

» UNBS holds consultative workshop With toilet paper dealers

Pg.3

» UNBS Participates In USSIA Standards Clinic Pg.2



» Standards for Reuseable Sanitary towels Launched Pg.2



Standards BULLETIN

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Compulsory Certification To Take Effect On July 1st 2018

As a consumer protection measure, all products covered by compulsory standards will, from 1st July 2018, need to be certified before they are allowed on the market.

This follows the signing of new regulations for imports and certification into law by the Minister of Trade, Industry and Cooperatives, Hon. Amelia Kyambadde.

Implementation will be undertaken progressively initially focusing on selected priority sectors that are considered key for consumer protection and with greater economic impact.

These are: juices and beverages, cosmetics, steel products and cement, confectionaries (bread and biscuits), apiary and mattresses, among others. The implementation process will begin with focus on registration together with stakeholder engagement to encourage companies to comply with certification.

It will also involve training leaders of key private sector associations to train their members on procedures and requirements for certification in preparation for compulsory certification.

The regulation is aimed at to improving consumer protection, quality of products, market access and enterprise growth. It complements government efforts to ensure that Small Scale Enterprises comply with standards and Benefit from Buy Uganda Build Uganda (BUBU) Policy.

UPCOMING EVENTS Pg 4

"Quality is life, life is quality"

Standards For Reuseable Sanitary Towels Launched

The Speaker of Parliament, Hon. Rebecca Kadaga officiating at the Afripads press event to launch the UNBS standard for reusable sanitary pads



Even though menstruation is a normal, biological process, it continues to act as a barrier to the healthy livelihoods of millions

of women and girls across Africa. The Uganda Standard (US 1782:2017 for Reusable Sanitary Towels), one of the only two standards of its kind in Africa, seeks to enable girls stay in school by offering affordable quality sanitary pads to girls.

On May 14th 2018, Afripads and So Sure held a press event to launch the new UNBS standard for reusable sanitary pads. The standard was passed in December, 2017 as part of the 247 standards declared by the National Standards Council. The Standard covers panty liners, sanitary towels, light flow, light flow, regular flow and super for heavy flow.

Speaking at the Press Conference at Hotel Africana, the Speaker of Parliament, Hon. Rebecca Kadaga hailed UNBS for opening the door for Afripads and other

manufacturers of reusable pads. The UNBS Deputy Executive Director-Standard, Ms. Patricia Ejala, congratulated Afripads for innovating to produce reusable pads which will put an end to situations where women and girls are absent from work or school due to issues of menstrual hygiene. She also added that the development of this standard is timely due to the environmental issues related to disposable pads.

"We all know the environmental impact of disposable sanitary towels and therefore reusable pads come at a critical time when the world is discussing environmental protection and the environmental impact assessment of products being developed," she said.

AFRIpads Executive Director, Sophia Grinvalds, said the pads are locally manufactured and are in line with the Buy Uganda Build Uganda policy. She added that certification of their product will improve trade in reusable sanitary pads. "This should open up the doors for traders and export of locally manufactured reusable sanitary pads," said Grinvalds.

UNBS Participates in USSIA Standards Clinic

On 3rd May 2018, the Uganda National Bureau of Standards (UNBS) took part in a standards clinic organized by Uganda Small Scale Industries Association (USSIA) for its members. The clinic was attended by more than 80 members of the association dealing in various products such as cook stoves, wine, liquid soap, juice, honey, fruit jam, and chili sauce and chia seeds, among others.

Speaking at the clinic, the Deputy Executive Director-Standards Mrs. Patricia Bageine Ejala emphasized the importance of standards and certification to the manufacturers. "Certification is a third party approval that your product is safe for human consumption in order to grow your market," Mrs. Ejala said. She encouraged the members to get the standards relevant to their products and reiterated the implementation of the distinctive mark regulation.

She informed members about the new regulations which require mandatory certification for all products covered by compulsory standards such as juices and beverages, cosmetics, steel, cement, confectionaries, honey and honey products as well as mattresses.

However, members of USSIA were mainly concerned about the cost and process of quarterly certification and appealed to UNBS to find solutions that suit the small scale producers who may not be able to afford the existing fees on a quarterly basis. They suggested that fees should be charged based on the size of the business.

Mr. Ronald Ahimbisibwe, Principal Certification Officer MSMEs took the members through the process of certification and highlighted issues of Good Manufacturing Practices and Good Hygiene Practices. He challenged the producers to check



Deputy Executive Director- Standards Ms Patricia Ejala speaking to USSIA members about certification requirements of their products

their production processes against elements such as hygiene of the production premises, handling of the product, raw materials used,

UNBS Holds Consultative Workshop With Toilet Paper Dealers

Senior Standards Officer, Prossy Nabagala speaking at the stakeholder meeting for toilet paper manufacturers, retailers, importers and distributors



On May 10th 2018, the UNBS Market Surveillance Department held a consultative meeting with traders in the toilet paper industry.

At the meeting attended by more than 80 manufacturers, importers, retailers and distributors, UNBS discussed research findings of a study commissioned by UNBS to assess the quality of toilet papers on the market.

The Deputy Executive Director-Standards Ms. Patricia Ejalu 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 findings are contained in a research report commissioned by UNBS to find out the PH and bacterial load makeup and strength of sheets from which the toilet paper is made.

The Manager, Market Surveillance, Mr. Daniel Arorwa, pointed out that a number of manufacturers produce toilet papers in cottages without certification. He added that other manufacturers are illegally reproducing existing products, especially those manufactured in China.

However, toilet manufacturers pointed out that imported raw materials used to manufacturing of toilet papers could be the reason for the substandard products.

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

In January 2018, UNBS destroyed substandard goods worth Shs1.7b of with an estimated Shs6.4m was the value of toilet papers.

UNBS Meets Steel Sector Players

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

The workshop was held at Standards house on 17th May 2018 to promote self-regulation in the sector. The UNBS Executive Director, Dr. Ben Manyindo urged all manufacturers to set up well equipped laboratories to enable them monitor parameters as per the requirements of the standards.

Mr. Jameson Ssewanyana, Surveillance Officer highlighted the steel products of concern naming ribbed reinforcement steel bars, iron sheets (pre-painted galvanized iron sheets (PPGI) & corrugated galvanized iron sheets (CGI)) and sections and angles. He mentioned challenges of weight, unmarked steel bars, and failed yield strength, among others.

He further explained that the percentage failure of the steel bars rose from 38% in 2016 to 53.5% in 2017 and particularly explained that the biggest challenge in the iron sheets sector was unevenly distributed mass of zinc coating, and lack of uniformity of galvanization.



Some of substandard steel seized recently from the market at UNBS Head Office in Bweyogerere Industrial Park

The stakeholders who attended the meeting included Tembo Steel Uganda, East African Roofing, Madhvani Steel, Great steel, Royal Mabati, Roofings, officials from Ministry of Trade Industry and Cooperatives as well as Uganda National Association of Building and Civil Engineering Contractors (UNABCEC), among others. They commended UNBS for organizing the stakeholder meeting as it would go a long way in improving compliance to standards in the sector.

Mr. Joseph Zaribwende, the Chairman of Uganda National Association of Building and Civil Engineering Contractors (UNABCEC) appealed to UNBS to set up regional

laboratories to ensure that materials across the country can be verified. He also encouraged sector players to join the Association in order to create synergies and monitor the market effectively.

Mr. Emmanuel Kamugasha, the Industrial Officer at the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Cooperatives, encouraged members to join the association of Steel Manufacturers under the ministry. He echoed the concern that results of samples submitted to the UNBS laboratories for analysis take a long time. The meeting ended with a resolution to have all members sign the certification agreement by 1st June, 2018 requiring compliance to standards.



UNBS Wins 3-0 in a Football Match Against US Embassy

The UNBS Football Team thumped the United States of America embassy 3-0 at a football match held at Heritage International School on 25th May 2018. The first half ended 1-0 courtesy of a superb finish from a close range by Mr. Patrick Asimwe.

In the second half, the Americans pushed hard for an equalizer but the UNBS Team defended resolutely. The defenders thwarted each attack thrown at them with little haste. The goalkeeper did not have a single save to make. The midfield was well marshalled by Rogers Ssenabulya,

Ssemakula and Seguya.

UNBS did not just sit back, they were a threat on the counter using the pace of Allan and Duncan to put the game beyond doubt with two quick fire goals from Bright and Duncan.

Upcoming Events

25
Sept. 2018

Plenary meeting of ISO/TC 202
Microbeam analysis
Venue: Hotel Africana, Kampala