

QUALITY MATTERS

No 35, February 2007

BEE, once more, with feeling

As mentioned before, Thistle QA qualifies as a small enterprise (turn-over between R5 and R35-million per annum – guess which figure we are much, much closer to). In terms of the Government Gazette No 29617, published on 9 February 2007, and entitled Code Series 800: Codes of Good Practice for QSEs, our BEE status is as follows:

Statement 802: Management Control

Our management structure satisfies the requirement, plus we achieve 2 bonus points for black female representation.

Statement 803: Employment Equity

Again, we achieve full points for the representivity of our staff complement.

Statement 804: Skills Development

We spend more than enough on staff training and general skills development to gain full points

Statement 807: Socio-economic Development

Our social awareness policy has been established for many years, and again we gain full points, contributing many times the required percentage of NPAT.

When we compare our points to the relevant section of the regulations, namely Code Series 000: Framework for Measuring BBEE, and particularly the Statement 000: General Principles and the Generic Scorecard, we are classified as a Level 1 contributor to BEE. This means we help the BEE drive of all customers, so please make sure this fact is known to those in your own organisation involved with BEE compliance.

If any one should need more information, either on the above, or on BEE for small companies in general, please give me a call.

A final point, the government allows QSEs to self-assess, at least until there are SANAS accredited verification agencies. We await those verifications, but meantime the above reflects our official response to those of you wanting clarification of our BEE status.

By Dr Jim McCulloch

PDF Reports over December

We have experienced quite a few problems with the sending of PDF reports over December and January period with reports being returned to Thistle as undelivered because of inboxes being too full. We have decided not to email reports from the 16th of December until the 8th of January (every year). We will however send your reports on request. Please comment on this by sending an email to naomi@thistle.co.za and tell us if you agree with this, or if you maybe have a better solution to this problem. Your opinion regarding this issue is valuable to us, because you are directly affected by this decision.

Temperature Issues in the African Heat

Every now and again a lab phones informing us that their samples were not received at the correct temperature and that they have received their samples warm. If this happens to you, please inform marlize@thistle.co.za As a SANAS accredited company we log all these issues for discussion in our Management Review meetings. By doing this we can also have a close look at our courier service and address any problems. The lyophilized samples are very stable, and normally we do not experience problems with the results labs send in on HOT samples, but please be aware of this and if it happens to you keep a close eye on your results and let us know if there are any significant discrepancies.

Quality Control and Fairies

Are you aware of the fact that there is no difference between quality control and fairies? If you are interested in reading more about this, please buy the following book: Kafka, Gothic & Fairytale (Patric Bridgwater). This will change your whole opinion on life and quality control. The reason why I am giving you this very important but non-significant information is because of the fact that I have to fill this space – Jim's command. I thought it would be great to give you some really meaningful reading material.

By Marlize Albertse