

# Stainless Steel for water security

CAPE Town's dire water crisis and the rapid approach of the much feared 'Day Zero' is shining a light on the role that corrugated, stainless steel water pipes can play in securing South Africa's long-term municipal water supplies.

This is thanks to the introduction of a new SABS standard for these pipes after five years of research and writing and an additional one year of rigorous testing, driven largely by Sassa members Flexotube and Inox Systems. This culminated with the finalisation of the standard in May 2016, which stipulates amongst other factors, the exact composition of the stainless steel to be used, specifications on flow rates and involved comprehensive testing - i.e. pressure, vibration

and oscillation - prior to the standard being awarded.

Sassa Executive Director John Tarboton says; "Stainless steel water service pipes represent a simple, yet cost-effective solution to South Africa's water crisis, especially since international case studies from Tokyo, Seoul and Taipei show that plastic service pipes (PE or PVC) have an average global life of 20 years, while stainless steel service pipes can expect a minimum of 60 years. As Day Zero looms large in Cape Town, they are therefore definitely one of the solutions to consider in the longer-term, given their resistance to leaks and ease of use," he adds.

The local availability of the pipes stems from the opening of Inox Systems Boksburg factory in 2014.