

Your ref.:  
Our ref.: 14/2/ICT/71H/R  
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Date: 2008-09-04

The Editor,  
The Mercury,  
DURBAN

Dear Sir/Madam

### **SABS approval of products**

It was noted that, in an article by Ms Jasson da Costa in your newspaper issue of 2008/09/02, reference was made to the "C-track" system not being approved by the South African Bureau of Standards (SABS). The reference was made in such a fashion that the reader might infer that the equipment or system could not be approved as it was inaccurate or malfunctioning.

Statements implying that products are approved by the SABS are controlled by legislation and limited to items that carry the SABS Mark. The requirements for obtaining such approval are always defined in a national standard relevant to the specific equipment, product or system.

There are, at present, no national standards relevant to equipment used for electronic vehicle tracking and recovery or to fleet management devices or systems. As a result, there is no equipment in this field that could possibly carry the SABS Mark of approval.

Automotive products carrying the European Union's "E" mark are accepted by the relevant regulatory authorities for use in South Africa.

Therefore, although the statement in your article was factually correct, it is unfortunate that the language used appears to have been couched in a fashion that would unfairly disadvantage a particular supplier or manufacturer.

The SABS has no opinion regarding the other facts mentioned in the article.



**G Mackway-Wilson**  
**Programme Coordinator, ICT Standards**  
**South African Bureau of Standards**

Cc Ms W Jasson da Costa