

## **NATIONAL ASSEMBLY QUESTION 3359**

**Mr P D Dexter (Cope) to ask the Minister of Energy:**

Whether her department is regulating safety standards for photovoltaic panels; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what are the relevant details? NW4020E

### **REPLY**

The Department of Energy is responsible for policy formulation and funding of the non-grid electrification programme where PV panels are used as part of the Solar Home System (SHS) technology solution. The SHS is installed in line with the National Rationalized Specification (NRS 052) which outlines standards that need to be adhered to before, during and after installation. All low voltage installations have to also be in accordance with SANS 10142-1.

The Department does not regulate safety standards but ensures that all relevant standards relating to the non-grid electrification programme are adhered to at all times. Adherence to the NRS 052 (Standardized requirements to individual households remote from the electricity grid), NRS 070 (Quality of service standard for non-grid electricity customers), and SANS 10142-1 (Wiring of premises: Low voltage installations) is ensured through technical auditing of installed Solar Home Systems and this is performed by the Department of Energy.

The South African Bureau of Standards (SABS) is responsible for development of all these related standards and where South African standards are not existent, internationally accepted standards (ISO, IEC) apply.