



UGANDA NATIONAL BUREAU OF STANDARDS

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ADMINISTRATIVE DIRECTIVES ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF STEEL ROOFING SHEETS STANDARDS REQUIREMENTS

[These administrative measures are issued under section 3(e) and 3 (f) of the UNBS Act, Cap 327 of laws of Uganda].

The emergent local, regional and global construction industry has given rise to a growing roofing steel sheet manufacturing and industrial sector. Uganda has become one of the major manufacturers and exporters of roofing sheets and coils in the region.

The roofing steel sheet industry has increasingly been coming up with innovative products in the market such as Zinc/Al, Zinc/Al/Mg hot dip metallic coated steel sheets and coils.

A number of companies have emerged mainly involved in importation and production of Pre-painted Galvanised Iron (**PPGI**) sheets and coils where galvanised steel is used as a basic substrate metal upon which an adhesive coating substance is spread. This is aimed at improving the heat reflectivity and endurance to tough weather conditions, superior finish, vibrant colours to complement the surroundings and improved long life of the roofing steel sheet products. These sheets come in various profiles including corrugated profiles, trapezoidal and tile profiles.

The growth in this sector, however, has been characterised by a number of challenges in regard to compliance with standard requirements mainly in regard to less quantity and quality of zinc coating on GI sheets, deceptive marking of iron sheets as well as lack of both the primer and top coat on PPGI sheets resulting in the poor durability of the roofing sheets when put to use. The colour fades within a short period.

In order to ensure that only those roofing steel sheets and coils of known quality and performance characteristics are marketed and used for construction and roofing purposes, Uganda National Bureau of Standards directs as follows:

PRODUCT STANDARDS AND QUALITY

All roofing steel sheets and coils produced, imported, marketed and used shall meet the requirements of the relevant National, EAC standards and any other regulations for which compliance is mandatory. The current National/EAC standards include US EAS 11:2013 Galvanised plain and corrugated steel sheets - Specification, and US EAS 468:2013 Pre-painted metal coated steel sheets and coils- Specification.

All roofing steel sheets and coils shall be manufactured in accordance with Good Manufacturing Practices.

GALVANIZED PLAIN AND CORRUGATED STEEL SHEETS AND COILS

The importation, sale and distribution of galvanised roofing steel sheets and coils of G34 for roofing purposes is prohibited henceforth.

All the Galvanised iron (GI) sheets manufactured, imported, sold or distributed shall conform to US EAS 11:2013 Galvanised plain and corrugated steel sheets – Specification

All the Galvanised iron (GI) sheets manufactured, imported, sold or distributed shall conform to the mass of zinc coating on the two sides of the sheet and the corresponding thickness of zinc coating on each side shall comply with the classification of the coating class in the specified standard henceforth.

The use of colour codes for GI sheets during marking shall be as follows;

Gauge 32 shall be marked with **BLUE** colour;

Gauge 30 shall be marked with **RED** colour; and

Gauge 28 shall be marked with **BLACK** colour.

PRE-PAINTED METAL COATED STEEL SHEETS AND COILS

The manufacture, importation, sale and distribution of Pre-painted metal coated roofing steel sheets and coils of G32 for roofing purposes is prohibited henceforth.

All the Pre-painted metal coated roofing steel sheets and coils manufactured, imported, sold or distributed intended for roofing shall bear the primer and top coat for it is provided for in US EAS 468:2013 henceforth.

PRE-MARKET APPROVALS

All locally manufactured and imported coils, sheets and roofing iron sheets for GI and PPGI shall be certified by UNBS and bear a distinctive mark (UNBS Q-mark) by June 2015 as compliance to Uganda Standards is mandatory. New companies setting for manufacture of roofing sheets shall seek pre-approval of their products prior to marketing.

Gazetted codes shall be issued to local manufacturers of coils by UNBS to address the issue of traceability. Importers of coils shall notify UNBS of intention to import in order to be given codes at the time of importation for traceability purposes.

OPERATIONAL REQUIREMENTS

• PROCESS CONTROLS AND RECORD KEEPING

Manufacturers shall maintain appropriate and up-to-date processing and quality monitoring records. These shall be made available to UNBS upon request.

The manufacturers have the duty to monitor performance of their products and also evaluate the suppliers of the adhesive coating substance (paint) they use on the substrate.

• ROUTINE QUALITY MONITORING

Manufacturers shall demonstrate their capacity to monitor key quality parameters during manufacture. This shall cover both in-process parameters and final product specifications. No manufacturer shall be allowed to operate without a laboratory (physical, mechanical and chemistry) by July 2015.

- **TECHNICAL PERSONNEL**

All roofing steel sheet manufacturing plants shall be run under the supervision of qualified and competent personnel to operate and maintain these facilities. Each plant shall have duly appointed quality control and assurance personnel with the requisite training, experience and technical competence to develop and implement a quality control and assurance system.

FINAL PRODUCT MONITORING AND CONTROL

- **QUARTERLY SAMPLE TESTING**

Manufacturers shall carry out quarterly testing of key quality and performance parameters.

UNBS may carry out quarterly sampling and testing of key quality and performance parameters. Samples shall be taken either from the market or production line.

- **SURVEILLANCE AUDITS**

UNBS shall carry out surveillance audits at least twice a year to ensure conformance of production and quality control/assurance processes to standard/regulatory requirements.

Companies shall enter into agreement with UNBS on the observance of the above measures which take effect immediately.



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