


# ***ECA (SA)***

***Electrical Contractors' Association  
of South Africa***



**ECA**  
ELECTRICAL CONTRACTORS' ASSOCIATION (SA)



*".. when you can measure what you are speaking about,  
and express it in numbers, you know something  
about it; but when you cannot measure it, when you  
cannot express it in numbers, your knowledge is of a  
meagre and unsatisfactory kind;"*

*- William Thomson, Lord Kelvin*



## ECA(SA) Vision

Competence without Compromise

## ECA(SA) Mission

To promote and create an environment conducive to the profitable and efficient operation of electrical contracting businesses to the benefit of both members and their clients

## ECA(SA) Fundamental Values

- Service Excellence
- Quality Workmanship
- Integrity and Respect
- Superior Leadership
- Continuous improvement







## About the ECA(SA)

The Electrical Contractors' Association of South Africa ECA(SA) is an employers' organisation registered in terms of the Labour Relations Act. ECA(SA) is a non-profit entity with the focus to serve the industry and generate funds to sustain itself.

Established in 1950, ECA(SA) represents members and their interests in the labour relations arena as well as the technical and regulatory mechanisms governing the electrical industry.

The membership of the ECA(SA) comprises approximately 3000 electrical contractors, manufacturers and distributors of electrical components and equipment. The membership consists of over 50% of employers in the industry who in turn employ over 70% of the industry's employees.

With offices in the major centres throughout South Africa, the ECA(SA) is well positioned to provide a wide range of essential services designed to assist contractors and enable them to offer their clients work which is guaranteed, competitive, professional and safe.

Amongst others, the ECA(SA) offers ongoing advisory and support services on matters such as technical, labour relations, legal, contractual and marketing. Additionally, ECA(SA) offers a wide range of training products for electricians, learners and contractors.

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### CODE OF ETHICS

*"To maintain high standards in the electrical contracting Industry and to promote professionalism in the industry."*

# ECA(SA) History

After the end of World War II, many South Africans returning home brought valuable skills with them. Among them were artisans trained in electrical installation techniques. This brought forth a call to form a national professional association of electrical contractors. As a result, the ECA(SA) was founded in 1949 and formally established in 1950.

## 1950s

- 1950 ECA(SA) registered as employers' organisation.
- 1951 Establishment of Industrial Councils in Pretoria, Witwatersrand and Cape Town.
- 1954 Establishment of Industrial National Apprenticeship/Workmanship Committee.
- 1954 Establishment of first Industrial Board for East London.
- 1955 A uniform system of measurement is compiled for electrical work. ECA(SA) becomes independent from NFBTE.
- 1956 Merchants allowed as ECA(SA) members for the first time.
- 1958 A code of conduct for electrical work is created.

## 1960s

- 1960 Establishment of Durban branch.
- 1966 Establishment of Boland branch.
- 1967 Establishment of Rustenburg branch.
- 1968 Establishment of Lowveld branch.

## 1970s

- 1970 ECA(SA) South West Africa/Namibia established.
- 1974 New membership procedure accepted.  
Establishment of Kimberley branch.
- 1975 The "Pay when Paid" principle instituted.
- 1977 Certificates with limited impact for partially qualified wiremen issued for the first time.  
Labour levy instituted.  
Bills of quantities drafted for building industry.  
Area concept approved in principle.
- 1978 ECA(SA) de-affiliates from BIFSA.  
Natal coastal and Natal midlands branches amalgamate.  
Supervisory and foreman training instituted.
- 1979 System of shortened apprentice periods accepted by electro-technical contracting Industry.

## 1980s

- 1980 First video training programmes launched.  
"Guarantee of Work" scheme implemented.
- 1981 Establishment of Zululand, Pietermaritzburg and Vaal Triangle branches.
- 1982 Klerksdorp branch established.  
Electrical Wiremen and Contractors Act incorporated in Factories, Machinery and Building Act.  
Code of practice for wiring premises becomes compulsory.
- 1983 Northern Boland branch established.  
Courses in Electrical Contracting Management introduced.
- 1984 Eastern Free State and Southern Cape branches established.
- 1987 The Electrical Contracting Board of South Africa is founded.
- 1987 A code of conduct for the wiring of premises is included in education schedules.
- 1987 ECA(SA) executive development programme for regional directors and branch chairmen launched.
- 1988 The Federation of Sub-Contractors and Allied Industries established.  
Industry Training Board established.  
North and East Provinces Region established in Pretoria.
- 1989 Courses adjusted for first time to be presented as correspondence courses  
Electrical Development and Training Fund (EDTF) established following the dissolution of the Development and Training Fund (DTF).

## 1990s

- 1990 A system of guaranteed payment for sub-contractors in electrical industry introduced.
- 1991 South Africa participates in World Youth Olympic Body.
- 1992 ECA(SA) gives input concerning the improvement of the Machinery and Occupational Safety Act.
- 1993 Revision of code of practice for wiring of premises.  
The Certificate of Compliance came into practice.
- 1994 FSAI disbands
- 1996 Involvement in training programmes for unemployed and work creation.  
A new National Education and Training Act launched.  
ECA(SA) introduces long distance learning.  
The "Safety in the House" campaign launched.  
A national affirmative action policy was compiled for ECA(SA).  
ECA(SA) gets its own website.
- 1997 The "Pay when Paid" principle is replaced by the "paid when money is due" principle.
- 1997 Opening of the new national office based in Meadowdale.
- 1998 Development of a system of on site training and work assignments.  
The National Bargaining Council for the Electrical Industry is formed.
- 1999 A central database for the ECA(SA) was compiled.

## 2000s

- 2000 The Electrical Development and Training Fund and the Industry Training Board are replaced by the Energy Sector Education and Training Authority.
- 2002 ECA(SA) Bosberaad.
- 2002 National Roadshow regarding the code.
- 2002 ECA(SA) president, Mr. Zeph Dlamini, attended the Council of Delegates in London on invitation from the Electrical Contractors' of Europe (AIE).
- 2002/2003  
ECA(SA) streamlines the association.
- 2003 Signing of the learnership/apprenticeship contract between ECA(SA) and ESETA.
- 2003 Purchasing of a property for the KZN office.
- 2004 National Roadshow regarding the code.
- 2005 ECA(SA) co-ordinates social responsibility project, "Children of Fire" to promote safe electrical installations and the certificate of compliance.
- 2005 ECA(SA), together with Cell C, embarks on career management project to strive for gender equality in the trade.
- 2005 Re-Launch of ECA website and national database.
- 2006 ECA(SA) Summit evaluates achievements and sets targets of next five years.
- 2006 ECA participates in establishment of construction charter.

# The voice of the industry

As electric power was installed in businesses and homes everywhere, the focus fell on the enhanced skills and specialisation needed in a rapidly advancing technological environment. This enabled the ECA(SA) to play a vital role in infrastructure development in SA, informing contractors and guiding them through the growing body of regulations.

The ECA(SA) represents the interests of electrical contractors at many government and industry bodies, providing input from its members and receiving all of the latest developments first-hand.

## Ongoing participation with:

- Government departments (labour, education and Minerals and Energy)
- The Bargaining Council
  - Negotiating terms and conditions of employment
  - Administering benefit funds
- Electricity supply bodies (Eskom, AMEU)
- The IEC and ETSB (Electro-Technical Sector Board)
- SABS
- Professional bodies such as SACOB, JBCC, SAACE, SAQS, etc.
- ESETA (Energy Sector Education Training Authority)
- SANAS (South African National Accreditation System)
- Pension and provident fund for the electrical contracting industry

## Advisory service

With an immense pool of expertise from which to draw, the ECA(SA) is well placed to provide members with excellent and accurate advice on all aspects of running a safe, efficient and profitable electrical contracting business.

### **The ECA(SA) advises on matters such as:**

- Technical, especially the code of practice for the wiring of premises (SANS 10142-1)
- Contractual
- Matters of a legal nature
- Compliance with safety and labour legislation
- Training
- Good industrial relations practice including the hiring of employees, retrenchments, dismissals, grievance procedures and other sensitive issues

## Relationship management

With a view to achieving satisfaction on the part of all concerned, the ECA(SA) assists members with challenges arising from their relationships with clients, employees and role players in the industry.

## Education and training

With its accredited training centres and professional partnerships, the ECA(SA) provides a wide range of training and skills development courses, aimed at both the technical and business aspects of the electrical contracting industry.

**Through the successful completion of the following courses, employers are empowered to run successful electrical contracting businesses:**

- Business administration
- Labour relations and legislation
- Estimating and tendering
- Contractual matters
- SANS 10142-1 as amended

## Electrical practitioners are assisted in developing their careers through:

- Assisting development members to establish their business firmly in the market place.
- Approved career path development incorporating registered learnerships
- Apprentice training schemes
- SAQA registered technical training modules for artisans and electrical workers
- Continued professional development

## Marketing and publicity

Pro-active marketing through the association promotes the use of ECA(SA) members to potential clients

- Public awareness of the benefits of using ECA(SA) members
- Improving the image of the electrical contractor as a specialist in this field
- Providing an industrial communication service by means of a commercial magazine
- General advertising and promotion
- Use of the well-recognised ECA(SA) logo on business stationery, vehicles and premises
- Informative website: [www.ecasa.co.za](http://www.ecasa.co.za)

The ECA(SA) would like to thank all the association's members for their time and dedication during its existence to make this industry world class.

## Official Sponsors for the 2006 ECA(SA) Corporate Identity Launch



ELECTRICAL CONTRACTORS' ASSOCIATION (SA)

# Contact details

## **Johannesburg**

ECA(SA) House, 91 Newton Road, Meadowdale Ext.2, Germiston, 1401  
PO Box 9683, Edenglen, 1613  
Tel: (011) 392-0000 Fax: (011) 974-9402  
E-mail: [info@ecasa.co.za](mailto:info@ecasa.co.za)

## **Pretoria**

1074 Schoeman Street, Hatfield, Pretoria, 0002  
PO Box 12011, Hatfield, Pretoria, 0028  
Tel: (012) 342-3242/3358 Fax: (012) 342-3455  
E-mail: [infopta@ecasa.co.za](mailto:infopta@ecasa.co.za)

## **Durban**

188 Windermere Road, Morningside, Durban, 4001  
PO Box 47453, Greyville, 4023  
Tel: (031) 312-6313 Fax: (031) 312-0851  
E-mail: [greager@ecasa.co.za](mailto:greager@ecasa.co.za)

## **Bloemfontein**

57 Krause Street, Oranjesig, Bloemfontein, 9301  
PO Box 7738, Bloemfontein, 9300  
Tel: (051) 447-0859 Fax: (051) 430-2355  
E-mail: [arrie@ecasa.co.za](mailto:arrie@ecasa.co.za)

## **Port Elizabeth**

13 Mangold Street, Newton Park, 6001  
PO Box 7699, Newton Park, 6055  
Tel: (041) 363-1990 Fax: (041) 363-1997  
E-mail: [bowles@ecasa.co.za](mailto:bowles@ecasa.co.za)

## **East London**

Shop 40, Berea Mall, Berea, 5241  
PO Box 19162, Tecoma, 5214  
Tel: (043) 721-1558 Fax: (043) 721-1559  
E-mail: [danita@ecasa.co.za](mailto:danita@ecasa.co.za)

## **Cape Town**

46 Newmarket Street, Cape Town, 8001  
PO Box 2960, Cape Town, 8000  
Tel: (021) 462-2690 Fax: (021) 465-6319  
E-mail: [ecact@iafrica.com](mailto:ecact@iafrica.com)

**ECA Web site**

[www.ecasa.co.za](http://www.ecasa.co.za)



