

"Tackle a Block at a Time".

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No 2. The Editors Gripe Column.

Unfortunate experience over the past few months has convinced me that engineering people may be divided mainly into the following groups.

- Those that cannot read.
- Those that do not want to read.
- Those who partially read the document.
- Those that read but do not understand.
- Those who read but refuse to understand.
- Those that read but make no attempt to understand and / or remember.
- Those that read but promptly forget.
- Those that read but decide that it does not apply to them.
- Those that read, understand, remember and do the right thing and do the thing right. (Probably less than 10% of the total)!

So now enjoy your read!!

No 3. CBE / ECSA & Professional Registration

The Minister for the Built Environment has published draft policy document Notice 337 of 2008 indicating that ECSA would be converted into a professional board that will report to the South African Council for Built Environment (SACBE) who in turn will report to the Minister for the Built Environment.

This has serious implications for all registered professionals since the International Engineering Alliance, EC (UK) and FIPENZ (New Zealand) and others have indicated that under the proposed legislation it is not clear that ECSA's membership of Engineers Mobility Forum (EMF) and other professional recognition agreements would be allowed to continue. These bodies are of the opinion that the proposed changes are so fundamental that the new South African organisation could not automatically be accepted as a direct successor to ECSA.

The impact of this is that the qualifications of engineers, technologists and technicians who register in South Africa after the policy has been enacted may no longer be recognised or accepted outside South Africa. This structure of the body will also probably cost engineering practitioners much more in yearly fees as it will be subsidizing the other smaller proposed boards.!

In the opinion of IPET, it is imperative that all registered persons check out the bill on the website www.parliament.gov.za and make written submissions before 17 July 2008 to Ms Akhona Busakwe, Committee Secretary, Portfolio Committee on Public Works, 3rd Floor, 90 Plein Street Cape Town 8000. Fax 086 664 3859 or E Mail abusakwe@parliament.gov.za. Public hearings will be held on 12th and 13th August 2008.

Your association will investigate alternatives for international professional recognition and will also make a submission to the parliamentary committee.

No. 4.

Overseas Members.

While we only have a few members who are overseas (less than 50) the spread is as follows; Africa (outside SA) 15%, Australia 40%, United Kingdom 25%, New Zealand 10%, United Arab Emirates 5%, Singapore 5%. We also have 3 retired members in Canada and one in the USA (not included in above figures).

No 5. WORKSHOP ON ISSUES OF NATIONAL CRISIS.

By Pat Moncur, Pr Techni Eng, Chairperson, CET & various ECSA Committees.

The Engineering Council of South Africa invited Voluntary Associations to a workshop on Tuesday 6th May to discuss the national infrastructure crisis and the launch of the National Engineering Task Force (NETF) on the 8th May. Eskom and the National Department of Water Affairs presented the challenges and some of their proposed actions to alleviate them.

Eskom presented a good recovery plan, which needs a huge financial input. Additional power should be available by about 2010. At present they claimed power consumption does not exceed maximum generation capacity, but does not allow for the 10% safety and maintenance margin. Eskom congratulated industry, especially the mining industry, for their efforts in saving power over the past 3 months.

What was not fully understood by our attendees was the high-proposed tariff increase to finance their expansion. One would have thought that increased sales should generate more income and offset loans for Capital Plant, which has a life of 25 to 40 years? Delegates still needed to see the Maths on this.

Interestingly ECSA distributed an Eskom presentation to the VA's long after the workshop but attached a condition that it was not to be copied or distributed further. It seems transparency here got lost!?

It is suggested that readers look up our last newsletter and read the block on Eskom and the Electricity supply!!

The Department of Water Affairs is mostly concerned with provincial and city management of water provision. Lately this has been criticized repeatedly in the media. It appears poor standards and lack of maintenance are the main complaints.

An asset register and maintenance plan appear to be essential requirements that are not there due to the lack of a high level of management input and expertise. Whether the role players have sufficient qualified and competent staff to avoid disasters and deaths remains an open question.

ECSA and the VA's will try to supply the necessary recommendations to Government to reverse the current worrying trends. Through the JIPSA initiative suggestions as to increase the engineering graduate throughput will also be made.

All engineering practitioners should realize that they could assist by transferring skills and mentoring candidates wherever possible. **Experience is the one thing that cannot be learnt on a course at any University!**

We hope to be informed of developments that we can include in a future Newsletter.

SA's electricity consumption decreased by 2,5% in May, while production fell by 2,1% in the same month according to Statistics South Africa (StatsSA). International trade in electricity slowed down as South Africa imported 20,7% less electricity between January and March, while exports have also decreased by 2,2%

No 6. HEQF and New Engineering Technology Education Qualifications. (A new National Diploma & B Tech Degree)?

By Viv Nel Pr Tech Eng, Editor.

Basically The B Tech and National Diploma (ND) will change slightly with the B. Tech becoming a 3-year degree with no practical. This will be called a B. Eng. The ND will be known as an Advanced National Certificate. A National Certificate as well as the Advanced National Certificate will be available as earlier exit points, again with no practical experience. Industry has indicated that it is not happy about this, as they prefer hands on graduates but the academics don't want to be loaded with monitoring the practical side, as it is a difficult and imperfect situation.

It appears that some Universities of Technology will retain the National Diploma as an alternative so hopefully all is not lost (yet).

Government is pushing on getting greater throughput but seems to have lost the understanding that that numbers may be meaningless if quality is sacrificed.

It is interesting to note that, as has happened in the past, the BSc title never changes, but with every new system the B Tech and National Diploma get downgraded to some other title. It appears that the old traditional Universities are hell bent on reversing any gains made by the previous Technikons (Universities of Technology). Every 10 years plus we have a new system imposed, which does not satisfy most of the role players!

ECSA requirements for registration as candidates and professionals will apparently have to change somewhat to cater for the new system.

Despite claims to the contrary it seems that the standard of education and training may drop.

Information from the workshop will be placed on our Website if and when we receive copies of the papers presented.

Dijon vu - the same mustard as before.

No 7. Recognition of Prior Learning Workshop.

by Philip Erasmus, Pr Tech Eng, Senior Vice Chairperson CET, Vice Chairman ECSA Techni Registration Committee.

A workshop to discuss the first draft of Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) framework developed by the Council for the Built Environment (CBE) was held at the Midrand Conference Centre on 20 May 2008.

The CBE is a statutory body established under Act no 43 of 2000 to act as an overarching body that coordinates the six professional councils (architecture, engineering, landscape architects, project and construction management, property valuation and quantity surveying).

During 2007 the CBE developed a draft RPL framework for the built environment professions to facilitate access to education, training and employment opportunities. The proposed framework will have to address mobility and progression within education, training and career paths as well as accelerate the redress of past unfair discrimination.

The purpose of the workshop was to consider the input of stakeholders in the CBE's development of a RPL system that will ensure the final guidelines meet the requirements of policy development.

Included in the draft framework, is the development of assessment tools and guidelines "approved" or vetted by subject matter experts as well as the respective professional bodies.

The draft RPL framework neglected to clarify the difference between Stage I and II development and separated versus integrated assessment. It will be difficult for ECSA registration committees to do Stage I RPL assessment based on Stage II (registration) evidence submitted.

A career in engineering can be divided into three stages. Stage 1 is the academic part to gain the underpinning knowledge necessary for the particular category of future registration. Stage 1 might include work-integrated learning. Stage 2 is the experiential training obtained for ECSA registration including pre-registration development. Part 3 is the maintenance and further development of knowledge and experience gained during the first two stages through continued professional development (CPD).

Does the name Pavlov ring a bell?

No 8. Latest on Continuing Professional Development (CPD).

by Viv Nel, Pr Tech Eng, Pr Tech Eng, Editor.

The Engineering Council of SA (ECSA) has approximately 29000 registered engineering practitioners. Some 18000 are practising, 5000 are candidates and the rest are retired, part time workers or dormant. Some 14800 are registered professional engineers while the Technologists, Technicians and specified scope practitioners make up the rest.

The requirement for CPD came about as a result of legislation. Section 22 of the Engineering Professions Act requires registered persons to renew their registration every five years. Without this legislation it is doubtful that ECSA would have been accepted as part of the international community as a member of the Washington Accord (for engineers), the Sydney Accord (for technologists) and the Dublin Accord (for technicians). In the UK CPD for engineering was introduced in 1995.

CPD is about engineering practitioners keeping up to date in their profession as well as undertaking activities to develop the profession.

The CPD system was introduced on the 1st January 2006 - so it's been around for a while. Persons who claim not to know about this CPD requirement obviously did not read ECSA and many other bodies' newsletters.

There are 3 categories for CPD credits and one must get credits in each category. Category 2 is easy for those working as you can claim two credits (maximum) for 800 hours of work in a year. Category 3 is also easy as members of recognised associations, such as IPET, can claim 1 credit for being a member. Doing further voluntary work furthering the aims of the engineering profession can increase this.

The developmental activity category (3) has proved to be the most contentious. Here one, ideally, needs 2 credits per year.

In a five-year period the registered person needs to accumulate a total of 25 credits -- ideally 5 a year.

To earn credits in category 3 one must attend 2 validated courses, conferences or seminars of at least 10 hours in a year.

Here people misunderstand and assume that the course etc must be within their own field of engineering practice. This is not so. One can do any validated course ranging from legal to financial to project management to any other engineering field of practice.

As this category caused the most problem in the initial years ECSA Council decided to exempt persons who were not able to comply with this requirement in their first cycle ending 2007 and 2008. This does not actually let anyone off the hook as it still pays to try for 2 credits each year. Those people who took the efforts to earn the credits for 2006 and 2007 will be able to carry them forward to the next 5-year cycle.

Members must please look at the CPD section of the ECSA Website for lists of validated courses. There are nearly 1000 courses that one can attend! It is not possible for us to list courses in our newsletter or on our website as there are too many and each individuals needs are in any case different!

Certainly some providers charge high fees while others are reasonable. It is up to each person to find a course / seminar etc that suits him / her and their pocket. It is also up to each individual to approach their employer immediately as to reimbursing attendees of these courses. Firms can claim course fees as legitimate expenses so they get a tax benefit, which the individual does not! To those employers who do not want to assist their employees it would be wise to point out to the employers that with the identification of work legislation coming soon their employees may not be legally allowed to continue their engineering work unless they are both registered and attend yearly update courses!

International courses presented overseas are accepted if the Accord country accredits them. If that is not the case one would have to send documentation to ECSA and make an application for the credit. ECSA may hand the documentation to a committee or a recognised association for validation.

ECSA is not trying to find ways to exclude registered persons. Even in the extreme event of a person being deregistered the doors are not closed for re registering. However that process is expensive and onerous.

Professionals who registered in the following years need to have accumulated 10 CPD points by the end of 2008: 1973, 1978, 1983, 1988, 1993, 1998 and 2003.

Professionals who registered during the following years should have registered last year with 5 CPD points: 1972, 1977, 1982, 1987, 1992, 1997 and 2002

For more information on CPD visit our Web site which has a more detailed but still brief description of the categories and how it all works. It is actually simple and not complicated! With just a little effort any registered person should be able to comply.

www.ipet.co.za

Also visit ECSA Website www.ecsa.co.za

No 9. Registration of Lifting Machinery Inspectors - Latest Update.

The Government Gazette of 7 March 2008 No 30829 has the following notice

Department of Labour No R257 Dated 7 March 2008

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION IN TERMS OF SECTION 40 (1) OF THE OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY ACT, 1993.

Driven Machinery Regulations 18(5)

Under section 40 (3) (b) of the Occupational Health and Safety Act, 1993 (Act No 85 of 1993), I Jacob Pannye Malatse appointed as chief inspector in terms of section 27 (1) of the said Act, and by virtue of the power delegated to me by the Minister of Labour in terms of section 42 (1) of the Act, hereby grant exemption in terms of section 40 (1) to the applicants who have submitted their application for registration as lifting machine inspectors to the Engineering Council of South Africa (ECSA) before 30 September 2006 as per Government Gazette No 28755 until 27 June 2008.

This registration does not apply to persons who examine lifting tackle in terms of regulation 18 (10) (e) of the Driven Machinery Regulations.

J. P. Malatse

Chief Inspector

Any one involved in the Lifting Machinery Industry needs to be aware of the above.

No. 10. Alternative Fuels For Cars.

(By Viv Nel, Editor).

In the last Newsletter I asked if any of the oldies out there remember Union Spirit Petrol? It was a sugar cane based Petrol. Well it seems no one answered. Come on guys letters to the editor are encouraged!

Just to recap a bit, Bioethanol is an alcohol, which can be refined from almost any starch type crop. This is not limited to, but includes maize, sugar cane, beetroot and wheat and also some obscure plants that, in some instances, appear to be weeds.

Ethanol emits much less carbon dioxide (CO₂) gas than normal petrol and can be cheaper to produce than petrol. As it is a renewable source of energy, unlike oil and coal, it is the darling of supporters of the environment, unless it takes food from peoples mouths.

The biggest producers of biofuel are the United States of America (Yes the USA which is blamed for most things) and Brazil. Brazil turns millions of tons of sugar cane into some 16 billion litres of ethanol a year! Many Brazilian fuel stations sell ethanol at lower prices than normal petrol. Brazil has replaced around 40% of its petrol

consumption by switching to ethanol and petrol and ethanol mixes.

As South Africa produced Union Spirit some 30 odd years ago, which then sold at approximately the same price as normal petrol, it should be able to do it again. The old Union Spirit was 100 octane and contained no lead! There is a vast potential here, however the vested interests will probably make sure we don't get an alternative for many years.

Here's to hoping that they may instead promote renewable alternatives as an addition to their current products!

No 11. Alternative Fuel Demonstration!

(Sky News May 2008).

Just to show that alternatives are possible, a British woman and her Australian husband have set off on a honeymoon tour of Australia in a vehicle powered by oil from deep fat fryers in fish and chip shops.

Gerard and Rachel Mimmo have left on an 18,000-mile drive around Australia using waste vegetable oil from takeaway restaurants to fuel their 4x4 vehicle. They

apparently just strain the oil through some sort of cloth with no chemical added or any other enhancing process.

They hope to have a carbon-neutral holiday by using solar power and biodegradable products, staying in bush camps, buying locally-produced food and catching their own fish.

Their biggest challenge so far has been getting waste oil from shops as most businesses already sell their waste to companies that process it into bio-diesel!



The 'Battered Fish' runs on chip fat!

No. 12. E Mail Woes & Tips For Some Subscribers.

To the subscribers who do not get our bulk mailed E News, we offer some tips!

Subscribers of the two Telkom email servers must simply activate their anti spam programs on their mother pages. The step-by-step process is very user friendly; except that when you choose your parameters, simply accept their suggested values.

Absamail and other ISPs have similar rules. Check out your supplier if you experience lack of E news from us.

Members who supplied E mail addresses which end in Spornet, Transnet, Eskom and any government (Gov) etc are warned that our E Newsletter and any E mail going to a group is usually stopped as it is suspected that it is spam. These members must either make arrangements with their ISP and IT people to let these through or supply a personal private E-mail address. Those with no E-mail must please visit a friend who does have access to the Internet and / or regularly visit an Internet Café and go online to see our Web site where the E News is published.

No 13. Small Adverts.

IPET is prepared to place very small text only adverts in the Newsletter if they are deemed to be of direct interest and value to members. The Editor and Executive's decision on any particular advert is final. The adverts may not exceed 100 words and are, for the time being free. Adverts that just advertise companies and / or their products are normally excluded from this offer. Other adverts, for which payment will be required, may be entertained in the future.

No 14. Professional Indemnity Insurance

This is available from;

Engineering and Technology Professional Cover Consultants cc underwritten by Manwood Underwriters and Nova Risk Partners Pty Ltd
PO Box 50070 Wierda Park, 0149
Tel 012 653 1819, Fax 086 660 8306, Cell 083 458 5309,
E mail djj@africa.com

And also from;

Marsh SA, Marsh Vikela (Pty) Ltd
88 Grayston Drive, Sandton, 2196
Tel 011 506 5466, Fax 086 636 5359.
E Mail Vanessa.kleber@marsh.com.

No 15. South African Council for the Architectural Profession and Compulsory Registration.

We have had some queries regarding ECSA registered Technologists who draw building plans having to register with the SACAP. It seems some local authorities claim that only persons registered with the SACAP may submit building (architectural) plans for approval.

It seems that there are some misunderstandings and different interpretations relating to this subject.

It appears that the current National Building Regulations and Building Standards Act, 1977 (Act No 103 of 1977 as amended in 1987 and 1995) is applicable. The 1995 amendment deleted the definition of "professional engineer" and replaced it with a definition of "registered

person", which then includes professional engineering technologist.

The current SANS 10400 - 1990 (Code of Practice for the application of the National Building Regulations) defines a "competent person" as a person who is qualified by virtue of his experience and training

Press releases from SACAP on this matter of registration are unambiguous regarding exemption of persons registered by ECSA in terms of the Engineering Professions Act, 2000 (Act No 46 of 2000). The release of 26 April 2006 lists Exemptions under item 4 and this clearly includes persons registered by ECSA as being exempt. To the best of our knowledge this is still valid.

It is IPET's view that, based on the above, registered professional technologists, who have had their experience, training and qualification assessed as acceptable by the Engineering Council of South Africa and have been awarded registration as Professional Engineering Technologists by ECSA should then be entitled to draw up and submit building plans for approval by the local authority.

If the above does not satisfy the local authority then persons who may experience difficulties should approach the registrar of SACAP at www.sacapsa.com to obtain a letter of exemption from registration with the SACAP.

IPET have asked ECSA to give their view on this matter, however as we have not even received an acknowledgement of receipt yet we expect quite a delay in receiving an answer.

ECSA may be contacted, if needed, at
ECSA
Private Bag X691
Bruma
2026
Tel 011 607 9500
Fax 011 622 9295.

Those who get too big for their britches will be exposed in the end.

No 16. Membership Notes / Overdue Accounts

IPET's financial year runs from 1st April this year to 31 March next year.

IPET's invoices for 2008 / 2009 were posted in May 2008. You will note that the invoice shows the print issue date of May although the fees are actually due in April. Don't worry about the delay **just please pay your membership fees as soon as practical**. To those that phone and others who want to ask for banking details please look at the invoice as this information is printed on the invoice!

To the 20% of members who have paid up so far thank you!!

Yes, the invoices were late this year. The delay was due to so many things happening nearly at the same time with crazy deadlines. Much of the delay was also due to regular scheduled and many **regular unscheduled** power failures! In the two-week period from 21 April to 5 May we had 7 power failures, all which left us with no power for most of the office hours in the days concerned. The second last one was when the incoming cable blew up due to a water leak. Since the splicing in of a new piece of cable we have had only three power failures, and reportedly not due to Eskom, but due to City power.

Please note that when we have no power, nothing including our telephone / fax system works! So if you phone and the phone just apparently rings and rings with no answer then you know our power is out -- again.

A lot of money is tainted - It taint yours and it taint mine!

No 17.



Pat and Viv Nel hard at work during a power failure.

Note the modern non-electric typewriter and mechanical calculator!

No 18 The Joke Column.

Warning / Disclaimer.

Sensitive readers are warned that the following may erroneously be taken to contain sex, violence, strong language, gender, race, ethics etc. Readers are warned not to read or have any of the following read to them. Recommended readers age is limited to 120 and 121 years of age. A further requirement is you must have a sense of humour.

Some Lawyers Jokes.

The lawyers prayer;

To those we are about to deceive,

May the Lord make us truly plausible?

An archaeologist discovered a cleverly hidden World War 2 bunker. Inside he found three occupants, all miraculously still alive and well. He immediately recognised them as Hitler, Mussolini and a divorce lawyer. His problem was his gun, which only had two bullets. So he shot the lawyer twice!

And on the medical side;

With fair number of Cuban doctors here patients will have to look out for an epidemic of Castroenteritis.

And on the accounting side;

What is an accountant with a sense of humour called?

A computer.

What does an accountant use for a contraceptive?

His personality.

And on the engineering side;

Consulting engineers are the guys who know 99 ways of making love.

But don't have a girl friend.

And some news headlines;

Old pillars are replaced by alumni.

Sex education delayed, teachers request training.

And some definitions.

Old Maid: Slipping beauty.

Politics: The art of making yourself popular with people by giving them grants out of their own money.

And Governments

Most Government programmes have three things in common, - a beginning, a muddle and no end.

No. 19. Failed E-mail Addresses List.

Please check this list for your E-mail address. Update your correct info with us by using the update form attached.

The following addresses in **alpha sort on E Mail address** do not work for E Newsletters.

The failure message bounced back include;

Unknown, not valid, delivery failed, unused, undeliverable, no such mailbox, no such user,

Over quota, refused - user invalid user unknown.

Please pass on this information to any of

These people who you know!! Thanks.

TO ACCESS THE LIST YOU MUST GO ONTO OUR WEBSITE www.ipet.co.za

(The list is not included with this E mailed Newsletter)!!

No 20.

Unsubscribe Option.

As a member of IPET you should want to receive the E News. If however u do not want to receive the IPET E News as an E Mail then you have the option to unsubscribe.

To unsubscribe send an email with ""IPET unsubscribe"" in the text to engineer@netactive.co.za

Number 21.

O. & O. E.

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No 12 UPDATE FORM

IPET Information Update Form 2008

P O Box 1824

Randburg

2125

Tel / Fax / Answering Unit 011 787 9706

If you need to correct your contact information please use this form. Kindly complete this form in large black font especially for E-mail addresses.

Return the completed form by post or Fax. **E Mailed Update Forms are not accepted.**

Update Forms are also available on our website www.ipet.co.za

All information will be treated as confidential and will not be shared with any other party

Last Name	Initials	Title (Mr / Mrs / Ms /Etc)
Postal Address		
Work Telephone	Work Fax number	Cell Phone
Home Telephone	Home Fax	E Mail address (in large black font please)!
Your IPET Membership Number (Last 4 digits)	Your ECSA Registration Number (If applicable)	
Your signature that info is correct		Date