

ROAD MAINTENANCE FORUM (RMF) STATUS OF PUBLIC SECTOR LABORATORIES



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Learning Matters etc

TO BE COVERED IN THE DISCUSSION:

Distribution of laboratories around SA

TMH1 vs SANS 3001 methods in use

Accreditation SANS 17025 : 2018

DISTRIBUTION OF LABORATORIES AROUND SA

Gauteng 3

- Pretoria (Gautrans) – All SANS 3001 basic
- Pretoria (Eng4.0 - NRA, UP, CSIR) – All SANS 3001 + advanced
- Pretoria (CSIR) – all SANS 3001 + advanced

ECape 4

- Zwelitsha – SANS 3001 (gravel roads)
- Komani (Queenstown) – SANS 3001 (gravel roads)
- Mthatha – SANS 3001 (gravel roads)
 - Expanding into concrete
- Gqeberha (SANRAL) – SANS 3001 + some advanced



DISTRIBUTION OF LABORATORIES AROUND SA

KZN 2

- Pietermaritzburg - currently being resurrected
- eThekweni (2)
 - SANS 3001- GR, -AG & -CO
 - SANS 3001 - AS

Western Cape 2

- WCPG – SANS 3001 all basic
- Oudtshoorn – “managed” under WCPG system

Free State 1

- Bloemfontein (Freetrans) – TMH1 only

TOTAL = 12



ACCREDITATION UNDER SANS 17025: 2018



WCPG

- Accredited since 2008

Gautrans

- Accredited up to 2013
- In the process of obtaining re-accreditation

CSIR

- Accredited expired.
- In process to get reaccredited (coupled to Eng4.0 process)

Eng 4.0 (UP, CSIR, SANRAL)

- In process of obtaining accreditation (2 yrs??)

Pietermaritzburg

- Starting process for accreditation

Eastern Cape

- Looking @ accreditation within 3 yrs for all 3 facilities
- SANRAL lab accredited since late 2019

SOME GENERAL COMMENTS & PROPOSALS

SANS 17025 accreditation not a cheap process

- fees, accreditation costs & staff capacity requirements

Needs a dedicated team @ each facility to make it work

All state facilities should work together to standardize the process

- Cost savings
- QM in particular
- Each facility still independent

Change over for 2005 to 2017 version had some far-reaching revisions

- Accreditation expired under 2005 not as straight forward to get reaccruited

Heavy concentration of facilities around coastal region (ECape in particular)

- Maybe only need 1 state accredited facility in ECape??
- Cost saving??

May need to look at additional facilities up North or extend the services from existing facility in Gauteng

CONCLUSIONS

Most public sector laboratories

- Used mainly for quality control
- Eng4.0, CSIR & SANRAL exceptions

Accreditation critical especially if checking on quality of capex

Without SANAS accreditation

- No standing against commercially accredited facilities
- Especially in the event of a dispute

All facilities need to move over to SANS 3001 methods

- Basic methods required only

All these facilities need to look at accreditation.

Most facilities underutilized, understaffed & outdated in the methods used.

Should be used as a feeder into industry for testers

- Well trained on the latest methods
- Understanding of SANS 17025: 2018

Currently way too few are up to standard.

- Not a pretty picture.