufacturer has been notified in writing, if the requirements have not been met or maintained.