

STANDARDS BULLETIN



JULY 2017



NEW STANDARDS ADOPTED AT CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION MEETING IN GENEVA

The 40th session of Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC) was held in Geneva, Switzerland from 17th to 22nd July. The purpose of the meeting was to consider standards for adoption including Maximum Residue Limits (MRLs) for veterinary drugs specific to chicken, meat, beef and fish, code of hygienic practice for fresh fruits and vegetables, among others.

The meeting was attended by the UNBS Executive Director Dr. Ben Manyindo, who was also the Head Delegation for Uganda, and Mr. Hakim Mufumbiro, Manager Standards.

The meeting adopted several standards and elected a new Chairperson for the Commission, Dr. Guilherme Costa from Brazil. Standards approved for adoption include regional standards for unrefined shea butter, cumin, dried thyme, fish oils, dairy permeate powders, quinoa, among others. The standard for chili sauce was also approved for conversion into

a worldwide standard.

Some of the standards to be developed include dried ginger, chili and paprika, garlic, basil, cashew kernels, dried sweet potato, essential composition of sunflower seed oils, among others. A standard on paperless use of electronic certificates in design, production, issuance and use of generic official certificates, is also to be developed.

The Codex Alimentarius Commission is responsible for implementation of the Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme aimed at protecting the health of consumers and ensuring fair practices in food trade as well as international work involved in development of all international food standards. The meeting was also used to invite Codex family delegates to the 20th Codex meeting on Fresh Fruits and Vegetables to be held in Uganda from 2nd to 6th October 2017.



UNBS destroys goods
worth shs 900 Million

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Peaceful applications
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UNBS at Source of
the Nile exhibition

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UNBS IMPORTS INSPECTION CLIENT SERVICE CHARTER 2017

The department of Imports Inspection department reaffirms its commitment to provide customer-oriented service with its new Customer Service Charter. Below is the imports inspection service charter that explains these queries.

IMPORTS INSPECTION SERVICE CHARTER

Departments	Service Rendered	Customer Obligation	Time Line	User Charges UGX
INSPECTION	Release of consignments accompanied by CoC or CRW	(i) Apply on the ePortal for clearance by declaring on Asycuda World and uploading Certificate of Conformity (CoC) or Certificate Road Worthiness (CRW). (ii) Upload other valid relevant import documents (invoice; BoL) (iii) Upload valid CoC or CRW traceable to PVOC Service Providers (iv) Payment of applicable fees	2 hours	(i) Nil for valid CoCs/CRWs
	Release of consignments not accompanied by CoC/ CRW but subject to PVoC	(i) Apply on the ePortal for clearance by declaring on Asycuda World and uploading other relevant documents in Asycuda World (ii) Upload valid relevant import documents (invoice; BoL) in Asycuda World (iii) Payment of applicable PVoC penalty (15% CIF) & inspection admin fee (iv) Avail samples for testing and payment of applicable Testing fees (v) Samples must comply with approved standard specifications	1 day if not subjected to Testing; 28 work days if subjected to testing	(i) 15% of CIF value (Penalty); (ii) Testing fees depend on product but ranges from UGX 100,000 to 160,000 per sample (iii) 0.5% CIF administration inspection fee (when implemented in 2018)
	Release of consignments not subject to PVoC and no sampling required for destination inspection	(i) Apply on the ePortal for clearance by declaring on Asycuda World (ii) Upload valid relevant import documents (invoice; BoL; CoC)	8 hours	0.5% CIF administrative inspection fee (when implemented in 2018)
PREEXPORT VERIFICATION OF CONFORMITY (PVOC)	Resolve and respond to appeals and enquiries	(i) Submit written request (ii) Provide copies of supporting documents (iii) Provide true and accurate information	initial response 2 days 7 working days to resolve	Only where applicable
	Acknowledge and resolve PVoC complaints	(i) Provide true and accurate information (ii) Provide supporting documents where applicable	7 days	Nil
	Issuance of ISM permit and stickers from date of application (due in 2018)	(i) Submit application letter (ii) Provide CoC/CRW or evidence of a complying test report (iii) Provide packing list (iv) Provide Import declaration Form (v) Provide a valid, relevant certificate of analysis	24 hours	(i) Payment of applicable sticker fees
RELEASE UNDER SEAL	Provisional release of consignments still under query to owners premises pending other processes	(i) Apply on ePortal for release under seal (ii) provide supporting documents where applicable (iii) make necessary payment of administrative fee and provide bond guarantee/bank draft	24 hours	USD 50 per application (UGX equivalent); bank guarantee/ bond or bank draft 15% CIF value

For more information log on to www.unbs.go.ug.



UNBS DESTROYS GOODS WORTH SHS900 MILLION

The destroyed goods amounting to 4 metric tonnes would have otherwise caused increased disease burden and robbed the consumers of their money.

The Uganda National Bureau of Standards (UNBS) has intensified the fight against sub-standard products with destruction of goods worth Shs900 million at Luweero Industries in Nakasongola.

The destruction of goods follows country wide seizures carried out by the UNBS Market Surveillance team and the Criminal Investigations Department of the Uganda Police Force.

The destroyed goods were mainly substandard products which included food stuffs, baby powdered milk, cement, sanitary towels, cosmetics, electronics, steel and steel products, among others.

According to the UNBS Deputy Executive Director in charge of Compliance, Mr. John Paul Musimami, the destruction is part of UNBS' effort to protect consumers from substandard products. "Substandard products are not only dangerous to the health and wellbeing of consumers, they are also a threat to the economic development of our country," Mr. Musimami said.

"Our role is to promote fair competition, enhance competitiveness of local industries and protect health and safety of Ugandans and the environment," he added.

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The manufacture or sale of sub-standard products is a criminal offence under the UNBS Act Cap 327, Laws of Uganda.

The UNBS carries out regular market inspections to ensure that traders are selling quality products in right quantities. Any substandard goods found on the market are seized by UNBS Market Surveillance inspectors.

UNBS, last year, inspected 1,090 business outlets and seized goods worth Shs6 billion including solar panels, primary batteries, percolators, sockets, compact fluorescent lamps, tiles, blenders, among others.

"We shall continue to seize substandard products on the market and prosecute traders involved in illicit trade," Mr. Musimami said. "I would like to urge the public to be vigilant and report suspicious goods on the market to UNBS via our toll free line 0800133133".

EXHIBITION ON THE PEACEFUL APPLICATIONS OF NUCLEAR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

The Uganda National Bureau of Standards (UNBS), from 17th to 21st July 2017, participated in an exhibition organized by the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development (MEMD) and International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) at Speke Resort, Munyonyo to showcase the latest nuclear technology.

IAEA is currently providing technical assistance to the UNBS to promote food safety and food quantity by building laboratory capacity for testing and monitoring of agrochemicals such as veterinary drug residues and pesticide residues.

The UNBS, as a beneficiary of IAEA technical assistance, participated in the exhibition by showcasing the specialized equipment used in testing and analysis of agrochemicals and contaminants and residues in animal products, feed and horticultural products.



UNBS ROUTINE SURVEILLANCE UNCOVERS UNDERWEIGHT MAIZE FLOUR

In line with the mandate of UNBS to ensure that substandard products are removed from the market, the market surveillance team seized underweight maize flour and cosmetics in parts of Ntungamo district.

A total of 2.7 metric tonnes of maize flour were seized and handed over to Ntungamo Police Station for further investigations. Super Millers Brand packed in bags marked

with 10kg and 25kg was found to be underweight; 10kg bags were weighing 9kg each on average. 25kg bags were weighing 24kg each. The total number of bags seized was 125 bags and were transferred to Ntungamo Police Station.

In line with UNBS consumer protection role, the market surveillance team also seized a number of cosmetics that contain substances that are harmful to human

health were also seized, including brands such as Caro light lotion, Caro light soap, Prolight, Cocoderm, Perle Claire, Citrolight, Clairmen, Princes Clair and Maxclair. The cosmetics transferred to the UNBS Office pending destruction.

UNBS would like to urge traders to desist from dealing in substandard products. Any such product found on the market will be confiscated and culprits apprehended.





UNBS AT THE 25TH SOURCE OF THE NILE NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL SHOW AND TRADE FAIR

The 25th Source of the Nile National Agricultural and Trade took place, from 17th to 23rd July 2017 in Jinja, Uganda. More than 200 exhibitors from Kenya, Tanzania, Ethiopia, Egypt, Rwanda, Burundi, Germany and Netherlands took part in the annual event organized by Uganda National Farmers Federation.

The Trade Show was officially opened His Excellency the President Yoweri Museveni under the theme: *"Managing the challenges of climate change for sustainable agriculture"*. The exhibitions covered various technologies related to climate-smart agriculture, that is, those that enable farmers to adapt their activities to climate change or withstand the effects.

UNBS participated in the trade fair to raise awareness about its services i.e. Standards Development, Certification, Imports Inspection, Testing, and Legal Metrology. The UNBS received feedback from its clients and potential clients and displayed UNBS Certified and Substandard products. UNBS officers sensitized attendees on what to look out for such as the Q and S marks for locally manufactured products.

Visitors to the UNBS stall included entrepreneurs of Small and Medium Scale enterprises, who were interested in the certification of their products, and students who learnt more about UNBS and the service it offers. The UNBS also made a presentation at the Youth in Agribusiness Day where over 200 participants were educated about the need for standards and quality products.



**UP-
coming
EVENTS**

ISO Regional training on managing National Standards and development projects and programs from 5th-8th September 2017

CODEX meeting on fresh fruits and vegetables from 2nd-6th October 2017

World Standards Day 14th October 2017



HEAD OFFICE

Plot 2-12 Bypass Link Bweyogerere | Business and industrial park | Telephone: 0417 333 250
Email: info@unbs.go.ug

OTHER OFFICES

Uganda National Bureau of Standards
Plot M217 Nakawa | Industrial Area
P. O. Box 6329 Kampala - Uganda

TOLL FREE : 0800133133

www.unbs.go.ug