MARCH 2023 ADVISORY BULLETIN

LOAD SHEDDING

At this time of on-going load shedding, where most if not all systems require electricity to operate fully, it is worth mentioning that all electrical devices such as pumps, mowers, groomers etc. should be switched off as soon as the power fails, and not left switched on.

Many of our electrically operated systems, have sensitive electronic mechanisms built into them to ensure smooth start up and operation. These can be adversely affected when the power is restored due to spiking.

Unfortunately, a number of instances have been reported where electric devices have been severely damaged after the restoration of power if they were left switched on after the power fails.

Repairing such damage is costly and can run into thousands of rands of additional expenditure to put right.

It is also, not uncommon for a reduced voltage to be experienced when the power is restored, and this in turn can damage machinery if used immediately after the restoration of power. It is advised therefore, that a period of about 15 minutes is allowed before resuming normal activities.

Should Clubs decide to use a generator to offset the effects of load shedding, it is recommended that a 9 KW single phase generator is used. This will adequately cope with the mower start up, and is more than capable of running two mowers at the same time, (providing of course that they are not started simultaneously). If Clubs are using three phase machinery, the purchase of a generator may not make financial sense.

It may also be worthwhile, investigating a more flexible approach to staff hours, taking into account the published load shedding schedules.

The currently published loadshedding schedules provide detailed times that “safe” access to electrical infrastructure and machines that are normally live (powered). During periods of loadshedding criminals are using the lack of power to steal pumps, cables and other expensive infrastructure at bowling greens. It is therefore recommended, that Clubs wherever possible, improve security and stay alert to avoid theft and vandalism during these periods of interrupted power supply.