

**JULY 2007 JULIE**

**Electrical Contractors' Association (SA) - East /  
South Cape Region**

**Elektrotegniese Aannemersvereniging (SA) - Oos /  
Suid-Kaapstreek**

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## MUNICIPAL BY - LAWS

We receive enquiries from time to time regarding the validity of by-laws which supply authorities enforce. In this regard we wish to confirm that no supply authority may promulgate or enforce any by law or regulation which restricts the application of SANS 10142-1, unless the distribution system of the supply authority is or may be affected adversely by the application thereof. Members must please report any problems that they experience with supply authorities in this regard to the office without delay.

## QUEENSTOWN

Members who would be interested in attending a COC course in Queenstown are invited to phone Danita at the office. We require a minimum of 15 persons in order to present such course.

## DEMARICATION - ELECTRICAL / BUILDING BARGAINING COUNCILS

The controversial demarcation dispute between the Electrical and Building Bargaining Councils in the Eastern Cape had been set down for hearing before Commissioner Floors Brand at the CCMA in Port Elizabeth on 31 July 2007.



## NEW OFFICES - PORT ELIZABETH

**The ECA / ECB offices in Port Elizabeth has moved to SALGAR HOUSE, 18 Newton Street, Newton Park, PE as from 1 July 2007. Our telephone and fax numbers remain the same.**

## OSH ACT INSPECTIONS

In a recent safety blitz by inspectors from DOL in the Eastern Cape just more than half the companies targeted were safety compliant. A total of 333 employers were visited during March and April 2007 and only 176 firms complied with health and safety regulations under the Osh Act. The construction industry was identified as high risk in terms of employee safety with 7 deaths occurring during 2006. Typical questions which are asked to your employees on site during these safety blitzes by DOL inspectors include the following:

- \* Have you been issued with personal protective equipment?
- \* Did you have to pay for any of the abovementioned equipment when you received it the first time?
- \* Did you receive basic health and safety training before you started work?
- \* Are you paid for working overtime?
- \* Are work related accidents reported?
- \* Do you know of any accidents that happened in your workplace?
- \* Have you been trained to do the work you are now doing?

Members needing assistance or advice regarding safety issues in their business are invited to phone the office.



#### WAGE NEGOTIATIONS

The East / South Cape delegate on the national negotiation team of the ECA, Michael Straton, reports that the first meeting in the annual round of wage talks took place at the offices of the Bargaining Council in Johannesburg on Thursday 21 June 2007. The parties appointed Mr. Joe Campanella as facilitator. ECA submitted its employer demands which were obtained during a series of mandate seeking meetings held all over the country recently. ECA also responded to the list of 23 proposals which the unions had submitted. The unions opposed the ECA demand that the agency shop fee not be included in the 2008 Agreement, and threatened strike action over this issue. The ECA proposed a wage increase equal to CPIX averaged over the period November 2006 to October 2007 which the unions rejected. They demanded an increase of 12,5% to 14%. The ECA proposal to revert back to geographical wage differentials in the country was rejected. The unions are working towards one wage rate for the entire country with no differentials. The ECA proposal to introduce a performance based annual bonus was rejected. The second negotiation meeting is scheduled for 13 July 2007 in Cape Town.

#### ESTIMATING AND TENDERING COURSE.

The ECA (SA) is pleased to advise that a course in Estimating and Tendering for electrical contractors will be presented in Port Elizabeth on 9,10 and 11 August 2007. Calli Pieterse, a past president of the ECA (SA), and currently employed by one of the largest and most successful electrical contractors in South Africa, will present the 3 day course. The course is in huge demand and members wishing to attend are urged to book early as attendance is restricted to

30 persons on a "first come" basis. Please phone Elaine @ (041) 363-1990 to register for the course. The course represents one of the 6 modules towards the Diploma in Electrical Contracting Management issued by the Electrical Contracting Board of South Africa.