

Establishment of a safety, health, environment and quality forum for the sharing of relevant industry information on compliance

Agbiz, in co-operation with Agbiz Grain and Gerard Ramage from VKB, have come up with a proposal to host a number of workshops for members to promote compliance with health, safety, environmental and quality standards. There are a host of laws and regulations that speak to these issues. It is quite a challenge to make sense of all the different laws and standards in this regard. It can be quite challenging to get operations, management, and employees to comply with legislation that is vital for employee and customer safety, and environmental wellness.

The nature of agricultural operations is such, that it demands a safe working environment where both employees and management comply with and are assured by the presence and effective risk control implementation of sensible SHEQ regulations. Gerard Ramage approached Agbiz with a proposal for a forum where these issues can be discussed and where expert speakers can be invited to highlight aspects such as new legislation, industry specific regulations, and risk management.

The forum could also aim to assist in the gathering of industry data such as total injury frequency rates (TIFR) and lost time injury frequency rates, thus providing the industry with measured indicators serving as a benchmark.

The forum will initially focus on SHEQ in the grain industry, the longer-term vision is to cover all agricultural sectors.

Proposed topics include:

- **Railway safety regulator (RSR):** Training on SANS 30000 aspects, how the RSR operates, how to apply for a railway permit, and industry challenges.
- **Legal liability and SHEQ management:** Legal liability for executive managers, reasons to comply, risks involved in non-compliance, documentation fundamentals, management system fundamentals, determining TIFR and LTIFR.
- **Mandatory training:** Identifying accredited service providers, frameworks of mandatory OSH Act training, validity periods of training options.
- **Certificate of compliance (COC) and other statutory requirements:** Types of COCs, what to look out for in a COC, occupational hygiene surveys, hazardous classification zoning, compliance of firefighting equipment, firefighting service provider compliance, fire plans, fire clearance certificates.
- **ISO and other legislative requirements and standards:** Food safety, environmental and health and safety legislative requirements, BRC, ISO and PPECB systems and requirements for food safety.

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