

## Relationship between Agrément South Africa and the South African Bureau of Standards

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<http://www.agrement.co.za>

**Non-standardised:** A system or product for which there is no applicable South African Bureau of Standards code of practice or standard.

**Active Certificates:** The subject of active certificates may or may not be in production. However, post certification quality monitoring is conducted by or on behalf of Agrément South Africa at regular intervals.

**Inactive Certificates:** Certificates are generally listed as inactive at the request of the certificate holder (often because market conditions or other circumstances are unfavourable, but the certificate holder nevertheless wishes to retain the certificate until such time as circumstances change). Agrément South Africa does not conduct regular post-certification monitoring of the certificate holder's implementation of his quality system.

In order to claim compliance with the certificate, the certificate holder is required to request Agrément South Africa to transfer his certificate to the 'Active' list, which will be done on completion of a satisfactory review of his quality system and the certificate.

The South African Bureau of Standards (SABS) by definition deals with subjects that have or can be standardised. These are typically subjects that have been in use for long enough to become regarded as conventional and where several manufacturers, contractors, etc, use the subject.

When a new product, process, method of production or innovative use of a material is developed it falls outside the scope of existing SABS standards. This is where Agrément South Africa certification is advantageous to the manufacturer, specifier and end-user. Such a certificate provides the assurance of fitness-for-purpose which allows confident use of the subject.

The SABS has a representative on the Board of Agrément South Africa. There have been numerous instances where products initially covered by an Agrément South Africa certificate have subsequently moved into the ambit of the SABS standards and mark schemes. When the SABS drafts such standards and specification, it draws on the experience and knowledge gained during the Agrément South Africa certification process.

### Examples of products that initially had Agrément South Africa certificates and for which there are now SABS standard specifications:

- Hard-drawn copper tubing
- Solar water heating system
- Certain plastic pipes
- Acrylic baths

### Uses of Agrément South Africa certificate

Agrément South Africa certification is recognised in the **National Building Regulations** and certificates may be used to demonstrate compliance with those sections of the regulations which are specifically listed in the certificate.

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