

Protect yourself! Register your cellphone number now!

What is RICA?

RICA is the Regulation of Interception of Communications and Provision of Communication-Related Information Act.

RICA is the new law from the South African Government that **requires everyone to register all new and existing cellphone numbers from 1 July 2009.**

New SIM cards will only be activated on the cellular networks once registered. Existing cellphone numbers and data SIM cards that are already active on the cellular networks must be registered within 18 months from the effective date.

Why must you register?

- It is a legislative requirement from the South African Government and you must comply with the law.
- To make South Africa a safer place. This legislation aims to help law enforcement agencies to track criminals using cellphones for illegal activities.

Where do you register?

- Most stores where you can buy a starter pack will be able to register customers.
- For more information contact your cellular network Customer Care Centre or go to their website.

What information and documents do you need to take with you to register?

You are required to register the following information:

- Cellphone number
- Full names and surname
- ID number or passport number. You will need to show one of the following documents as proof of identity:
 - green barcoded ID document
 - ID card
 - temporary ID certificate, or
 - passport
- One physical address. You will need to show any document that includes your name and residential address such as a bank statement, municipal rates, cellphone or retail account (not older than three (3) months), existing lease, rental or credit agreement, insurance policy, current TV or motor vehicle licence.

If you live in an informal residence you must provide the address of a school or church closest to the area in which you live.

Registration must be done in person to confirm your identity.

When must you register?

- You must register for RICA from 1 July 2009, and registration is free.
- From this date onwards, all new cellphone numbers will have to be registered to be activated on a cellular network in South Africa.
- Customers with existing cellphone numbers that are already active on a South African cellular network will have 18 months from the effective date.
- Existing cellphone numbers that are not registered at the end of this period will be disconnected from the cellular network until they are registered.

