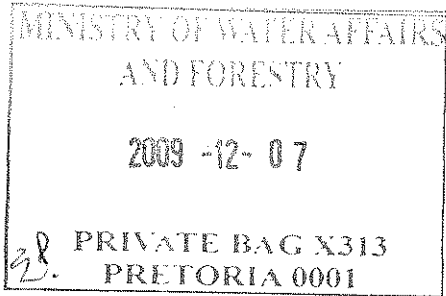


## water affairs

Department:  
Water and Environmental Affairs  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



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Enquiries: KFA Rademeyer  
Telephone: 012 336-7672  
Reference: 17/1

MINISTER OF WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

### NATIONAL ASSEMBLY: QUESTION 1645 FOR WRITTEN REPLY

A draft reply to the above-mentioned question asked by Ms M R Shinn (DA), is attached for your consideration, please.

  
DIRECTOR-GENERAL (Acting)

DATE:

7.12.09

  
~~DRAFT REPLY APPROVED/AMENDED~~

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

DATE:

2009. 12. 08

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

FOR WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION NO 1645

DATE OF PUBLICATION IN INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 09 OCTOBER 2009  
(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO 20)

**1645. Ms M R Shinn (DA) to ask the Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs:**

- (1) Whether all (a)(i) offices and (ii) sites of her department and (b) entities reporting to her adhere to the Occupational Health and Safety Act, Act 85 of 1993; if not, (aa) why not, (bb) which facilities fail to adhere to the Act, (cc) where are they situated and (dd) what (aaa) aspects of the Act does each such facility not comply with and (bbb) action has been taken in each case; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (2) (a) how often should each facility be inspected and (b) when last was each facility inspected?

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**REPLY:**

- (1)(a)(i) Approximately 74% of offices of My Department adhere to the Occupational Health and Safety Act, Act 85 of 1993.
- (1)(a)(ii) Approximately 63% of sites (i.e. schemes, dams) adhere to the Occupational Health and Safety Act, Act 85 of 1993
- (1)(b) According to the OHS Act, it is the responsibility of individual entities to adhere to OHS. Therefore, none report to me directly.
- (1)(b)(aa) My Department occupies old buildings (especially at Head Office) with inherent structural defects that are not possible to correct. Therefore some aspects of these buildings do not adhere to the modern OHS requirements. However, My Department is in discussion with Public Works on the status of the buildings. In turn, Public Works is looking for modern buildings that would adhere to OHS. However, this will come at a high cost.
- (1)(b)(bb) Refer to (1)(b)(aa) above.
- (1)(b)(cc) Refer to (1)(b)(aa) above.
- (1)(b)(dd)(aaa) There is inadequate compliance to the following requirements –
  - Lighting
  - Fire precautions and egress
  - Housekeeping
  - Structural requirements
  - Provision of a smoke free workplace.
  - Poor display of substitute notices and signs to make people aware of safety hazards at the dams.
- (1)(b)(dd)(bbb) The National Safety, Health and Environmental committee has been established to review the effectiveness of the interventions. Also, My Department is working with Public Works around technical issues.

- (2)(a) Each facility is inspected once a month and machinery at specific intervals as stipulated by the applicable South African National Standard (SANS) for machinery in use.
- (2)(b) The last inspection was in September 2009.

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