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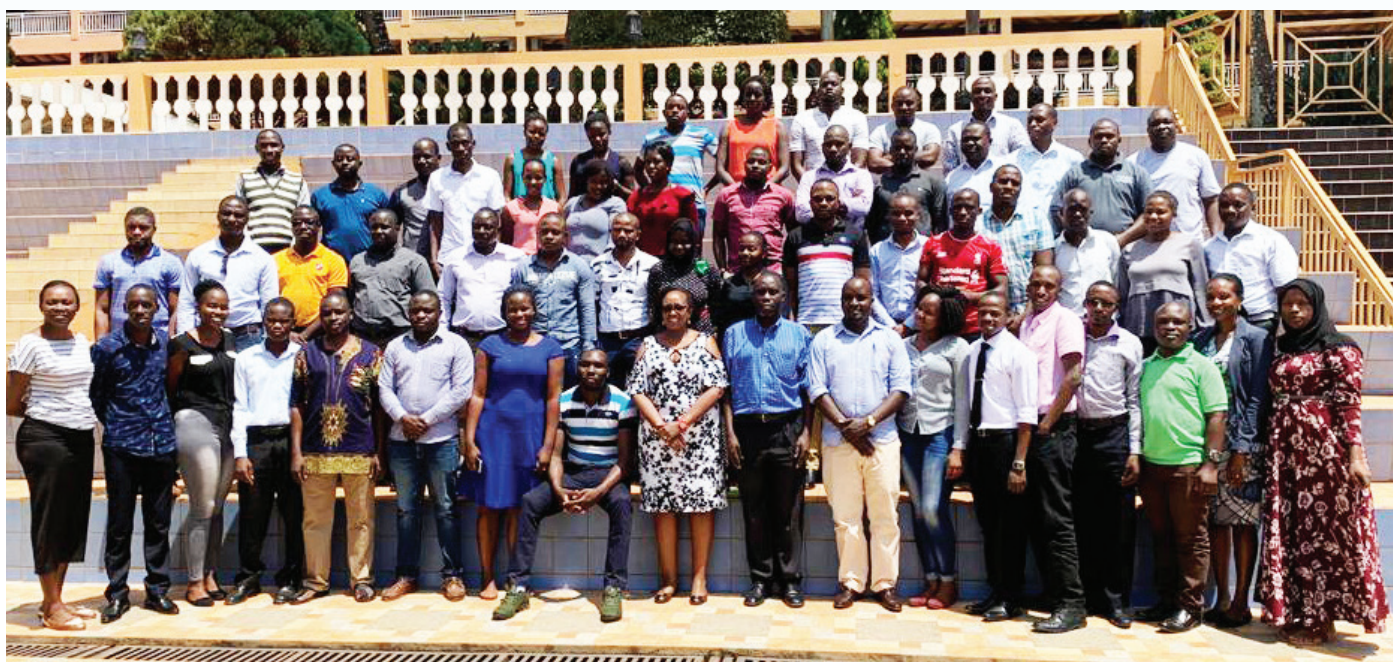
# Standards BULLETIN

30 YEARS of Promoting Standards

JANUARY 2019

## New Staff Undergo Training on UNBS Mandate

The Human Resources Department organised a training on Standardisation, Quality Assurance, Metrology, and Testing (SQMT) for new technical staff from Directorates of Standards and Compliance.



New Staff at the just concluded training on the mandate of UNBS

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The SQMT Training covered areas of Standardization, Quality Management, Metrology and Testing and focus was on the inter-linkage of the departments of Standards, certification, Testing, Imports, Surveillance, National

Metrology Labs and Legal Metrology towards achieving the mandate of UNBS. During the three weeks the staff got to interact with the different staff from the different departments of UNBS.

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Toll-free 0800 133 133



www.unbs.go.ug



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info@unbs.go.ug



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# Locally manufactured products must be certified by UNBS

On 1st January 2019, the Uganda National Bureau of Standards (UNBS) began implementing the use of UNBS Distinctive Mark 2018, which requires that all products covered by compulsory standards must be certified by UNBS and issued with its Distinctive Mark before they are allowed on the market.

**T**he Market Surveillance Team undertook a number of activities which focussed on ensuring that locally manufacturers comply with the new regulation.

Categories of products covered by compulsory standards include foods, drinks, electronics, cosmetics, steel products, cement, confectionaries (bread and biscuits), apiary, baby products, kitchen ware, mattresses, toilet paper, detergents, sanitary products, household chemicals such as soaps, textiles, detergents, leather, plastic and rubber products, Paper and stationery, Protective safety equipment, mechanical materials and gas appliances.

The department has embarked on impounding trucks and

vans that are distributing products whose manufacturing processes are not known to UNBS. Once the trucks are impounded, the companies are required to register with UNBS, their locations identified and their production processes inspected. Once these companies fulfil all the necessary requirements, the products are granted a Distinctive Mark.

This is intended to provide assurance to the consumers that the goods on the market are safe and healthy. Market Surveillance department also continues to conduct inspections at sales points in the bid to reduce substandard products from the market. Surveillance interventions are continuous as the risks on the market keep changing.

## UNBS puts wholesale and retail outlets on notice to sell Certified products

The Uganda National Bureau of Standards (UNBS) has put on notice all wholesale and retail outlets including supermarkets not to sell locally manufactured products that have not been certified by UNBS.

**T**his follows commencement of implementation of UNBS Distinctive Mark Regulation, 2018 which began on 1st January 2019.

As per the new regulation, and in accordance to the UNBS Act Cap 327 sections 18 (1) (b), 20 and 21, all locally manufactured products covered by compulsory standards must be certified by UNBS and issued with the Distinctive Mark before they are allowed on the market.

In a public notice to all retail outlets, the UNBS Executive Director Dr. Ben Manyindo asked wholesalers, supermarkets, and other retail

outlets not to sell or display products that have not been certified by UNBS.

"Furthermore, supermarkets and other retail outlets involved in value addition of products covered by compulsory standards must seek UNBS Certification before selling such products," Dr. Manyindo said. As per Section 21 (2) of the UNBS Act Cap 327: "No person shall import, distribute, sell or have in his or her possession or control for sale or distribution any commodity for which a compulsory standard specification has been declared unless the commodity bears the distinctive mark."

Categories of products covered by compulsory standards include foods, drinks, electronics, cosmetics, steel products, cement, confectionaries (bread and biscuits), apiary, baby products, kitchen ware, mattresses, toilet paper, detergents, sanitary products, household chemicals such as soaps, textiles, detergents, leather, plastic and rubber products, Paper and stationery, Protective safety equipment, mechanical materials and gas appliances.

"You are required to comply with the new regulations to avoid inconveniences to your business," Dr. Manyindo said.

# UNBS issues administrative directives on import clearance

The Uganda National Bureau of Standards (UNBS) has issued administrative directives to importers of items covered by compulsory standards to abide by the UNBS Inspection and Clearance of Imports Regulations, 2018 which came into effect on 1st July 2018.

**T**he Regulation requires UNBS to carry out conformity assessment of all goods covered by compulsory standards. An importer, supplier, exporter of a product covered by a compulsory standard shall ensure that the imported goods are subjected to inspection for conformity to standards in the country of origin and a Certificate of Conformity (CoC) is issued, before the goods are shipped to Uganda.

The regulation also covers/extends to used motor vehicles where, an exporter/importer of a used Motor Vehicle into Uganda shall ensure that it is subjected to Pre Export Verification of Conformity (PVoC) to ensure conformity to the prescribed Uganda Standard.

## Directives

- 1) The inspection fees for a CoC or a Certificate of Road Worthiness (CRW) are applicable as indicated in table 1 below.
- 2) Goods that should have undergone PVoC and are imported without a CoC or a CRW shall pay a surcharge of 15% Cost Insurance and Freight (CIF) and be subjected to full destination inspection.
- 3) Goods or motor vehicles that have not met requirements of the relevant standard shall not be shipped to Uganda and if they do, they risk being destroyed at importers cost or being asked to return to country of export.

**Table 1: Inspection Fees under PVoC which also applies to Destination Inspection.**

1	General Goods
	Route A (Unregistered products) – 0.50% of FOB value, subject to a minimum of US\$235 Maximum of US\$3,000
	Route B (registered products) – 0.45% of FOB value, subject to a minimum of US\$235 and maximum of US\$3,000
	Route C (Licensed products) – 0.25% of FOB value, subject to a minimum of US\$235 and maximum of US\$3,000
2	Used Motor Vehicles (These are country specific)
	Japan – US\$140; Singapore – US\$200; UK – US\$200 or GBP125; South Africa – US\$220; UAE – US\$125; Other countries and destination – US\$140

For clarity, destination inspection fees will be 0.50% FOB value subject to a minimum of US\$235 Maximum of US\$3,000

## I. Application for an Import Clearance Certificate

- 1) Upon arrival of the goods or motor vehicles at the port of entry or clearance station, the importer shall apply to UNBS for an Import Clearance Certificate by submitting a customs declaration/entry (Customs clearance application) to Customs using Asycuda World.
- 2) The application for customs clearance must be accompanied by uploading relevant CoC(s) or CRW(s) together with the relevant Customs documents (Packing list, Invoices, Bill of lading, etc)

## II. Handling of an Application

- 1) Upon receipt of an application, a UNBS authorized officer shall verify the documents to ensure that the application is duly filled and accompanied by all the necessary attachments.
- 2) The officer shall together with the agent then verify that the goods/motor vehicle match(es) with the declaration in the application and/or in the CoC/CRW before issuing import clearance.
- 3) Goods/motor vehicles that do not match with the CoC or CRW shall be subjected to destination inspection & deemed to have not undergone PVoC.

## III. No Release of Goods without Issuance of Import Clearance Certificate

A UNBS authorized officer shall not release goods/ Motor vehicles from a point of entry, other than to a bonded warehouse or under UNBS seal, unless the importer of the goods has been issued with an import clearance certificate.

## IV. Handling of Non-Conforming Goods/Motor Vehicles

- 1) Goods/ motor vehicles issued with a seizure notice and condemned shall either be destroyed or re-exported if proven to not meet the required standards.
- 2) The destruction of the goods/ motor vehicle issued with a seizure notice shall be done in accordance to the relevant regulations and guidelines and at the expense of the importer and within 14 work days of condemnation. Failure to adhere to this will lead to UNBS undertaking the destruction and recovering the costs from the importer.



## V. Release Under Seal

An inspector may release goods under seal where the importer has cleared with customs but the Bureau has queried the goods (need for further inspection, sampling, testing and evaluation).

The release under seal is subject to: (i) Payment of all fees as applicable (Destination inspection, PVoC surcharge and testing fees); (ii) An administration fee equivalent to US\$50 per consignment; (iii) Deposit of a bank guarantee worth 15% of CIF value of the goods.

The bank guarantee shall be executed if the goods do not meet the requirement of the Standard so as to cater for the costs of destruction or ensure re-export. The bank guarantee shall be returned to the Importer/retired once he/she is issued with an import clearance certificate.

## VI. Exemptions

1) The following goods are **exempt from PVoC** but are however subject to destination inspection: (i) Goods

whose FOB value does not exceed USD2,000 (ii) Government project specific goods (iii) Raw materials imported for use in a manufacturing process and not for resale (iv) Diplomatic Cargo (v) Personal Effects (returning residents & expatriates) (vi) Certified goods including those from the EAC Partner States (vii) Industrial machinery and spare parts not for resale (viii) Classified military, police and prisons hardware and equipment.

2) The following goods are **exempt from Destination Inspection**: (i) Commodities whose Free on Board (FoB) values does not exceed US\$1,000 with the exception of food, baby products, cosmetics, tungsten filament bulbs, electric cables, compact fluorescent lamps, portable socket outlets or extension sockets, flat irons, electric kettles, solar lanterns, energy saver bulbs, solar battery chargers, solar panels, electric plugs, water heaters, electric sockets, electric switches, electric blenders, shovels, garden hoes and machetes; (ii) raw materials

# UNBS destroys Substandard Goods

The Uganda National Bureau of Standards has destroyed over 100 metric tonnes of substandard goods worth UGX100 million in Nakasongola. This is part of the Bureau's activities to stop entry of substandard products on the market.



A grader destroys substandard hoes, pangas and spades

The goods destroyed were seized by the Imports Inspection Teams at various boarder entry by the body's Imports inspection team as part of consumer protection which would have otherwise been detrimental to the health and safety of consumers. The team intercepted the goods from various border entry points and ICD bonds in Kampala and surrounding areas. In August this year, UNBS destroyed over 400 metric tonnes of substandard products worth Shs3.5 Billion.

The destroyed products included cosmetics containing hydroquinone, soap, assorted foodstuffs, cooking oil, spades, pangas, hoes, electrical products (extension cables), among others.

Some of the products were expired while others did not meet the standard requirements as per the UNBS Inspection and Clearance of Imports regulations 2018 which requires that products entering the country must conform to standard specifications.

Under the Regulation, importers are required to obtain a Certificate of conformity (CoC) from the country of origin and where goods do not have a CoC the goods undergo Destination inspection. In the event that the commodities are found to be substandard, the importer is required to re-export the products or destroy them at the importer's cost.

UNBS calls upon consumers to be vigilant while buying products and look out for expiry dates and contents of products. UNBS had started implementation of the Distinctive mark regulation for locally manufactured goods and the public is urged to look out for the UNBS Q mark.

# UNBS participates in EAC standards harmonization meetings



UNBS Deputy Executive Director- Standards, Mrs Patricia Bageine Ejalu with participants at the EAC Standards harmonization meeting

## **EASC/TC 070 on paints, varnishes and related products**

A regional harmonization and editing meeting for EASC/TC 070 on paints, varnishes and related products was convened in Arusha, Tanzania from 14th – 18th January 2019. Uganda was represented by two delegates from Standards and Testing Departments. The meeting completed standards for water-thinned priming paints for wood, silk emulsion paint for interior use, matt solvent-borne paint for interior and exterior use, matt emulsion paint for interior and exterior use, auto-finishing paint which may be synthetic or nitrocellulose resin based, 2-pack acrylic resin based auto-finishing paint. The standards are critical for the region given recent studies that have indicated high levels of lead in paints which poses substantial risk to the consumers.

## **EASC/TC 071 on cosmetics and related products**

**Uganda hosted the 3rd harmonization meeting for EASC/TC 061 on cosmetics and related products** from 28th January to 1st February 2019 at Grand Imperial Hotel, Kampala. The meeting was attended by delegates from three Partner States including Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda. The harmonization meeting completed discussions on 12 draft east African standards on cosmetics and air freshener aerosols, deodorants and antiperspirants, hair spray, baby and body oils, lip balm, lip shine, lip stick, glycerine for cosmetic use, aftershave, hair extensions and shea butter for cosmetic industry. The standards are important in the EAC region to support trade in the products and ensure quality and safe products are produced considering that the products are used by a wide spectrum of people on a daily basis.

## **A summary of the TC meetings held**

A total of 9 National Technical Committee meetings were held in the month of January including:

- TC 3 on Building and construction discussed three standards that cover Penetration grade bitumen, Medium — Curing cutback bitumen, Cationic bitumen road emulsion and Anionic bitumen road emulsion
- TC 2 on Food and Agriculture Standards which confirmed 79 Final Draft Uganda Standards in the areas of milk and milk products, edible oils and fats, fruits, vegetables and spices, food additives and contaminants, fish and fishery products, meat and poultry products, drinks and beverages and agro inputs in preparation for approval by the National Standards Council
- TC 2/SC 17 on Coffee, cocoa, tea and processed products that discussed draft East African Standards on green coffee beans, roasted and ground coffee beans and instant coffee
- TC 2/SC 16 on Drinks, water and related beverages that made progress on the standard for flavored drinking water to support the innovations in the sector
- TC 2/SC 2 on Oil seeds, fats and oils that commenced work on development of standards for the sector with support from the Vegetable Oil Development Project (VODP)
- TC 2/SC 11 on Sugar, edible starches and related confectionery products discussed the draft standard on dark sweet and black strap molasses
- TC 15 on Halal integrity discussed standards for conformity assessment
- TC 10 on Management and Services discussed standards that cover quality, project and facility management, security and resilience, services for consumers and asset management
- TC 10/SC 8 on Financial services discussed and agreed on Uganda's position on the Securities and related financial instruments -- International securities identification numbering system (ISIN)



# UNBS donates items worth Shs10 million to the vulnerable in Kiira Municipality

As part of our CSR programme, the Uganda National Bureau of Standards (UNBS) donated assorted items worth Shs10 million to the vulnerable communities in Kiira Municipality.



UNBS Head of PR handing over assorted items to the vulnerable communities in Kiira Municipality

**T**he items included sugar, soap and rice donated as part of the Municipality's program to celebrate the end of year with more than 1,000 vulnerable families, including elderly, the needy and persons with disabilities, in the area.

The UNBS Head of PR, Mr Godwin Bonge handed over the items on behalf of UNBS to the Mayor Kiira Municipality, Mr Julius Mutebi, together with his Executive Committee. Speaking at the handover function, Mr Mutebi thanked UNBS for the generous donation which enabled them reach out to the vulnerable communities in the Municipality.

"We want to thank the management of UNBS for responding positively to our request for donation. We shall re-pack these cartons into food rations to be handed over to more than 1,000 families in Kiira Municipality," Mr Mutebi said.

Mr Muhwezi said, "UNBS donated the items as part of the organizations CSR programme to give back to the community."

He said Kiira Municipality is an important partner in the socio-economic development of this country. He urged consumer to remain vigilant and look out for the UNBS Distinctive Mark before they buy products from the market.





UNBS football team pose for a picture before kick off of the Corporate games at Namboole

# Corporate games Kick off

The corporate league games kicked off on 3rd February, 2019 with soccer matches. The games brought together corporates from various sectors such as Telecommunication, Agriculture, Insurance, Banking, Construction, Beverage, Audit and Accounting, Legislators, Clearing and Forwarding, Government Parastatals, Industries.

The results from the games are as follows;  
UNBS 2: 0 National Council for science & Technology  
UNBS 1: 0 Ministry of Science & Technology  
UNBS 1:3 UIRI  
UNBS 0: 2 FIDUGA

Our top scorer was Asiimwe Patrick who scored 3 goals. UNBS sits at 8th position out of 16 teams with 6 points on the table.