

Know the Regional Staff/People in the region

After leaving school in 1973 I started my basic army training at the Infantry school in Kimberly (previously known as a Commando base). Thereafter I started my Apprenticeship as a construction electrician which I completed in 1977. During this time I also represented the under 21 "Wes Transvaal" rugby team.

In 1978 I moved on to the mining industry to broaden my knowledge. I started at Doornfontein Gold mine in the workshops. From there I was transferred to East Driefontein Gold mine and worked as an underground technician on the Winders.

At the beginning of 1981 till the end of 1982, I also had the opportunity to work as an engineering assistant for Eskom at Tutuka power station. During my time working there I was involved in the completion of different projects such as building a water purification plant, cable reticulation in and around the power station.

I left Eskom in 1982 to become a Senior Installation Inspector at the Municipality of Carletonville. This position was obtained by me until the end of 1995. During my time at the council I had the opportunity to lift the safety standards in the different departments such as civil, clinic's etc. to a 5 Star level. Therefore we received a 4 Star NOSA award in 1993 which we obtained till 1995. At that stage I left the council and accepted the position of a Technologist at SABS-NETA.

I was involved in the testing of many commodities such as plugs, circuit breaker, socket-outlets, switches, panels, etc. I became an active member of different technical committees (TC), sub-committees (SC) and working groups (SANS 10142-1). During my time at the SABS many factory inspections and audits were conducted in and out of South-Africa, specifically at SABS mark holder companies.

In 1996 a project Train the Trainer and Trainee was agreed between the Mauritius Bureau of Standards and SABS-NETFA which involved training single phase tester, installation electricians and master installation electricians. I very much enjoyed this project due to the experience learning a different Wiring code (British Standard) and the application thereof.

As a technologist I had the opportunity to start working on a test apparatus testing plugs, switches for appliances (-45° C up to 120°C) and socket-outlets which I unfortunately did not complete.

I started at the ECA (SA) in June 2005 as Technical Advisor for the Highveld Region. Because of my passion for the Electrical Industry I enjoy consulting and assisting electrical contractors in their day to day interpretation of the electrical regulations and laws.

Throughout my working career I loved to participate in various types of sport (except cycling and netball!!!). My biggest challenge was to run the Comrades one day. That chance I had in

the year 2000 when I was turning 45. I completed the Comrades and was at the finishing line before the cut off time. My time for completing the Comrades is of no importance all that counts is that I did it! I am married to Hanneke and combined we have 6 children, so our home life is a busy one too. So my final word is: Mistakes are lessons of wisdom. When you make a mistake, don't look back at it for long. Take the lesson and move forward. Although the past cannot be changed; How to shape the future is still in your hands.

Chris Koen

