

NATIONAL EMERGENCY TELEPHONE SERVICE ACT

NO. 143 OF 1993

[ASSENTED TO 1 OCTOBER, 1993][DATE OF
COMMENCEMENT: 13 OCTOBER, 1993]

(English text signed by the State President)

ACT

To provide for the establishment of the 10-7 emergency telephone service and that the numerals 10-7 shall be the primary emergency telephone number; to coordinate emergency communication procedures and facilities in a manner that makes possible a quick response where any person dialling the primary emergency telephone number seeks any emergency service; and to provide for matters connected therewith.

1. Definitions:-(1) In this Act, unless the context otherwise indicates-

"local authority" means an administrator appointed under section 7 of the Provincial Government Act, 1986 (Act 69 of 1986), or any institution or body contemplated in section 84 (1) (f) of the Provincial Government Act, 1961 (Act No. 32 of 1961), and includes-

(a) a regional services council established under section 3 of the Regional Services Councils Act, 1985 (Act No. 109 of 1985);

(b) a joint services board established under section 4 of the KwaZulu and Natal Joint Services Act, 1990 (Act No. 84 of 1990);

(c) a combined local authority contemplated in section 8 (f) of the Interim Measures for Local Government Act, 1991 (Act No. 128 of 1991);

(d) a person, institution or body declared under subsection (2) to be a local authority for the purposes of this Act;

"mark" includes any visual representation or illustration capable of being reproduced upon a surface, whether by printing, embossing or by any other means, and any brand, heading, label, ticket, name, signature, word, letter, numeral or combination thereof;

"Minister" means the Minister of Local Government;

"reporting centre" means a local authority approved as a reporting centre under section 5;

"1-0-7 service" means the emergency telephone service established under section 2 (1).

(2) The Minister may by notice in the Gazette declare any person who or institution or body which, in the opinion of the Minister, is capable of performing the 10-7 service, to be a local authority for the purposes of this Act.

2. Establishment of 10-7 service:-(1) A telecommunications service by means of which the user of a public telephone system

has the ability to reach a reporting centre by dialling the numerals 1-0-7 in order to request an emergency service referred to in section 5 (1) is hereby established.

(2) A reporting centre shall transmit any request for an emergency service referred to in section 5 (1) to any person who or institution or body which provides such emergency service at the place from which the request originates.

3. Use of primary emergency telephone number-(1) The numerals 1-0-7 in that sequence shall constitute the primary emergency telephone number.

(2) No person shall dial the primary emergency telephone number unless he has reason to believe that life, limb or property is threatened.

4. Registration of 1-0-7 numerals prohibited-No person shall apply for the registration in terms of the Trade Marks Act, 1963 (Act No. 62 of 1963), or any other law, of any mark containing the numerals 1-0-7 in that sequence.

5. Reporting centre-(1) If a local authority is capable of transmitting requests in regard to the following emergency services, namely-

(a) fire-fighting;

(b) rescue;

(c) policing services;

(d) ambulance services;

(e) medical services; and

(f) such other service as requested by a local authority,

to any person who or institution or body which provides such emergency services, the local authority may apply to the Minister in the manner determined by him to be approved as a reporting centre.

(2) The Minister may approve on such conditions as he may deem necessary any application referred to in subsection (1) or reject any such application.

(3) A local authority which is approved as a reporting centre shall do anything necessary or expedient to enable it to perform the 1-0-7 service.

(4) If the Minister is of the opinion that a reporting centre

(a) is not able to perform the 1-0-7 service efficiently; or

(b) has not complied with any condition imposed in terms of subsection (2),

he may revoke his approval.

6. Financing of 1-0-7 service performed by reporting centre.- A local authority which is approved as a reporting centre in terms of section 5 may, with the prior written approval of the Minister, and on the conditions which the Minister may

determine, impose a levy or service charge to defray expenses incurred as a direct result of being approved as a reporting centre.

7. Limitation of liability.-No person who serves as an operator in a reporting centre shall be liable in respect of anything done in good faith in the exercise of a power or the performance of a duty as such an operator.

8. Offences.-Any person who contravenes or fails to comply with a provision of section 3 (2) or 4 shall be guilty of an offence and on conviction be liable to a fine or to imprisonment for a period not exceeding ~~the~~ years.

9. Regulations.-The Minister may make regulations regarding-

(a)the operation of the 10-7 service by a reporting centre;

(b)the financing of the 10-7 service performed by a reporting centre;

(c)any other matter the regulation of which ~~is~~ in the opinion of the Minister necessary or expedient for the effective carrying out of the provisions of this Act.

10. Short title.-This Act shall be called the National Emergency Telephone Service Act, 1993.