

» UNBS Holds School Outreach Programs
PG.6

» UNBS Honours Ladies on women's Day
PG.4



Standards BULLETIN

MARCH 2019



UNBS Hosts International Meeting on Sanitation Treatment Systems

The Uganda National Bureau of Standards (UNBS) hosted the ISO Community Scale Resource Oriented Sanitation Treatment Systems meeting.



Members of the ISO/PC318 pose for a photograph with the UNBS Executive Director at the opening of the 2nd plenary meeting at Kampala Serena

"Quality is life, life is quality"



Toll-free 0800 133 133



www.unbs.go.ug



UNBSug



info@unbs.go.ug



UNBSug

The workshop sought to address challenges for the majority of urban residents in developing countries that use on-site sanitation systems (septic tanks, pit latrines) particularly in the densely populated slum areas of the city where provision of public and household on-site sanitation is very rarely institutionally supported in terms of operation and maintenance. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), an estimated 2.3 billion people have no access to safe, clean toilets and 1 billion are forced to defecate in the open. The devastating consequences of these practices include an estimated 1 million

due to economics of transporting to distant centralized treatment facilities, nor recovery of beneficial treatment product.

It is against this backdrop that the ISO project committee was established to develop international standards that could effectively provide solutions to these challenges being faced. Uganda is set to benefit from the development of the international standard given the current state of sanitation treatment systems.

Speaking at the opening of the opening ceremony at Kampala Serena hotel, the UNBS Executive Director, Dr. Ben Manyindo welcomed the delegates to Uganda and acknowledged the work being done by the Committee.

"Uganda through UNBS registered as permanent member in the ISO Project Committee - ISO/PC 318 in 2018 when the development of ISO/CD 31800 on Community scale resource oriented sanitation treatment systems was initiated because Sanitation treatment systems is an important aspect of communities especially urban societies and plays a key role in the economic transformation of any country", he said.

In Uganda today, urban sanitation or lack thereof is a concern affecting people, which has been noted as a root cause of an average of 3,000 cases of epidemic diseases affecting Uganda. Statistics also indicate that poor sanitation costs Uganda 389 billion shillings annually, which is about 1.1% of the National GDP."

Dr. Manyindo also noted that access to effective sanitation in many cities in developing countries, is limited and is not

keeping pace with the rapid rate of urbanization and industrial growth in the cities. "Less than 7.5% of Kampala residents are served by a public sewer with the vast majority reliant on various forms of on-site sanitation of variable quality and effectiveness", he added.

The standard applies to treatment units that primarily treat human excreta, are able to operate in non-sewered and off-grid environments, and are prefabricated.

"As technical experts and industry representatives, we encourage you to consider, discuss, and exchange views on different approaches to its successful ending. In addition, you should aim to generate consensus on the draft international standard in order to deliver a standard that will stand the test of time", Dr. Manyindo said.

International Standards provide world-class specifications for products, services and systems, to ensure quality, safety and efficiency. They are instrumental in facilitating international trade and ensuring the health of consumers is not compromised as well as protection of the environment.

The Secretariat for the Committee is American National Standards Institute with Association Sénégalaise de Normalisation (ASN) as Twinned Secretariat and financial support provided by Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

The meeting attracted a total of 85 delegates drawn from 27 countries from Africa, Asia, Europe, Americas and the Caribbean and ran from 1st – 5th April 2019 at Kampala Serena Hotel.

“As technical experts and industry representatives, we encourage you to consider, discuss, and exchange views on different approaches to its successful ending. In addition, you should aim to generate consensus on the draft international standard in order to deliver a standard that will stand the test of time”, Dr. Manyindo said.”

preventable deaths per year, primarily from dysentery-like diarrheal diseases.

Where there is provision of sanitation facilities, often the fecal sludge is unsafely disposed – sludge directly to the environment; the bulk of this untreated fecal sludge is from on-site systems that are not being emptied and left to overflow or if emptied improperly disposed

UNBS Holds Stakeholder Engagement with Toilet Paper Industry

UNBS Imports Inspection Department held a consultative meeting with traders in the toilet paper industry.



Stakeholders attending the workshop for toilet paper manufacturers, importers and traders

At the meeting attended by more than 80 manufacturers, importers, retailers and distributors, UNBS discussed the Pre-export Verification of Conformity (PVoC) requirements for importers of finished products and raw materials.

The Deputy Executive Director-Compliance Mr. John Paul Musimami said that the majority of the toilet paper on the market does not comply with required standard, which exposes consumers, especially women to dangerous diseases such as cervical cancer and candida, among others.

The Manager, Imports Inspection,

Mr. Andrew Othieno, pointed out that the PVoC programme was put in place to safeguard consumers from substandard products entering the country and to ease trade. "UNBS has different service providers in the countries from which you import products so before the goods are allowed into Uganda, they must be tested from the country of origin to avoid unnecessary delays", he said.

Mr. Othieno encouraged the traders to get involved in the development of standards because they are the users of the standard. He also added that under the PVoC programme guidelines have been

stipulated for service providers to look out for substandard toilet paper.

However, toilet paper manufacturers pointed out that service providers delay to issue Certificates of Conformity (CoC) thus incurring costs.

They were also concerned about the delay in the testing period for goods that do not have a certificate of conformity. UNBS promised to engage the PVoC service providers to look into the issue to ease trade.

In January 2018, UNBS destroyed substandard goods worth Shs1.7billion

UNBS Honours Ladies on Women's Day

UNBS in its 30 years of service assigns critical importance to fostering growth and career progression of all women in the organization. This year, the UNBS Human Resources Department organized a special luncheon to mark International Women's Day at Standards house.



UNBS ladies cutting cake with the Executive Director to mark International Women's day

Speaking at the celebration, the Deputy Executive Director-Standards Ms. Patricia Ejalu encouraged the ladies to grow professionally and strive to achieve higher positions in management.

"Women have earned the opportunity to have our ideas shape the future and we must take up the mantle and excel at that," Ms Ejalu said.

The celebrations featured lively

discussions on Financial Management and Professional etiquette from two external speakers.

Speaking at the event, the Executive Director Dr. Ben Manyindo expressed the management's gratitude and recognized the contribution and hard work of the ladies in UNBS.

He said, "On behalf of the Directors and Management of UNBS, I take this opportunity to congratulate and thank all the women of UNBS on the

occasion of International Women's Day", Dr. Manyindo said.

"Women have the ability to succeed, wherever they work through your commitment and dedication. UNBS will continue to support you to accomplish your duties with confidence and competence," Dr. Manyindo added.

The celebration was concluded by a cake cutting ceremony.

Ethiopian Delegation Visits UNBS on Benchmarking Exercise



The delegation from Ethiopia pose for a photo with members of the UNBS team after the benchmarking exercise held at Standards house.

A four-man delegation from Ethiopia visited UNBS on a study tour in relation to the implementation of the Pre-Export Verification of Conformity (PVoC) and

its application in the mandatory enforcement of Minimum Energy Performance Standards in Uganda. The delegation comprised directors from the Ethiopian Ministry of Trade, the Ethiopian Energy Authority, the Ethiopian Standards Agency and Ethiopian Conformity Assessment Enterprise.

The delegates were briefed by the Imports Inspection team on the PVoC in-country activities and the implementation process as well as the UNBS's imports priority sectors.

Delegates also had the opportunity to meet with other key stakeholders including Ministry of Energy and Mineral development. At the conclusion of the visit, the delegation shared their observations and recommendations on the host country's development program in a comprehensive report.

The benchmarking exercise represented an opportunity to see development cooperation in practice to exchange views and experiences.

UNBS Meets Electrical Sector Players

UNBS has recently been receiving a number of complaints on substandard electrical products on the market which threatens to reverse the gains made regarding standards for the electrical sector. As a way of improving compliance to standards in the sector, UNBS organized a workshop to create dialogue and build synergies with importers and traders of these products.

The workshop was held at UMA conference hall to promote self-regulation in the sector and to sensitize the traders on the Pre-Export Verification of Conformity (PVoC) program for electricals.

The UNBS Principal Inspector National Inspection urged all sector players to understand the parameters as per the requirements of the standards and called upon them to work with UNBS in the implementation of its mandate.

Ms Winnie Onziru delivered a presentation on the technical requirements of the Uganda Standard for Electrical products. She requested members to obtain the standard for the products in which they deal.

The attendees expressed their concern regarding the high cost of the PVoC program and requested UNBS to explain to them the testing parameters and how to identify substandard electrical products when they go to purchase.

Ms. Innocent Namara, Head PVoC desk reiterated that UNBS must perform its mandate because it is authorized by law to protect the health and safety of consumers. She added that, "Markings and labels on different items can give an indication of the quality of a product but testing is the only sure way to identify them and the PVoC program is here to assist you in testing these products before they are put on the

market."

Mr. Wadia from the UNBS Electrical Laboratory demonstrated some of the tested samples and the failed parameters for bulbs, electrical cables and extension cables. He elaborated on the indicators of poor quality products such as deceptive labeling, construction of the products and the materials used in manufacture.

The participants commended UNBS for organizing the stakeholder meeting as it would go a long way in improving compliance to standards in the sector but requested that UNBS considers lowering the cost of PVoC to ease trade.

UNBS Holds School Outreach Programs



In pursuit of its commitment to implementation of its mandate, UNBS developed a secondary school Outreach program that introduces globally-recognized and adopted standards into the classroom. UNBS collaborates with head teachers to incorporate information about standards and conformity assessment, as well as knowledge of the appropriate standards, into their unique curricula. The program is open to all disciplines.

In March, the Senior Public Relations Officer, Ms. Barbara Kamusiime conducted the program at Seroma High school, Seeta High school, St Joseph's of Nazareth, and Bishop Cipriano Kihangire and brought together students from secondary schools including Mengo S.S, Kibuli S.S, Luzira S.S, Kennedy S.S, Kisubi Mapeera S.S, Merryland High School, Kings College Buddo, St Mark's College Namagoma among others. Students had unfettered access to

members of the UNBS standardization community who were available to provide case studies, standards development process flow, and other educational resources that can be used in making their day to day purchasing decisions.

A key component of this initiative is the pooling of existing resources to facilitate the ability of schools to bring standards into their classrooms.

A Summary of the final draft standards in the various sectors and categories presented to Standards Council for approval as Uganda Standards

Area of standardization	No. of national standards	No. of compulsory standards	No. of withdrawn standards
Chemicals and consumer products	212	103	33
Engineering	62	28	13
Food and agriculture	96	48	47
Management and services	34	6	1
Total	404	185	94

PICTORIAL



UNBS ladies pose for a photo at the celebrations to mark International Women's day



Members of the ISO/PC318 visit Lubigi Sanitation treatment centre



SCHOOL OUTREACH PROGRAMS

