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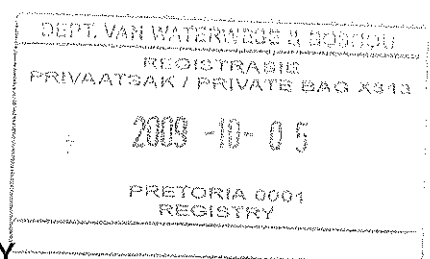
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**water affairs**  
Department:  
Water and Environmental Affairs  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Enquiries: H Muller  
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Reference: 6/6/2

MINISTER OF WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS



NATIONAL ASSEMBLY: QUESTION 1084 FOR WRITTEN REPLY

A draft reply to the above-mentioned question asked by Mrs A T Lovemore (DA), is attached for your consideration, please.

*Luqele*  
DIRECTOR-GENERAL (Acting)

DATE: 25/9/09

DRAFT REPLY APPROVED/AMENDED ✓

*see amendment  
please*

*Sonjica*

MS/B P SONJICA, MP  
MINISTER OF WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

DATE: 30-09-2009

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

FOR WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION NO 1084

DATE OF PUBLICATION IN INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 04 SEPTEMBER 2009  
(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO 14)

**1084. Mrs A T Lovemore (DA) to ask the Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs:**

- (1) Whether, with reference to the regulations for the erection, enlargement, operation and registration of water care works (details furnished), all water care works comply with the minimum requirements with regard to staff complement and staff educational qualification and experience; if not, (a) which water care works do not comply and (b) what are the details of the noncompliance in each case;
- (2) whether, in each case of noncompliance by water care works used for the purification of water to be used for human consumption, a Blue Drop certificate has been awarded to the water care works; if not, what score did each of the works obtain in the Blue Drop Report;
- (3) in each case of noncompliance, (a) what action has been, is being or will be taken to ensure compliance with the requirements of the regulations, (b) what has impeded the achievement of compliance and (c) what has been, is being or will be done to resolve the impediments;
- (4) whether all water care works have been issued with registration certificates by her department, in accordance with regulations; if not, why not; if so, why were certificates issued to works that did not comply with the minimum requirements with respect to staff complement and staff educational qualifications and experience?

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**REPLY:**

- (1) No. There is <sup>no</sup> sufficient information to serve as indication that all water care works are not complying with the referred to regulation. An effective registration system is still under development since the current system does not have all the required "search" options and that includes linking of the registration of Process Controllers with a specific plant or water works.
- (1)(a) All the relevant information as requested is contained in the Blue Drop Report, which has been distributed to members of the Water and Environmental Portfolio Committee, is also available on the Department of Water Affairs (DWA) home page (or [www.dwa.gov.za/bluedrop](http://www.dwa.gov.za/bluedrop)) and provides details related to the compliance of Water Services Authorities with Regulation 2834. Results furnished under Criterion 2 of the Blue Drop Certification Process indicate compliance of water supply systems to legislative requirements

- (1)(b) Findings during the 2009 Blue Drop Assessments indicated that compliance levels differs from system to system, but the general situation is that there is a lack of adequately trained staff at some of the smaller systems.
- (2) No. Blue Drop certification was only awarded when a total score of 95% or more was achieved per water supply system. For any water supply system to receive the prestigious "Blue Drop Status", the WSA needs to comply with all the criteria of the Blue Drop Certification process. The latter includes compliance with Criterion 2, implying that all the water care works under jurisdiction of the WSA needs to be registered and classified, while also being operated by adequate number of Process Controllers at the required level of qualification.
- (3)(a) Currently Blue Drop audits are being undertaken at various municipalities and my departmental staff is responsible for registering Water Care Works and Process Controllers and verifying the information as provided by the respective municipalities. This process takes into consideration the skills and experience of currently employed staff to determine compliance levels with the legislative requirements. Municipalities are informed of shortcomings and it is required that improvements is recorded during the next Blue Drop Assessment (2010).
- (3)(b) Process Controlling is regarded as a scarce skill and limited capacity is available to address the current skills shortage.
- (3)(c) My Department is in the process of liaising with sector partners to address the skills shortage through various means which includes training of under-skilled process controllers. There is also an initiative to propose revised legislation which will acknowledge adequate skill, experience and competence levels in the absence of sufficient educational qualifications.
- (4) No. Please note answer (1) and (2) since the same answer applies to this question with regards to the classification of water care works.