



Media Release

Long-Awaited Building Inspector Registration Launching in South Africa

Midrand, Thursday, 28 November 2019 – Building Inspectors in South Africa will have a professional registration category of their own as of December 2019. Under the The South African Council for the Project and Construction Management Professions (SACPCMP), two registration categories for building inspectors will officially launch on 01 December 2019.

“The protection of the public from substandard building practices as well as boosting the professionalism of building inspectors within the built environment are key outcomes for this registration category,” said SACPCMP Registrar, Mr. Butcher Matutle. “Moreover, we are very encouraged by the positive response we have seen from representatives of the built environment, media and building inspectors themselves, regarding the professionalisation of this sector!”

The new registration categories – for Professional Building Inspector (PrBInsp) and Certified Building Inspector (CBInsp) – were carefully developed by a task team that included representatives of Government, academia and the public sector. Prior to the development of this team, months of industry-related research pertaining to building inspectors’ scope of work, responsibilities, risks and more was undertaken by the National Home Builders Registration Council (NHBRC). Under the recommendation of the Council for the Built Environment (CBE), the SACPCMP was put forth as the most preferable council/authority to manage the registration of building inspectors within the country.

“The Council presented a nationwide roadshow, commencing in September, and the response was incredible. Practitioners from across South Africa attended sessions that outlined the requirements and benefits of the registration process, and attendees were given the opportunity to pose questions regarding the new categories.” said Matutle. “A scope of work for each category was also gazetted and we methodically ensured that all relevant queries from the gazetted Call-for-Comment, as well as the roadshow, were addressed.”

Matutle added that registration aimed to provide a foundation for the professionalisation of building inspectors within the country and help to further the legitimisation of this occupational practice.

Confirmation of Registration Categories

In addressing queries that the Council has received from the public recently regarding the clarification of registration categories of the SACPCMP and the South African Council for the Architectural Profession (SACAP), Matutle clarified: “We have had definitive comment from the South African Council for the Architectural Profession, via its Registrar, related to SACAP’s change of phrasing pertaining to its registration categories, confirming that it will focus on the registration of Building Control Offices (BCO) only.”

“Thus, it should be clear that SACAP will be registering Building Control Officers and the SACPCMP will be responsible for the registration of Building Inspectors,” said Matutle.

SACAP have confirmed with the SACPCMP that any Building Inspectors who mistakenly apply through SACAP for a Building Inspector registration category will be referred to the SACPCMP.

Demonstrating Your Expertise

“We encourage all building inspectors to register as of the first of December 2019 – if you perform regulated inspections and whether you work in or with National, Provincial or Local Government departments, or with the NHBRC, you should register,” he said.

“Building inspectors who lack the relevant expertise and knowledge are a serious risk to construction and building safety. This registration category will demonstrate to the industry that you are capable, professional and understand the skills and responsibility of servicing an industry that is critical to the development and transformation of the built environment. This will also provide you with improved standards within your industry and the professional endorsement of ethical conduct within the sector.”

The move to offer building inspectors with an enhanced reputation for credibility, efficiency and authority within the overall Construction Management family of professions, is seen as one of the many benefits of the new registration category. Online registration officially opens to the public from 05:00am on 01 December 2019. To register, visit www.sacpcmp.org.za.

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Note to Editors

About the SACPCMP

The South African Council for the Project and Construction Management Professions (SACPCMP) is empowered by Section 18 of Act No.48 of 2000 to certify, register and regulate the Project and Construction Management Professions. The SACPCMP, as a regulatory authority, is established to advance project and construction management professions for the primary purpose of protecting the public interests and contribute towards the promotion of the built environment. The SACPCMP is empowered under Section 18(1)(c) of the SACPCMP Act (Act No 48 of 2000) to prescribe any specified category it deems fit from time to time and Building Inspectors registration will be one of the Specified Categories.

Background to the Building Inspectors Registration Category Development

In November 2015, the National Home Builders Registration Council (NHBRC) and SACPCMP entered into a partnership where a Memorandum of Understanding was signed to ensure the registration and certification of Building Inspectors. It was envisaged that the professionalisation of building inspectors would significantly contribute towards ensuring builders are assisted to ensure that all buildings are built according to National standards and good structural integrity for the benefit of consumers. The NHBRC commissioned a study which highlighted important factors that could transform the enforcement and monitoring of building regulations in all construction projects by establishing a regulatory framework for all building inspectors in the construction sector.

The objectives of the study were to:

- Conduct a nationwide situational analysis and baseline determination of the overall size, composition, demographic and educational levels of Building Inspectors.
- Determine the status of the current numbers (per occupational levels and functional areas of responsibility) and actual number of vacancies.
- Determine total volume, skills complement, and type of work conducted by Building Inspectors per occupational category in the different spheres of government.
- Determine the number of Building Inspectors employed and practicing in the public and private sectors.
- Make recommendations on:
 - The scope of services for categories of registration, criteria for eligibility and proposed registration process for Building Inspectors.

- The technical skills/needs of Building Inspectors as well as the Continuing Professional Development (CPD) regulatory regime proposed for implementation.
- The availability of technical courses recommended for the professional development of Building Inspectors.
- Regulatory measures for the professionalisation of Building Inspectors in compliance with statutory provisions for the Construction Management professions.
- Statutory amendments to be affected by the regulator to enforce the regulatory measures.
- A model for the successful implementation of the regulatory strategy.

A Building Inspectors Task Team was constituted (in terms of Section 17 of the SACPCMP Act {Act No 48 of 2000}) to advise the Council on all matters relating to the registration of Building Inspectors. The Task Team members comprised representatives from government entities, academia and the private sector.