

## **More about the SABS**

In providing the necessary regulatory and standards assurances for the production of goods and the delivery of services, the establishment of the SABS 70 years ago stands out as a landmark development.

Created by the South African Standards Act, No. 24 of 1945, the SABS has a long history in standards development and provision of conformity assessment services in South Africa. Its heritage includes being roped in during the apartheid years to shield the country from sanctions. All these circumstances have bequeathed the SABS a rich legacy that has equipped it today to enable and support South Africa to competitively participate in trade in the era of increasing globalisation.

In the post-2008 legislative reforms the SABS has had to rediscover relevance so as to serve an open economy, with no legislative protection and diminished government support.

The SABS is currently governed by the Standards Act, No. 8 of 2008, which formally split the regulatory functions and powers from the SABS and established the SABS as a national body that focuses on the development and maintenance of standards as well as in the rendering of services related to standards.

SABS Commercial SOC Ltd is a wholly-owned subsidiary of the SABS funded through revenue derived from standardisation services. Provision of conformity assessment services was fundamentally changed by the review of the 2008 legislation.