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Institute for Timber Construction

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RE: BUILDING STANDARDS ACT AND NATIONAL BUILDING REGULATIONS

- While the National Building Regulations (“NBR”) are being strictly applied at most local authorities, there are instances in particularly rural regions where they are not.
- Both the NBR and the Building Standards Act 1977 (Act 103 of 1977) as amended (“BSA”), are mandatory and must be enforced in the area of jurisdiction of every local authority.
- Regulations A19 requires the appointment of a Competent Person as defined in the NBR.
- Clause 14 of the BSA requires the appointment of a Competent Person to be responsible for the design, inspection and report to the Local Authority.

THE INSTITUTE OF TIMBER CONSTRUCTION (“ITC-SA”)

- ITC-SA is the SAQA accredited professional body for the timber construction industry.
- Its mission is essentially “the establishment and supportive enforcement of standards”.
- ITC-SA audits and accredits all the membership classes relevant to the industry:
 - System Suppliers, Engineers, Fabricators, Fabricator Designers, Timber Frame Builders, Erectors & Inspectors,* to ensure compliance with appropriate SANS Codes of Practice and SAQA designations.
- ⇒ Accreditation is confirmed by a uniquely numbered ITC-SA Certificate of Competence (“COC”) which together with the relevant class of membership logo will appear on all relevant documentation from design details, quotations, trusses, roof plans, site detail documentation and remedial details.
- ⇒ The absence of a COC number on all documentation is therefore indicative of NON-accreditation by the Professional Body of the industry and flags warning signals.
 - Specifically, the NBR A19-appointed Competent Person should be requested to explicitly approve and accept accountability for all **designs** by a non-ITC-SA accredited System, Fabricator or Fabricator-Designer *in addition to the erection*.
- ⇒ Any Local Authority requiring assistance with ensuring strict compliance with the BSA and NBR can inform either SALGA or ITC-SA about such needs, which may vary from recruiting and training of appropriate personnel to workshops or seminars for Local Authority personnel (amanda@itc-sa.org).
- All Local Authorities are requested to be particularly strict to ensure that site made trusses and timber frame structures are designed by and constructed under the supervision of a Competent Person.
- Structural elements deemed to satisfy Part L of SANS 10400 must be approved by a building inspector.
- Sadly experience has shown that majority of such structures are unsafe and lead to serious and heart rending failures later. ITC-SA will gladly assist Local Authorities to address this serious problem.

Yours sincerely

ITC-SA Board of Directors

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