

GAZETTE WATCH

Regulatory Highlights

Government Gazette, 8 – 13 October 2026

Lee's Compliance, in association with The Legal Team

Every week, Lee's Compliance and The Legal Team monitor the Government Gazette so you don't have to. Here are the snippets that matter most from this week's 14 notices. Our subscribers receive the full briefing, with the legal basis, practical implications and recommended actions for every notice.



IN THIS EDITION

This edition included a detailed guide and two expanded analyses with practical compliance tools:

- **Competition Commission Rule 39:** the new four-stage process for breaches of merger conditions, the new CC 19 Notice Requesting Compliance, what changes for merged firms, and an action checklist.
- **Steel anti-dumping duties:** a rate table for the restated duties on hot-rolled flat steel from China, Japan and Chinese Taipei, and what importers should check on entries since March.
- **Hexagon nuts:** the timetable for ITAC's new dumping investigation and what importers and buyers of fasteners need to do before the questionnaire deadline.



BUILT ENVIRONMENT AND PROFESSIONS

Second chance to comment on the Building Regulations Amendment Bill

The DTIC has re-opened comment on the draft Bill that will overhaul South Africa's 1977 building control law. The original deadline of 3 September has passed, so this is effectively a fresh window for developers, contractors, built-environment professionals, municipalities and building product suppliers. **Comments close 12 November 2026.**

***How we can help:** we can help you work out how the Bill affects approvals, inspections and professional appointments in your business, and prepare comments.*



COMPETITION

New rules for enforcing merger conditions

A new Rule 39, in force since 13 October 2026, replaces the Commission's process for dealing with breaches of merger conditions. The Commission must first ask the firm to comply, or to submit a remedial plan, within at least 10 business days. It can revoke an approval only if the firm ignores a Tribunal order compelling compliance. A firm that says it has complied must prove it, so evidence of compliance is now essential.

***How we can help:** we can help you build a merger conditions register and a response protocol for the new CC 19 notice.*



ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS

A second Smile licence transfer before ICASA

Smile Communications has applied to transfer its individual network and service licences to Suntech Group, which says it is 100% owned by historically disadvantaged persons. This is separate from last week's Smile Telecoms transfer. Business customers should check their contracts for change-of-control and assignment clauses. **Representations close around 30 October 2026 (14 working days; confirm with ICASA).**



ENVIRONMENT AND CONSERVATION

Grasslands National Park declared in the Eastern Cape

About 10 226 ha of farmland near Maclear and Barkly East is now a national park managed by SANParks. Mining, energy and infrastructure projects in the area should be screened against the new boundary, as being close to a national park can trigger extra listed activities and specialist studies.

***How we can help:** we keep your environmental legal register current and can help you screen projects against new protected areas.*



INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND CUSTOMS

Steel anti-dumping duties restated back to March

Anti-dumping duties on hot-rolled flat steel from China, Japan and Chinese Taipei, ranging from 6.99% to 57.23%, have been restated with effect from 19 March 2026. Importers should reconcile their entries since then under the 12 tariff subheadings and make sure each supplier is mapped to the correct producer-specific rate.

Dumping investigation into Chinese hexagon nuts

ITAC is investigating an alleged dumping margin of 125%. Importers that do not cooperate risk duties based on the facts available, which usually means the higher rate. **Questionnaire responses are due by Sunday 8 November 2026, so submit by Friday 6 November.**

***How we can help:** we can help you check past entries, prepare ITAC submissions and update your customs compliance records.*



LABOUR

Another trade union faces deregistration

The Registrar intends to cancel the registration of the Azanian Workers Movement (AZAMO), saying it has stopped functioning as a genuine trade union and has not met its record-keeping and reporting duties. Employers should check payroll for AZAMO deductions, but should not end deductions or recognition until the cancellation is published. **Representations close 8 December 2026.**



PUBLIC GOVERNANCE

Two Gauteng departments renamed

From 9 October 2026, Gauteng's Department of Health is the Department of Health and Wellness, and Roads and Transport is Roads, Transport and Logistics. Suppliers and litigants should use the new names in contracts, tenders, invoices and court papers.



STANDARDS

SABS updates key safety and management standards

SABS has issued about 60 draft standards for comment and published more than 60 new, amended and revised standards, including SANS 10085-1 (steel access scaffolding), SANS 14001:2026 (environmental management systems), SANS 38500:2026 (governance of IT) and SANS 10206 (pesticides). Organisations whose procedures or certifications rely on these should plan the transition. **Comments on the drafts close 8 December 2026.**

How we can help: we can identify which updated standards are referenced in your legal register and your OHS or environmental systems.



TRANSPORT AND AVIATION

Civil Aviation Amendment Act finally in force

More than four years after it was signed, the Act took effect on 12 October 2026. It gives the aviation accident investigation board operational independence, adds environmental protection to SACAA's mandate, and requires operators to implement, not merely have, an aviation security programme.

How we can help: we can update your aviation legal register and review your security programme records against the amended Act.



Other highlights

This edition also covered disciplinary sanctions against three quantity surveyors, SARS's extension of the customs accreditation onboarding period from six to eighteen months, ITAC's proposal to let OEMs use Form C2 to support rebate item 412.00 claims, and new drone, helicopter and air service licence applications, including NTCSA's application for powerline work and Airlink's five new African routes.



Key dates to diarise

- **23 October:** SARS filing deadline for non-provisional individual taxpayers
- **26 October:** comments on the eight QCTO occupational qualifications and the draft land transport amendments
- **28 October:** comments on the Electricity Market Transformation Position Paper and Revised Electricity Pricing Policy
- **30 October:** representations on the Smile Communications licence transfer (confirm with ICASA) and the domestic air service applications; comments on both USAASA discussion documents and the Indigenous Knowledge Regulations
- **2 November:** comments on the Second-Hand Goods and Stock Theft Amendment Bills, and on the NCC labelling, pricing and receipts guidelines
- **6 November:** comments on rebate item 412.00; representations on Airlink's international routes; ITAC questionnaire responses in the hexagon nuts investigation (due Sunday 8 November)
- **12 November:** comments on the Building Regulations Amendment Bill
- **1 December:** representations on the proposed deregistration of HELIMO and UTAWU
- **8 December:** comments on the SABS draft standards; representations on the proposed deregistration of AZAMO
- **4 January 2027:** comments on the draft animal identification regulations

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Tel: 011 476 3217 (ext 2) | Email: admin@compliancetools.co.za

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