



NATIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND LABOUR COUNCIL

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TRADE AND INDUSTRY CHAMBER

**DRAFT REPORT ON MODERNISING TECHNICAL REGULATORY
INFRASTRUCTURE: ACCREDITATION AND MEASUREMENT STANDARDS
BILLS**

1. BACKGROUND

1.1. In 2004, Government tabled a discussion document on Modernising Technical Regulatory Infrastructure for discussion in Nedlac. Agreement was reached on broad approaches that would be adopted in implementing the strategies contained in the document.

1.2. Progress has now been made with implementation of the approach as follows:

1.2.1. A draft strategy for a National Technical Regulatory Framework was tabled in Nedlac in 2005. Once the strategy has been agreed, it will be implemented in the form of an implementation strategy in 2007 followed by a Bill in 2008.

5 1.2.2. Two draft bills were tabled in Nedlac in January 2005; namely, the Measurement Units and Measurement Standards Bill, to provide for the establishment of an independent National Metrology Laboratory; and the Accreditation for Metrology, Conformity Assessment and Good Laboratory Practice Bill to establish the South African Accreditation System as a public entity.

10 1.2.3. Two further draft bills were tabled in Nedlac in March 2005, namely the Standards Bill and the "Compulsory Specification" Bill, to provide for the agreed restructuring of the Standards Authority and the separation of the standards and conformity assessment activities of the SABS from the regulatory responsibilities.

15 1.3. This report deals with the Measurement Units and Measurement Standards Bill, as well as the Accreditation for Metrology, Conformity Assessment and Good Laboratory Practice Bill.

20 2. PROCESS IN NEDLAC

2.1. The Bills were tabled in the Trade and Industry Chamber of Nedlac by Government on 19 January 2006. The Chamber established a Task Team to consider the Bill.

25 2.2. The Task Team comprised the following constituency representatives:

Business: Ian Charlton, Laurraine Lotter

Labour: Eric Watkinson, Tanya van Meelis

30 **Government:** Anna-Marie Lotter, Elsabe Steyn, Marba Visagie

2.3 Task team meetings were held as follows:

20 February 2006

28 April 2006

3. AREAS OF AGREEMENT

3.1. Constituencies agreed that the Bills should be revised to accommodate issues raised and the resultant versions are set out in Annexures 1 and 2.

4. CONCLUSION

4.1. This report therefore concludes consideration of the draft Accreditation for Conformity Assessment, Calibration and Good Laboratory Practice Bill, 2006 and Measurement Units and Measurement Standards Bill, 2006 at NEDLAC. The report is submitted to the Ministers of Labour and other relevant Ministers in terms of Section 8 of the Nedlac Act, No. 35 of 1994.

4.2. It is acknowledged that the Nedlac parties may continue to advocate their views in the public consultation and other structured processes.