

South African Technical Auditing Services Pty LTD
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April 28, 2016

Institute for Timber Construction
Attention: Amanda Obbes
Isando

Dear Amanda

IMPORTED STRUCTURAL TIMBER

It is expected from national as well as international manufacturers of structural Timber destined for the South African market to be certified by a South African based ISO 17065 accredited Certification Body. The National Building Regulations requires all structural timber to comply with SANS 1783. These are also applicable to our Neighbouring countries e.g. Swaziland and Zimbabwe.

Structural timber manufactured by manufacturers not in compliance with the requirement on accredited Certification Bodies is imported and supplied to the local market including the formal Roof Truss Manufacturers without any knowledge on the integrity of the finger joints, adhesive used or the grading.

When noticed and questioned non-complying imported timber is moved to another unknown buyer. In that way it still may find its way into the South African structural market.

South Africa is experiencing a shortage of structural timber and imports are needed, but we have to ensure that the same rules apply and that all timber destined for the SA structural market is in compliance with SANS 1783. If we allow the current situation to continue it will escalate beyond control as the demand increases.

It is unfair and unacceptable to expect from the local manufacturers to comply with the requirements at a cost to ensure that a quality product is supplied to the end-user, while non-complying imported timber is allowed to be used as structural components.

At the moment only SATAS and the SABS are accredited to certify manufacturers of product in compliance with SANS 1783. We at SATAS suggest that ITC informs its members not to use any imported timber if not in compliance with national legislation and standards.

Regards
JA Stears