

## **IFPA (Installation and Fabrication Pipes Association), Plastics|SA, Approval and Members' Obligations**

The intention of this document is to clarify the inter-related roles of IFPA, Plastics SA and IFPA Members.

### **IFPA Membership**

One of the requirements for a company to become an IFPA Member is that all their personnel performing welding operations shall attend and pass the Plastics|SA NQF Level 2 Thermoplastics Fabrication (Basics of welding) course. On completion of this course they are awarded a certificate attesting to this.

The Plastics Federation of South Africa is accredited [Accreditation No. 17-QA/ACC/0109/07] by the merSETA (Manufacturing, Engineering and Related Services Sectoral Educational Training Authority) as a Training Provider. Plastics|SA's learning material is aligned with SAQA (South Africa Qualifications Authority) and is accredited by the merSETA. The training is conducted in accordance with SANS 10268, and the bend testing is done to SANS 6269.

Welders employed by IFPA member companies are issued with welders' certificates that are valid for a period of three years. Companies that do not belong to IFPA need to renew their welders' certificates annually.

**The Plastics|SA certificate is a certificate of competence.**

### **IFPA Members**

The welding equipment and process shall comply with the applicable Standard for the operation as follows:

- The SANS 1671 'series' of standards specify the requirements for conformance of machines and equipment, e.g. SANS 1671-1 Part 1: Heated tool welding.
- The SANS 10268 'series' of standards specify the requirements for conformance of welding processes, e.g. SANS 10268-1 Part 1: Heated tool welding.
- The SANS 1671 and 10268 'series' of standards specify the requirements for conformance of machines and equipment, and processes respectively for:
  - Heated tool welding (Butt welding)
  - Electro-fusion welding
  - Hot gas welding
  - Hot gas extrusion welding
  - Solvent welding
  - Ultrasonic welding, staking and insertion

IFPA Members should have copies of the above SANS Standards, have a full understanding of the content and of the implementation.

## Approval

Before work commences, a client, either directly or via their consultant, may require approval be obtained. This is achieved by conforming to the following:

- SANS 10269 Welding of thermoplastics – Testing and approval of welders
- SANS 10270 Welding of thermoplastics – Approval of welding procedures and welds.

They are usually, but not necessarily, conducted for a range of pipe diameters, small (<160 mm), medium (160 – 315 mm) and large (>315 mm) and for a particular machine or equipment. The process of each approval is witnessed by a qualified inspector (Plastics|SA Certificate of Competence 'Thermoplastic Welding Inspection' or AIA Approved Inspection Authority) who documents conformance on completion.

IFPA Members must have copies of these SANS Standards and may be required to undergo approval before work commences.

## Additional information

IFPA members wishing to further differentiate themselves are encouraged to apply the following Standards:

- SANS 6269 Welding of thermoplastics – Test methods for welded joints.
- SANS 10268-10 Welding of thermoplastics – Welding processes Part 10: Weld defects.

IFPA Members should have copies of the above SANS Standards, have a full understanding of the content and of the implementation.