



Understanding EPR regulations for producers and recyclers

The Metal Recyclers' Association of South Africa (MRA) is committed to guiding members through the evolving regulatory landscape. Under the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) Regulations, producers must register with the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment through the South African Waste Information Centre (SAWIC) and implement environmental labels in line with SANS 14021 (self-declared claims) and SANS 14024 (Type I eco-labels).

These labels ensure that claims such as 'recyclable' or 'made from recycled content' are credible, and transparent. For producers, this means designing products with recycling in mind, avoiding misleading claims, and demonstrating compliance with national and global standards.

For metal recyclers, the EPR regulations create opportunities to showcase the environmental benefits of recycled metals, strengthen partnerships with producers, and align with international markets where eco-labelling is increasingly a requirement. It also reinforces the role of recyclers in South Africa's circular economy by ensuring traceability and transparency in material flows.

"By embracing EPR and environmental labels, South Africa can build consumer confidence, unlock new markets, and drive sustainable growth," says **Quintin Starkey**, MRA Committee Member. The MRA continues to advocate for responsible recycling and supports members in navigating these changes.

For full details and registration requirements, visit the official government website:
https://www.gov.za/sites/default/files/gcis_document/202105/44539gon400.pdf