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| **INDEPENDENT REGULATORY BOARD FOR AUDITORS**  **Validity of B-BBEE Verification Certificates**  **issued by B-BBEE approved registered auditors, and**  **EME Certificates issued by registered auditors**  Johannesburg / 3 April 2014  It has come to the attention of the IRBA that entities and the general public do not always accept as valid:   * Broad-Based Black Economic Empowerment (“B-BBEE”) Verification Certificates issued by B-BBEE approved registered auditors (BARs); or * Exempted Micro Enterprise (“EME”) certificates issued by registered auditors.   We provide a link to an IRBA letter setting out the authority for B-BBEE approved registered auditors to issue valid B-BBEE Verification Certificates, and for all registered auditors to issue EME Certificates, contained in Statement 005, *Broad Based Black Economic Empowerment (B-BBEE) Verification* (Government Gazette No. 34612 on 23 September 2011. The IRBA letter may be downloaded from our IRBA website: [http://www.irba.co.za](http://www.irba.co.za/guidance-to-ras/technical-guidance-for-auditors/other-assurance-including-b-bbee/b-bbee-verification-assurance) and provided by B-BBEE approved registered auditors to their clients to explain the validity of such certificates issued in terms of the B-BBEE Codes of Good Practice issued in 2007 (the **2007 B-BBEE Codes**) and Sector Codes, issued subsequently.  **This authority** **does not apply** in respect of the **Amended B-BBEE Codes of Good Practice** published by the Department of Trade and Industry as General Notice 1019 of 2013 in Government Gazette No 36928, on 11 October 2013 (the **2013 B‑BBEE Codes**) with transitional provisions due to become effective within 12 months and extended by the Minister of Trade and Industry by General Notice 226 of 2014 published in the Government Gazette 37453 18 March 2014, to 30 April 2015. The 2013 B‑BBEECodes do not require EME certificates to be issued and provide no authority for the issuing of any EME certificates. In addition, the legal status of Statement 005, which provides B-BBEE approved registered auditors with the mandate to issue B-BBEE verification certificates under the B-BBEE Codes of Good Practice of 2007, is uncertain in terms of the 2013 Amended Codes of Good Practice.  The IRBA News includes a B-BBEE section with relevant B-BBEE news for registered auditors. This can be downloaded from the IRBA website: [www.irba.co.za](http://www.irba.co.za/upload/IRBA%20newsletter%2026.pdf).  B-BBEE queries in respect of B-BBEE verification certificates or EME Certificates issued by registered auditors may be directed to the IRBA phone: 087 940 8800 or to Gerhardus Burger, direct line: 087 940 8786 or Saadiya Adam, direct line: 087 940 8870 or by e-mail to: [b-bbeequeries@irba.co.za](mailto:b-bbeequeries@irba.co.za).  **Sandy van Esch**  **Director: Standards**  ***About the IRBA***  *The objective of the IRBA is to endeavour to protect the financial interests of the South African public and international investors in South Africa through the effective and appropriate regulation of audits conducted by registered auditors, in accordance with internationally recognised standards and processes.* |