

NEWS

PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING REGISTRATION

One of the objectives of the YPF is to promote professional engineering registration. SAACE is very active in promoting professional registration of engineers.

Clearly, greater emphasis is placed on professional registration within civil engineering than in many of the other disciplines.

The importance of professional engineering registration is very clear among members who have attained their registration. However, beyond this circle and increasingly in the academic institutions, there seems to be less emphasis on registration. In addition, many of the committees involved with registration need continued member support.

Why Register? What's in it for me?

Professional Status in Perspective

These questions are often asked, with some justification, particularly since registration is largely voluntary. In the era of the Engineering Profession of South Africa Act, 1990 it was more difficult to answer these questions because there was no compulsion for any engineering practitioner to be registered and be subject to a **Code of Professional Conduct**. There was a lack of political will on the part of the then Government to place a higher premium on public safety and health in engineering than free-market principles. The Competition Commission did not make things any easier for the engineering profession to justify reservation of work for registered persons who have at least been assessed as competent by their peers and who are professionally accountable for their professional behavior.

The old Act has now been superseded by the **Engineering Profession Act, 2000 (Act No. 46 of 2000)** which not only emphasises compulsory registration but is fully supported by a Government that insists on public protection from unprofessional practices by individuals who are not accountable for their actions. The Built Environment Councils have been given two years in which to implement compulsory registration of all persons practising their profession.

It is, therefore, easier to answer the questions now than before. Why? - because reserving work constitutes a form of licensing, and without a license a person is prevented from earning a living! This is in itself sufficient motivation to register and not to ponder over potential benefits registration can offer.

However, probably more importantly, the real motivation for registration is rather to be found in the noble aims and objectives of the engineering profession and the government.

Every registered person who subscribes to the setting of standards, and the enforced maintenance thereof, should be registered with ECSA. In so doing they not only make this fact known to the public but also make a statement to the effect that they are prepared to subject themselves to the scrutiny of their peers should they conduct themselves improperly. By registering, the hands of the statutory profession can further be strengthened in achieving its goals.

Financial gain or the achievement of status in themselves are merely by-products of registration and not the principal aims, however important to the majority of the practitioners.

Whatever one's motive for registering some identifiable benefits can be directly attributed to registration:

Individual

Peer recognition of qualification and experience, Public confidence in professional competence



Eligibility for membership of certain Voluntary Associations, International recognition, Lifestyle benefits, Marketability in employment market, Exclusive use of reserved names, etc.

Employers

Confidence in professionalism of staff, Recourse in the event of improper conduct, Marketability of firm, Compliance with statutory requirements, etc.

Profession

Recognition amongst other professions, Public recognition of competence and adherence to minimum standards, etc.

Country

Safety, Health and Interests of society protected, Preservation of professional standards, International recognition, etc. (Cited from <http://www.ecsa.co.za>)

For a detailed explanation of the benefits of professional registration, please visit the ECSA website on <http://www.ecsa.co.za>

UPCOMING EVENTS

Date	Description of Event	Venue
27 Feb 2008	ECSA Professional Registration Guidelines	UKZN Howard College Campus Durban
28 to 30 May 2008	SAPOA	Cape Town Convention Centre
2 to 6 June 2008	GAMA	Tunisia
6 August 2008	Engineering Excellence Awards Banquet	Sandton Convention Centre
15 August 2008	Presidential Golf Challenge	TBA
30 August 2008	Consultant's Relay	Fountains, Pretoria
7 to 10 September	FIDIC Convention	Quebec, Canada
5 to 7 October	SAACE/SAFCCEC AGM and Convention	Fancourt, Western Cape

For more information on these events please contact Siphon Momoti at (011) 463-2022 or email siphom@saace.co.za

Please send your contributions to the editor, Shian Saroop, at ssaroop@kv3.co.za

Regards

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YPF KZN

Presentation: ECSA Professional Registration Guidelines



Do your New Years resolutions include finally compiling and submitting your ECSA Professional Registration application?

Need some guidance on the matter? YPF KZN in association with ECSA will host a presentation on how to apply and register as a professional technician, technologist or engineer. All technician and university engineering graduates are welcome.

Date: 27 February 2008

Time: 16h30 for 17h00

Venue: Murray Lecture Theatre, Civil Engineering Building, UKZN Howard College Campus (Map is attached)

Cost: Free

Drinks and snacks will be provided after the presentation so come socialise, meet old friends and make new ones!



Numbers are limited so please RSVP to Shian Saroop by e-mail before the 22nd February 2008: SSaroop@kv3.co.za or for directions you can call him at 083 766 1281.

The YPF KZN branch will also be calling for volunteers to form this year's branch committee so give it some thought and we hope to have you on board!



