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# Standards BULLETIN

NOVEMBER 2018

## Commonwealth standards network launches programme to support UNBS and small scale agricultural producers

The Uganda National Bureau of Standards is collaborating with the British Standards Institution (BSI) under the Commonwealth Standards Network (CSN) Programme, which will support UNBS to achieve its strategic objectives and support agricultural and other value chains in complying with international best practices.

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Participants at the launch of the Commonwealth Standards Network

The Programme will support finalization of the National Standardization Strategy and will provide targeted technical assistance in improving the core UNBS functions – such as testing, certification and inspections. It also aims to raise awareness of product requirements and commitment to quality in a number of agricultural and related value chains where difficulties are being experienced in exporting fruit, vegetables, fish and other commodities.

UNBS Test Laboratories, the National Metrology Laboratory and the Certification and Import Inspection Departments will benefit from specialised training and a range of capacity-building interventions, led by international and regional industry experts. Additionally, existing standards and guideline documents for agricultural and related goods will be simplified and translated, and training will be provided to grass roots producers.

*"Quality is life, life is quality"*



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Upon completion, the project is expected to deliver a number of important benefits. This includes further enhancing Uganda's ability to maintain quality standards for its products and services, especially food exports to international trading partners, as well as greater awareness about the benefits of UNBS services and activities among MSME's. Ultimately, these interventions will help UNBS to continue to set the effective standards for consumer safety, environmental protection and facilitate access to international markets for Ugandan products targeting the Commonwealth nations.

In her speech, UK Prime Minister Teresa May said: "Our Commonwealth family already accounts for one-fifth of global trade, and we must continue to work together to build further upon this solid foundation by building on our existing trade links and establishing new ones."

"I firmly believe that regardless of which corner of the Commonwealth you are from, we all will benefit from the jobs created by doing so. Every one of those new jobs will mean another family seeing their hard work rewarded, and the spread of greater opportunity."

UNBS Executive Director, Dr. Ben Manyindo, said: "The support from the Commonwealth Network will go a long way in improving the competitiveness of local products in international markets which will improve our balance of trade especially among the selected value chains".

The CSN Programme was announced in the UK Prime Minister's keynote speech during the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in May 2018. The programme, funded by the UK Department for International Development and implemented by the British Standards Institution (BSI), sets out to:

Facilitate the growth of global value chains in the Commonwealth developing economies, particularly in supported sectors, increase the volume of products and services exported from Commonwealth developing economies, that meet international standards, create connections between Commonwealth countries (particularly National Standards Bodies and Ministries of Trade), allowing them to identify new trade opportunities, improve the business environment and create competitiveness; and Enhance the use of International Standards to foster innovation and improve export potential.

Set to finish in March 2020, the CSN Programme is organized along the three bespoke technical assistance streams and addresses key Quality Infrastructure challenges in Africa (Uganda and Zambia), Oceania (Papua New Guinea and Vanuatu) and the Caribbean (St. Lucia). Additionally, an online portal designed to improve standards development and increase information sharing between Commonwealth National Standards Bodies and key stakeholders will be created for the benefit all Commonwealth member states.

## Awareness creation and visibility for standardization among media houses in Northern Uganda

The media is a major target audience in the execution of the Media and Communication Strategy for the implementation of quality and standards in Uganda. In order to bring on board and equip the media with the skills and knowledge to report on quality and standards, the Uganda National Bureau of Standards organized a two day training workshop for the media practitioners in Northern Region.



The media fraternity of Northern Uganda and officials from UNBS posing for a picture after the training

The training workshop brought together media practitioners including news reporters, news editors from Gulu district. These were equipped with the necessary skills and knowledge to accurately report on issues of quality and

standards. The objectives of the training were to raise awareness on quality and standards among the media, to develop the capacity of the journalists in understanding and reporting

diligently about quality and standards, to educate and impart new reporting skills among journalists that will enable them report on quality and standards with authority and accuracy, create strong partnerships between the UNBS and the Media in the implementation of quality infrastructure and standards, increase attention to quality and standards as a key area for headline stories in the media and acquaint the media with terminologies and benefits to apply in reporting on quality infrastructure and standards.

The training attracted 32 participants and was conducted through presentations from UNBS, and the Media Expert, discussions and question and answer sessions

A presentation on the roles and functions of UNBS in the implementation of quality and standards, objective, expected outcomes of the training was made by Senior Public Relations Officer – Barbara Kamusiime. She further highlighted the mandate of UNBS, the different departments in the Bureau, the functions of the Bureau and how to access information on quality and standards from UNBS.

Ms. Winnie Atugonza then gave a detailed presentation on the process of Certification. She took participants through the meaning of product certification, policies and regulations, roles of UNBS, and the process of attaining product certification, Mr. Peter Ebongu Market surveillance Officer led the presentation into the market surveillance department activities, what substandard products are and how to identify substandard products.

Mr. Maurice Musuga made a presentation on procedure for standards development, the importance of using standards, sale of standards and the number of standards that UNBS is currently implementing. The media expert Mr. Benard Tabaire then engaged participants in a number of key areas in regard to writing and reporting on quality and standards. He emphasized the following issues during the training;

The way UNBS communicates to journalists, areas of improvement in the interaction between UNBS and journalists, the role of the media

in standards development and promotion.

He told participants that it is the role of the media to inform the public and the media should play a watchdog role by providing an extra eye to the products on the market and that to do this better, one needed to focus on the standards and quality measures to understand better their role.

He further advised that on how to get stories on quality and standards. "Information can be got from very unusual places/sources. Journalists should ask critical questions." He said. He added that there is need to develop relevant sources to enhance the story and journalists are also consumers, therefore they are stakeholders in standards promotion.

He highlighted the power and impact of the media and emphasized the issue of reporting the truth and the need to understand issues of quality and standards, know how they work and make sure to get the right information before informing the public.

He urged the media to familiarize themselves with the quality and standards terms for easy breakdown for the public. He cautioned them against focusing on negative stories but also consider positive stories because the positive stories build the nation.

Discussions were held and participants expressed the challenges they faced in writing, reporting, editing and anchoring on quality and standards. Discussions were also based on the capacity of UNBS to address the issue of substandard products on the market and understanding the role and functions of UNBS.

Participants expressed the challenge of access to information on quality and standards pointing to bureaucracy and unnecessary delays in UNBS and other government departments by some sources of information and other challenges.

A number of issues were raised by participants during the discussions and the following recommendations were made;

a) UNBS should increase their presence in the districts especially at the border points. There is

need to establish an office in every district because some people use the advantage of the inadequate manpower by UNBS to make fake products.

- b) UNBS should organize at least two media training in a year and other stakeholders on quality and standards to avoid many people falling victim of substandard products found on the market.
- c) UNBS should consider awarding journalists that constantly report on standards related issues.
- d) UNBS should break down the communication barriers in the institution for example the staff in regional offices should be empowered to talk to the media.
- e) UNBS public relations officers should ensure that they share press releases with media houses in Northern Uganda.
- f) UNBS should explore the possibility of using the Northern region media center that is based in Gulu at least once a month.
- g) The media should play the role of ensuring that the subsequent products on the market are genuine.
- h) UNBS should look into some products that overstay on the display shelves in the market in the Northern Region especially in the Asian supermarkets.
- i) UNBS should strengthen the DCOs and facilitate them to monitor quality production and also expand such offices to sub county level.
- j) It should be a collective responsibility to monitor quality and standards on the market and not to wait for Government or UNBS.

The training was a success with full participation of the targeted participants. It was interactive with reactions and questions from participants to the different presenters and opinion from the participants. The training was guided by the expectations of the participants which were fulfilled at the end of the session.

# Stakeholder engagement on standardisation in the toilet paper sector

Following a meeting held at the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Cooperatives and the resolutions made therein, a stakeholder engagement on standardization issues that cover the toilet manufacturing sector was held at Standards house.

The meeting drew several manufacturers within the toilet paper sector who thanks UNBS for organizing the meeting to contend on issues and challenges they face within the sector.

The meeting was chaired by the Deputy Executive Director-Standards, Ms. Patricia Ejala who reiterated that all toilet paper manufacturers must be registered and begin the certification process under the standard for toilet paper which is compulsory.

She added that the grace period for enforcement is 3 months and there will be no extension unless communicated otherwise and therefore manufacturers should put in the effort to comply. She also emphasized that labeling must be primarily in English and may be accompanied by another language.

A number of presentations were made that included the Uganda Standard US 126:2003 specification on toilet paper made by Principal Standards Officer Mr. Paul Walakira. Mr. Walakira pointed out the quality specifications required in manufacture of toilet paper such as quality of paper, labeling requirements, Good Manufacturing and Good Hygiene practices and perforation.

Further on, a presentation on the distinctive mark rollout requirements was made by the Deputy Executive Director-Standards Ms. Patricia Ejala. She told participants that the Minister of Trade signed into law a regulation that all locally manufactured products must be certified by UNBS.

“This will ensure that UNBS knows who the manufacturers are, where they operate from and help us in the fight against substandard products on the market as well as guaranteeing quality of Ugandan products for export”, she added.

She further stipulated the guidelines for acquiring mandatory certification and encouraged participants to work with UNBS and get the necessary technical support they require to get their products certified.

Mr. Daniel Arorwa, the Manager-Surveillance department then gave a market surveillance report on toilet paper non-conformities on the market. He showed participants the largest non-conformities prevalent in toilet paper which are TPC and pH levels. He warned against manufacturers who produce substandard products to cheat customers and added that the Market Surveillance team is in place to remove such products and even prosecute offenders who put the Q mark illegally.

A number of issues arose from both participants and UNBS such as;

Participants cited that the standard specifies that 2 ply should be labeled as double ply and not 2 ply and the Legal Metrology department has been strict on this, while some argue that 2 ply also means double.

They further asked that general packaging as opposed to individual wrapping for direct use in hospitals, schools, and companies should be accepted. The standards should cater for direct buyers.

Manufacturers also complained about the substandard imported toilet paper on the market while the local manufacturers are being told to comply with the standard. Mr. Arorwa reiterated that the Surveillance department continues to carry out its activities to clean the market and those who find substandard toilet paper should report through the toll free line.

Manufacturers also asked that food grade fragrances should be accommodated in the standard and also correct the cost of testing parameters in the Microbiology, materials and chemistry labs as they are confusing and do not tally. The meeting closed with the following conclusions;

- a. A revision of US 126:2003 with immediate effect should be undertaken to accommodate technological changes and innovations.
- b. UNBS to develop a code of practice for toilet paper production and management
- c. Perforations should be emphasized and there will be no compromise on the issue during certification
- d. The Standards department and Legal Metrology to meet and harmonize issues such as two vs double ply and toilet paper vs toilet tissue
- e. A fact finding mission will be undertaken free of charge by UNBS to ascertain the non-conformities within the sector and each manufacturer will be issued with a report confidentially.
- f. Packaging to allow for direct/bulk buyers for immediate use should be incorporated into the standard
- g. The national position in the sector will be crafted prior to the regional meeting

# UNBS begins training of MSMEs for mandatory certification

Earlier this year, the Minister of Trade, Industry and Cooperatives signed into law the mandatory certification regulation that stipulates that all locally manufactured products must be certified before they can be put on the Ugandan market.

As a result, UNBS has started a training programme to offer technical guidance and support for Micro Small and Medium enterprises (MSMEs) who are not yet on the Certification scheme.

The training is undertaken by Principal Certification Officer Mr. Ronald Ahimbisibwe and takes place every Wednesday

and last Friday of the month at Standards house. In order to participate, trainees must send an email to [sme@unbs.go.ug](mailto:sme@unbs.go.ug) or toll free line 0800 133 133. Confirmation is required two days before the training day.

## Standards technical committees held and meetings attended

1. The EASC/TC 070 harmonization meeting on Paints, varnishes and related products. The meeting was held at Julius Nyerere International Convention Centre in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania and the following standards were discussed.
2. The EASC/TC041 on Transportation of Dangerous goods and harmonized classification and labelling of chemicals harmonization meeting and discussed 5 draft East African Standards below:
3. An online second Standards Management Committee EAC web zoom meeting was organized to discuss the EAC Standards Work Programme and Joint Work plan with ARSO, view of calendar of EACS meetings. Participants were EAC member states
4. A cereals and pulses harmonization meeting (EASC/TC/014) was held in Zanzibar, Tanzania to deliberate on the 7 draft standards namely
5. A regional harmonization and editing meeting on Milk and milk products (EASC/TC 017) was held in Kigali to deliberate on the following East Africa draft standards:
6. A harmonization meeting for EASC/TC 019 (Sugar and Sugar Products) held in Dar es Salaam on the 29th October to 2nd November 2018 supported by TMEA. The TC is undertaking the review of 2 standards on Chewing Gum.
7. The 5th ARSO THC harmonization meeting on Chemistry and Chemical Engineering was held. The following draft ARSO standards were deliberated upon and approved for circulation
8. Participation in the ARSO-RECs Meeting on the Establishment of a Joint Standards Harmonization Programme between ARSO and RECs. The meeting was held in Nairobi and sponsored by ARSO/CS. The meeting agreed on keys issues including revision of ARSO harmonization procedure to pave way for the Joint Harmonization Programme
9. Transferring the Economy through Climate Smart Agri Business Market Development meeting was held at Protea Hotel in Kampala to explore how partnership between different actors can be facilitated to improve trade in fertilizers
10. A meeting about Food and Agriculture standards, under the theme was convened by the African Centre for Trade and Development (ACTADE) at the ESAMI Centre, Bombo road to discuss "The role of standards in accessing lucrative markets". The discussion brought together representatives from Government MDAs, Civil Society, Private Sector and Academia
11. A Trade Cluster Session on Standards and cross border trade in food and agriculture was organized by the Uganda Women's Network (UWONET) in collaboration with ACTADE and SEATINI at Hotel Africana.
12. A National stakeholders' consultative meeting on the Draft EAC SPS Bill Regulations and Standard Operating Procedures was held at Best Western Premier Garden Hotel in Entebbe. The meeting was convened by the EAC Secretariat with support from USAID East Africa Trade Investment Hub

# UNBS training calendar-FY2018-2019

Uganda National Bureau of Standards (UNBS) is the leading institution in matters of standardization in Uganda with a well trained, competent and experienced personnel. Through its training and Consultancy department, UNBS offers a range of training programs and consultancies in the area of standardization aiming at promoting standardization and competitiveness of goods and services through compliance to standards.

UNBS is pleased to announce the training of the revised ISO 9001:2015, Quality Management Systems and ISO 14001:2015,

Environmental Management Systems. The new version follows a new high level structure for management systems that makes it easier for integration with other management system standards. The new version put greater emphasis on leadership engagement, helps to address organizational risks, opportunities, addresses supply chain management more efficiently and is more user-friendly for service and knowledge –based organizations. With the new standard in place, it will be easier for the organization to incorporate their quality management systems into the core business process and improve business.

	COURSE	DATES	VENUE	TARGET GROUP		FEES (Shs)
	<b>ISO 9000 QUALITY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM</b>					
	Implementation of Quality systems based on ISO 9001:2015	02 -04 Oct, 2018 14 - 16 May, 2019	UNBS Office UNBS Office	Anyone involved in palnning, or intending to implement a QMS	3 Days 3 Days	400,000 400,000
	Internal Quality Auditing for ISO 9001:2015	19 - 20 Feb, 2019	UNBS Office	Individuals involved in auditing, maintaining	2 Days	300,000
	<b>ISO 22000 FOOD SAFETY</b>					
	Implementation of Food Safety Management system based on	06 -08 Nov, 2018 16 - 18 Apr, 2019	UNBS Office UNBS Office	Managers & Supervisory Staff in Industry	3 Days 3 Days	400,000
	Internal Auditing based on ISO 22000:2018	22 - 23 Jan , 2019	UNBS Office	Individuals involved in auditing,	2 Days	300,000
	<b>FOOD SAFETY ASSURANSE HACCP</b>					
		24 - 25 Oct, 2018	UNBS Office		2 Days	360,000
	Understanding HACCP	06 - 07 Mar, 2019	UNBS Office	Supervisors and staff in food	2 Days	360,000
	<b>D. ISO 45001:2018 OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM</b>					
	Implementation of Safety Management system	25 - 27 Sept, 2018 04 - 06 Dec, 2018	UNBS Office UNBS Office	Safety champions, Quality Managers,Human Resources,	3 Days	400,000
	ISO 45001:2018	05 - 07 Jun, 2019	UNBS Office	Operations Mangers etc		
	<b>GOOD MANUFACTURING AND HYGIENE PRACTICES FOR FOOD INDUSTRY</b>					
	GMP, GHP & Labelling requirements for Individuals involved in food industry or supply		27 - 28 Nov, 2018	UNBS Office	2 Days	250,000
	Food Industry (Big firms)	16 - 17 Jan, 2019	UNBS Office	Chains	2 Days	250,000
	<b>F. ISO 14001:2015 ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEM</b>					
	Impelementation of ISO 14001:2015	05 - 07 Feb, 2019	UNBS Office	Maintenance & Production managers, Supervisors, EMS	3 Days	400,000
	Internal Auditing based on ISO 14001:2015 Maintenance & Production managers, Supervisors, EMS Champions & Process Owners		29 -30 Apr, 2019	UNBS Office	2 Days	

## NOTE:

We offer In-House training and Tailor made courses for the above courses, please contact UNBS Training Division.

To book your training or make a reservation, please fill the training / nomination form available on UNBS website and submit. Fees include VAT and are payable using URA Platform

## For further enquiries, please contact:

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