**PRESS RELEASE**

A merger to overcome tough times and create a one-stop-shop

***15 March 2016:*** *North Safety is pleased to announce its merger with Budgie Shearer, which was officially finalised in November 2015 to give the companies an opportunity to achieve joint measurable growth during tough economic times.*

Budgie Shearer, based in eMalahleni in Mpumalanga, was established in 1989 and has built a strong reputation by developing long-lasting relationships with its suppliers and associating itself with top brand names and products. Through this merger, North Safety is able to complement is extensive personal protective equipment (PPE) range with cleaning and engineering products too.

The Budgie Shearer line of products include; Reinol hand cleaners and industrial chemicals, Spanjaard industrial lubricants and sprays, lifting machinery and repairs, lifting tackle and slings, Megaroller conveyor idlers and scrapers, Allied screen and filter products, Petrozorb oil absorbents and oil spill kits, industrial valves and slurry pumps, and specialised bolts and nuts.

The partnership between the companies is based on mutual benefit. “The companies boast similar values and principles, and have a shared vision for growth in the future. This will benefit both parties and subsequently the customers, who now have access to diverse products that will sufficiently cater to the industrial, cleaning and consumables sector,” explains North Safety CEO Craig Garvie and Budgie Shearer, new business development manager.

The PPE industry was previously a niche sector, making many products hard to come by. “New legislation and the drive by employers to have a safe working environment for employees has since pushed the revolution of having a large chunk of PPE become more of a commodity product that is readily available. North is adapting to this ongoing trend by growing its product line up to satisfy the current market demands and trends,” Garvie continues.

According to Garvie, Budgie Shearer’s geographical position will allow North Safety to further expand its growing footprint. “As part of the North Safety family, Budgie Shearer will enjoy the benefits of having support and back-up as the relationship develops. North Safety has now strengthened infrastructural footprint with this merger. Some of the systems will change but the general philosophy of service levels and customer satisfaction will remain the same,” he adds.

Covering over 15 regions across Southern Africa, North Safety continues to reinforce its staying power by constantly adapting. It continues to take part in activities that promote the expansion of its local manufacturing through extensive research and development. Garvie says: “The aim is to reduce cost with local content to get cost savings on many of our products so that we can pass on this saving to our customers, helping them cope in this tough economic climate.”

Garvie highlights that both companies have a very positive outlook. “North Safety’s footprint in Africa has placed it ahead of the pack and will be in a great position when the economic climate turns. We are making decisions and taking actions that are helping us survive through the tough times and to excel when the economy recovers again. Through combining both companies’ unique strengths into one, we know the partnership can grow and develop into the future,” he concludes.

***Ends***

**Notes to the editor**To download hi-res images for this release, please visit [http://media.ngage.co.za](http://media.ngage.co.za/) and click the North link to view the company’s press office.

**About North Safety Products Africa**
North Safety Products Africa (NSPA) is one of South Africa’s leading designers, manufacturers and marketers of personal protection and safety equipment products in the workplace. The company designs, develops and manufactures a comprehensive range of safety equipment. This includes: respiratory equipment; hand protection; hearing protection; eye, head and face protection; height safety; and protective clothing and footwear. North also provides technical and customer support whereby skilled professionals assist businesses with the implementation and management of their company needs. With a global reputation for high quality protective gear, pioneering technology and valuable manufacturing assistance, North prides itself on exceeding client expectations.

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