

DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY

NO. 438

15 APRIL 2016

**NATIONAL REGULATOR FOR COMPULSORY SPECIFICATIONS ACT
(Act No. 5 of 2008), AS AMENDED THROUGH LEGAL METROLOGY ACT (Act No.
9 of 2014)**

**AMENDMENTS TO THE COMPULSORY SPECIFICATION FOR EARTH LEAKAGE
PROTECTION DEVICES (VC 8035)**

It is hereby made known under section 13(4) of the National Regulator for Compulsory Specifications Act, (Act 5 of 2008) as amended, that I, Dr Rob Davies, Minister of Trade and Industry, on the recommendation of the NRCS, intends to amend the Compulsory Specification for earth leakage protection devices as set out in the attached schedule.

Any person, who wishes to comment on the prepared amendment the Compulsory Specification concerned, may submit their comments, in writing, to the Chief Executive Officer, National Regulator for Compulsory Specifications, Private Bag X 25, Brooklyn, 0075, on or before the date two (2) months after the publication of this notice.



Dr Rob Davies, MP
Minister of Trade and Industry

SCHEDULE

COMPULSORY SPECIFICATION FOR EARTH LEAKAGE PROTECTION DEVICES (VC 8035)

1. SCOPE

1.1 This compulsory specification covers earth leakage protection devices, the main contacts of which are intended to be connected to circuits, the rated voltage of which does not exceed 1 000 V a.c. or 1 500 V d.c.; *rated currents not exceeding 125A and a rated earth leakage not exceeding a tripping current of 30mA.*

1.2 This compulsory specification does not cover the following:

- Circuit-breakers
- Switches, disconnectors, switch-disconnectors and fuse combination units

2. DEFINITIONS

2.1 For the purposes of this document, the definitions in the **SANS 556 series**, shall apply.

2.2 In addition, the following definitions shall apply:

2.2.1 **applicant**: the manufacturer or importer seeking approval for a earth leakage protection device(s). 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 earth leakage protection device satisfies the requirements of this compulsory specification.

2.2.3 **conformity of production**: proof that earth leakage protection device(s) have been manufactured to the approved design and continue to comply with the requirements of this compulsory specification.

2.2.4 **declaration report**: a report that is issued by an accredited conformity assessment body, indicating the equivalence of products and/or standards.

2.2.5 **NRCS**: National Regulator for Compulsory Specifications as established by the National Regulator for Compulsory Specifications Act, 2008 (Act No. 5 of 2008).

2.2.6 **proof of conformity**: documented evidence of conformity 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 **ordinary person**: a person who is neither a skilled nor an instructed person.

2.2.9 **valid test report**: a copy of an original test report.

3. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

- 3.1 The applicant shall ensure that each type of earth leakage protection device 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 approval in respect of any type of earth leakage protection device 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.
- 3.5 All earth leakage protection devices shall comply with the requirements of the product certification system defined in 2.2.7 of this compulsory specification.

4. SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS

- 4.1 **Earth leakage circuit-breakers** shall comply with the requirements of **SANS 556-2-1**, *Earth leakage circuit-breakers*,
- 4.2 **Earth Leakage Switches** shall comply with the requirements of **SANS 556-2-2**, *Earth leakage switches*,
- 4.3 **Modular earth leakage devices** shall comply with the requirements of **SANS 556-2-3**, *Low-voltage switchgear: Modular earth leakage devices (without integral current breaking)*,
- 4.4 **Portable earth leakage devices** shall comply with the requirements of **SANS 556-2-4**, *Low-voltage switchgear: Portable earth leakage devices without integral overcurrent protection for household and similar use*,
- 4.5 **Earth Leakage Switches without overcurrent protection** shall comply with requirements of **SANS 556-2-5**, *Switches incorporating residual current protection*.

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 (5) 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

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

- 7.1** 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** The certification system administered by the product certification body in 7.2.1 shall include testing of the products and assessment of the quality system of the manufacturer. Surveillance of the quality system shall be conducted and representative samples of earth leakage protection devices of each type or representative of the family of earth leakage protection devices or of generically the same design in respect of components wiring methods, intended to comply with the requirements of this compulsory specification, shall be taken from the point of production and shall be assessed through inspection and/or testing 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 and the market.

A system 5 certification contemplated in ISO/IEC 17067 standard (conformity assessment-fundamentals of product certification) which covers the requirements of this clause shall be deemed to comply with these requirements.

ANNEX A

APPROVAL OF EARTH LEAKAGE PROTECTION DEVICES

A.1 APPLICATION FOR APPROVAL

An application for approval of each type of earth leakage protection device (or family of earth leakage protection devices of generically the same construction) intended for sale shall include:

A.1.1 Details of the type of earth leakage protection device(s) 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 earth leakage protection device type is produced;

A.1.3 For new applications, proof of conformity as described in requirement 7.2 of this compulsory specification, with all the requirements of this compulsory specification, issued less than 36 months before the date of submission to the NRCS;

A.1.4 On expiry of the approval (LOA), an application for a new LOA may be granted, provided that all the conditions of the product certification were met. In this case, a valid product certificate (as determined by conformity assessment body) and conformity of production shall be required;

A.1.5 Identification markings and other information appearing on the product; and

A.1.6 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 earth leakage protection device 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.