

Introduction to the 'Bitinrep' scheme

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Currently there are no industry records or statistics available in South Africa on occupational health and safety as well as environmental incidents relating to the handling of bituminous materials. While individual companies might record such incidents, this information is not shared within the industry.

Sabita has therefore taken the initiative to implement an incident reporting scheme (**Bitinrep**) for its members. Members will be required to report all incidents relating to the handling of bitumen and this scheme forms part of the requirements of the Sabita HSE certification system. In the context of this scheme an incident will constitute an unplanned situation which will necessitate a response by management and may result in; a person requiring medical treatment, accidental spillage or damage to property.

All information pertaining to the member's company will remain confidential /anonymous. Only statistics and details relating to the nature of the incident will be shared with the members.

Members' submitting this information will assist Sabita to:

- Build a database on bitumen related incidents;
- Benchmark performance;
- Publish lessons learnt to increase awareness;
- Write and update specific Codes of Good Practice;
- Identify the need to develop specific training material; and
- Prevent reoccurrence of similar incidents/accidents within the industry.

Members' in turn will benefit as they will:

- Be made more aware of the potential hazards;
- Learn from each others mistakes;
- Become more compliant with:
 - Sabita HSE certification requirements
 - HSE Laws of the country
- Have staff who are more informed and aware of the hazards;
- Reduce risk by being proactive.

The form is:

- Simple to use – just tick the blocks or fill in the numbers where required;
- Quick to complete – only one page;
- Hassle-free – only one form required per incident.

Once received by Sabita, the information will be captured on the **Bitinrep** database, and the results will be aggregated before being published on the website. Lessons learnt will be published and distributed to members whilst retaining the confidentiality of the source.