

# New Technology implemented by Abacus Recruitment...



## Ideco AFISwitch

Find out more about the Criminal Illicit Activity Check.

- AUTOMATED:** Utilizing **biometrics** and **computer technology**.
- ACCURATE:** Using **fingerprint data**.
- SECURITY:** No more inaccurate, unreliable ID data to perform criminal checks. It is highly recommended by the SA Police Services.
- FAST:** Get results **within 48 hours**.
- CONVENIENT:** We have **enrolled users at our premises**.



Visit our website [www.abacus.co.za](http://www.abacus.co.za)

Continued on next page



## Ideco Overview

Ideco is South Africa's sole service provider of automated criminal background checks for the private sector. This service, known as AFISwitch, interfaces with the SAPS AFIS to determine the criminal record status of a person. AFISwitch either captures digital fingerprints by means of electronic fingerprint scanners, or by using FBI-approved flatbed scanners. The AFISwitch service turnaround time is approximately 48 hours as opposed to the weeks or even months required by the conventional paper-based service. AFISwitch allows companies and institutions to undertake background checks on job applicants and existing employees, as well as to obtain clearance certificates for the purposes of emigration, permanent residence, international investment and foreign directorships.

## Automated Fingerprint Identification Systems

A core requirement of unique Identity Management is the provision of a fully Automated Fingerprint Identification System that forms the backbone of all **IDM solutions**. AFIS is a fingerprint database which provides fast and accurate verification and identification of individuals using only a fingerprint. The uniqueness and permanence of one's fingerprint allows the non-reputable electronic identification of individuals.

Ideco's AFIS references include: **SAPS AFIS**.

Ideco was instrumental in supplying the SA Police Service with an AFIS. Furthermore, in 2002 Ideco assisted Sagem with the constitution of the SAPS electronic criminal fingerprint database. In nine months, 4.3 million paper-based fingerprint records were converted to a digital format at a rate of 65 000 per day. Each of the paper records included ten individual rolled fingerprints. The SAPS AFIS is the backbone of all IDM solutions in SAPS.

## Changes to existing criminal checks – "Illicit Activity Check"

Essentially, AFIS operates as an automated checking service by creating an electronic information conduit between the Criminal Resource Centre in Pretoria and the Public. As all criminal records are accompanied by a set of fingerprints, AFIS will allow you to search for matches directly on the database, thus eliminating the potential for identity fraud.

In future the Criminal 'Name Clearance' check, which requires only a name and ID number, will be turned off by the South African Police Services CRC's.

## Benefits

Benefits of the new automated system include **accuracy, convenience, reliability, and security**.

It is becoming apparent that Name Clearance checks are not 100% reliable due to SAPS database inaccuracies. The AFISwitch system provides criminal checks on candidates based on fingerprints taken. The uniqueness of one's fingerprints ensures non-reputable electronic identification of individuals.

The AFISwitch technology requires applicant fingerprints to be captured via an electronic fingerprint reader. Results are submitted and the automated matching system returns either a 'hit' or no hit' within 48 hours.

Abacus Recruitment VAT no 4900 154 263

70 Regency Drive  
Route 21 Corporate Park  
Irene x31 Centurion

P O Box 4364  
Rietvallei Rand  
0174

Tel 012 345 9200  
Fax 086 501 6822

info@abacus.co.za  
www.abacus.co.za



# Questions and Answers

## Legal

- **How does the implementation of AFIS affect South Africans in general?**  
In the criminal justice arena, AFIS has obvious and far reaching benefits. Not only is positive identification of repeat offenders far more accurate, it is much faster than manual matching. There is a mountain of literature, freely available on the Internet, expounding the advantages of AFIS.
- **Does the law make specific reference to the recruitment industry?**  
No. The SAPS allows for civil criminal record checking for pre-employment purposes under certain conditions. These principles have not changed. The most important include the fact that the individual must grant permission, and that the results must be divulged.
- **Where can we find a copy of this legislation?**  
There is no legislation that says that criminal record checking via AFIS is required. This requirement is a procedural one, instituted by the SAPS.
- **What are Ideco AFISwitch's credentials?**  
Ideco AFISwitch has a 15-year exclusive contract with the South African Police Service (SAPS) to supply this service. In association with the Government Gazette, Vol. 496, No. 29319 dated 27 October 2006.
- **What are the constitutional implications for agencies?**  
There is no change in the constitutional implications for anybody. A candidate can currently refuse to be subjected to a criminal record check, or any other check for that matter. It is entirely at the discretion of the agency as to whether a candidate is referred to a client or not, and background screening is purely an aid to that decision.
- **What happens to fingerprints once they are uploaded?**  
That depends. If you wish to make use of a hosting service for rechecking purposes, the prints are kept at a secure location, in an encrypted form, at their premises. If not, the prints are deleted by the host after being sent to AFIS. What happens after they have reached AFIS has not been defined, and further feedback will be provided.
- **How large is the database?**  
The AFIS database currently stores in excess of 6 million fingerprint sets, and is massively scalable. There need be no concerns about this capacity.
- **Is there an alternative?**  
**There is no alternative to AFIS.** There are several agencies that will implement fingerprint capturing abilities. Agencies have a wide choice of service provider. Finally, AFISwitch may allow the receipt of paper-based fingerprints taken at police stations, as currently happens.

### Resources

[www.ideco.co.za](http://www.ideco.co.za)  
[www.refcheck.co.za](http://www.refcheck.co.za)  
[www.securitysa.com](http://www.securitysa.com)  
[www.afiswitch.co.za](http://www.afiswitch.co.za)  
[www.kroll.co.za](http://www.kroll.co.za)

Abacus Recruitment VAT no 4900 154 263

70 Regency Drive  
Route 21 Corporate Park  
Irene x31 Centurion

P O Box 4364  
Rietvallei Rand  
0174

Tel 012 345 9200  
Fax 086 501 6822

info@abacus.co.za  
www.abacus.co.za

