



MEDIA STATEMENT

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SABS Extends Consultation Process on Proposed PVoC Programme

The South African Bureau of Standards (SABS), in collaboration with the Department of Trade, Industry and Competition (the dtic), has placed implementation activities for the proposed Pre-Shipment Verification of Conformity (PVoC) Programme on hold to allow further consultation and review.

The decision follows comments from the World Trade Organisation (WTO) Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) process, consultations with the Embassy of the People's Republic of China, and feedback from industry stakeholders.

The proposed programme will remain on hold pending the resolution of the WTO TBT process and the conclusion of further consultations and reviews.

As part of the review process, exporter registration and onboarding activities will not proceed at this stage. Inspection, verification, certification and related implementation-readiness activities associated with the proposed programme will also remain on hold until further notice.

The review process will consider WTO member comments, stakeholder submissions, diplomatic engagements and implementation considerations.

Acting Chief Executive Officer of SABS, Mr Blake Mosley-Lefatola, said the decision reflects the importance of ensuring that the proposed framework is informed by meaningful stakeholder engagement and aligned with South Africa's international trade obligations.

"The feedback from the consultation process has been valuable and underscores the need to carefully consider all submissions and engagements. The additional consultation period will help ensure that the proposed framework is practical, transparent and responsive to stakeholder concerns. We encourage stakeholders to continue sharing their comments, recommendations and input as part of this process," said Mosley-Lefatola.



Existing regulatory, customs and import requirements applicable in South Africa remain unchanged and continue to apply.

Mosley-Lefatola said SABS remains committed to working closely with government, industry and other stakeholders throughout the review process. "Our objective remains to develop an implementation framework that supports consumer protection, promotes fair trade, strengthens regulatory compliance and facilitates legitimate trade," he said.

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