

Agrément SA awards 38 fit-for-purpose certificates to local and international companies

Agrément South Africa CEO Mr Joe Odhiambo says showing recognition to construction industry partners who contribute positively to the field of engineering for approved innovative technologies – is important.

He says the initiative gives contractors status and legitimacy within the national building industry, reduces risk to the end-user and encourages innovation.

He was speaking at an event held in Pretoria in May 2016 where the agency of the National Department of Public Works (NDPW) managed by the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) – awarded fit-for-purpose certificates to 38 industry players for their contribution to the field of engineering for the 2015 approved innovative technologies.

The recipients of the certificates went through a rigorous process of testing and evaluation in order to stand a chance of receiving the award.

The agency evaluates the fitness for purpose of non-standardised construction products, materials and systems against performance-based criteria.

Mr Odhiambo says the purpose of Agrément certification is to assist the manufacturers and suppliers of non-standard and innovative building products, materials and systems in the South African market to provide products that are fit-for-purpose.

Some of the materials, products and systems that were awarded the fit-for-purpose certificates include a water tank, two building systems, a composite door frame, a road repair system, a sanitation system and two traffic monitoring systems.

“Agrément SA regulations require, for example, that the products must have adequate strength and stability. It stipulates a minimum performance requirement that, if complied with, it would mean the contractor has met the national standard,” explains Mr Odhiambo.

Products that carry a level of assurance inevitably gain greater market acceptance and recognition as end-users have greater confidence in the products and the technical information provided.

“The world is continuously changing and innovation is a constant requirement. New building materials are constantly being developed. The way we build today is completely different from the way we built 50 years ago. The need for a service to help test innovative new building materials, products and systems will remain prominent. In fact, change is happening more rapidly,” Mr Odhiambo concluded.