

Advice from the

South African Glass and Glazing Association of SA



In terms of SABS 0137 and recent court cases it has been established that in addition to being contractually obligated to construct a safe structure, an architect, engineer, builder and subcontractor also carries a delictual obligation to construct a safe structure. Such delictual obligation is firstly towards the other contracting party and secondly towards others.

In other words, there is an obligation on persons who have experience and knowledge to ensure that whatever such person constructs, is safe. Such an obligation is not limited towards the person for whom the construction is erected but also extends to others, such as the public and subsequent owners.

This applies strictly to the use of glass in the home particularly when used in kitchen and bedroom cupboards.

As a rule if you can foresee that the glass could injure somebody you need to consider whether or not safety glass has to be installed in terms of SABS 0137. As kitchens and bedrooms are areas of high activity and use, we would recommend that all kitchen companies make use of safety glass when installing glass into a kitchen, bedroom or bathroom setting.

The statutory obligation to install safety glass vests with the property owner and the glass installer. As such the responsibility to insist on safety glass lies as much on you, the property owner and consumer, as it does the kitchen installer. Please ensure that you request, in writing, that all glass included in the construction of your new kitchen, vanity or built-in cupboards is safety glass for your own safety.

For more information please contact saga@aaamsa.co.za.