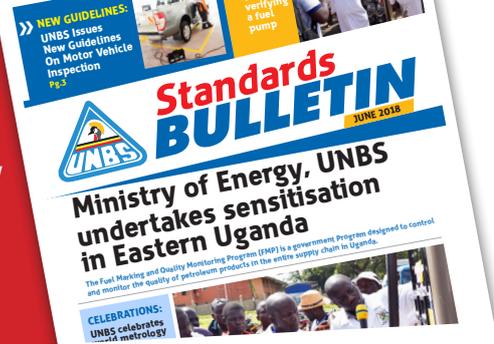


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Standards BULLETIN

JULY 2018

UNBS decentralizes more services to regions

The Uganda National Bureau of Standards (UNBS) has decentralized its services to three regional offices in Gulu, Mbale, and Mbarara as part of its effort to bring services closer to people.

UNBS participates in the Nile National Agricultural Show and trade fair to reach out to farmers



The new services introduced at regional offices include certification to encourage local industries to acquire the UNBS Distinctive Mark (Q-Mark) to assure consumers that products meet the required standards and market surveillance that includes monitoring the local market to ensure that products on the market meet standard for

health and safety.

UNBS Executive Director, Dr. Ben Manyindo said: "The decentralization will further promote production of good quality products by MSMEs at regional level thereby contributing to the government's effort of promoting industrialization of our economy while we continue to protect consumers and

"Quality is life, life is quality"



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the environment from dangerous substandard products". The decentralized of services is part of the government's effort to improve service delivery by bringing services closer to people. With addition of a new office in Gulu, it brings the total number of regional offices to six including Lira, Jinja, Mbale, Mbarara and Katwe. Until the decentralization of more service

which commenced 1st July 2018, UNBS services had five regional offices and mainly dealing in weights and measures. However with the decentralization of more services it means that majority of Micro Small and Medium Scale Enterprises (MSMEs) do not have to travel long distance to Kampala to access some of the services thus reducing the cost of doing business.

Uganda hosts ISO Secretary General

Uganda National Bureau of Standards Uganda hosted the ISO Secretary General, Mr. Sergio Mujica from 11th to 13th July 2018 in Kampala. During his visit, Mr. Mujica met with policy makers, private sector and the academia. This was intended to enhance trade and open up niche markets for Uganda's rapidly growing industrial sector.



During a press briefing at Sheraton hotel Kampala, Mr. Mujica was joined by the Minister of Trade, industry and Cooperatives Hon. Amelia Kyambadde and the Executive Director, Dr. Ben Manyindo. Hon. Kyambadde welcomed Mr. Mujica

improved the quality of products on the market by developing a number of standards. "To date, over 3,000 standards have been developed by UNBS and harmonization of standards across the East Africa block continues in order to enable trade across borders," she said.

Ugandans as well as facilitating fair trade practices through development, promotion and enforcement of market driven standards.

International Organization for Standardization (ISO) is an independent, non-governmental international organization with a membership of 164 national standards bodies. ISO's main responsibility is to develop internationally accepted standards in all spheres of life.

To date, over 22,000 International Standards have been developed. Uganda is represented in ISO by the Uganda National Bureau of Standards (UNBS) whose key mandate is Standardization, Quality assurance, Metrology and Testing.

"To date, over 3,000 standards have been developed by UNBS and harmonization of standards across the East Africa block continues in order to enable trade across borders,"

to Uganda and expressed that while Uganda still has a long way in terms of standardization, she was happy to note that UNBS has significantly

While speaking at the briefing, Mr. Mujica thanked UNBS for hosting him and said he was looking forward to meeting with the private sector who are ISO certified. "I am very happy to be at UNBS and particularly Uganda to help improve the level of engagement and cooperation between ISO and the members in Africa," he said. Mr. Mujica commended UNBS on its work in the protection of the health and safety of the 40 million

UNBS announces its full year performance results

The Uganda National Bureau of Standards held a press conference at Uganda Media Center to announce its performance for the Financial Year 2017/18.



The Uganda National Bureau of Standards held a press conference at Uganda Media Center to announce its performance for the Financial Year 2017/18. At the press conference, the UNBS Executive Director, Dr. Ben Manyindo, said: “The institution achieved all its targets at 100% and exceeded its Non Tax revenue collections by UGX 1.7 billion despite a shortfall from the government grants of UGX 1.488 billion.” Dr. Manyindo highlighted the following as key performance highlights for the financial year:

- Out of 254 standards, 76 standards are compulsory standards because they are concerned with safety of consumers and the environment. Of the approved standards, 43 were for Food and Agriculture, 48 of them cover Management and Services, 111 standards cover chemicals and consumer products, while 52 are in engineering sector.
- The standards developed in the FY 2017/18 contribute to government efforts to promote locally manufactured products under the Buy Uganda, Build Uganda (BUBU) policy especially with standards for school clothing wear and furniture such as wooden door shutters and dining tables.
- Under certification, 849 products and systems permits were granted against the set target of 820 most targeting Micro, Small and Medium Scale Enterprises (MSMEs).
- To date 353 companies with 1,150

permits are on the UNBS certification scheme. Of these 92% are run by men, 6% by women and 2% by the youth. Further to this, out of the 1150 permits, 888 are from central region, 122 from east, 17 from the north and 19 are offshore permits.

- Under laboratory testing function, 14,472 samples were tested against the set target of 11,000 product samples.
- UNBS has opened up the testing function to other government and private laboratories that have been assessed and recognized by UNBS. To date, 8 laboratories are assisting UNBS in undertaking laboratory analysis with their results being recognized and used by UNBS. These include among others: UIRI, GAL, Chemiphar etc.
- Under market surveillance, 2,278 outlets were inspected against the set target of 2,000. The UNBS market surveillance team seized 413 metric tonnes of goods worth Shs3.5 billion. The seized goods would have otherwise been detrimental to the health and safety of consumers.
- Under Imports Inspection function, 133,517 consignments were inspected against planned inspection of 120,000. The increase was largely due to increased compliance to the PVOC program that requires imports to be inspected from their countries of export before entering Uganda.

- Dr. Manyindo also highlighted the priorities for the new financial year which include:
- Engaging government to increase funding to UNBS and especially increasing the manpower which is currently at 45% of the required number to scale up standards uptake and enforcement.
- Implementation of new regulations on mandatory certification and support to MSME development geared at operationalizing Buy Uganda Build Uganda policy, job

“The institution achieved all its targets at 100% and exceeded its Non Tax revenue collections by UGX 1.7 billion despite a shortfall from the government grants of UGX 1.488 billion.”

- creation and exports.
 - Raising awareness among consumers to promote use standards and compliance to regulations to ensure quality goods on the market thus promoting consumer safety and fair trade.
 - Leveraging on ICT and partnerships in meeting our set targets of FY 2018/19 which have been increased substantially to ensure quality service delivery to Ugandans.
- Details of the report are available on our website: www.unbs.go.ug

UNBS Issues new guidelines for importation of garments

The Uganda National Bureau of Standards has issued new guidelines for importation of garments into the country.

The UNBS met with the leadership of the garment and textiles sector who requested UNBS for more time to adjust to the new developments and imports clearance requirements. Under the new guidelines all garments will be tagged by customs for inspection by UNBS before they are released on to the market. It means that all consignments of garments imported into the country will need to be accompanied by Certificate of Conformity following inspection for compliance to Uganda Standards before they are imported into the country under pre-export verification of conformity (PVoC).

Importers of garments have been given up to 15th September 2018 to fully comply with the new guidelines while UNBS conducts an awareness campaign to scale up compliance. Speaking at the meeting with Leadership of the Garments industry, the UNBS, Executive Director Dr. Ben Manyindo said: "All shipments that are already at the borders, enroute or in the process of being prepared for shipment will not be subject to PVoC but rather to verification and inspection at destination." Dr. Manyindo further emphasized that the directive does not cover those trading in used clothes (mivumba)

since they are not allowed into the country. He further encouraged the sector to strengthen their association through which UNBS will regularly engage and communicate to the traders in that sector. "We cannot approach each trader individually but when an association is known to us, it becomes easier to carry out sensitization meetings," Dr. Manyindo said. All products covered by compulsory standards have to undergo inspection for compliance to Uganda standards before they are imported into the country.

UNBS participates in the Nile National Agricultural Show and trade fair to reach out to farmers

The 26th Source of the Nile National Agricultural and Trade show kicked off on 13th July 2017 in Jinja, Uganda with over 200 exhibitors taking part in the annual event.

The fair organized by Uganda National Farmers Federation under the theme "**Fostering agricultural value chains innovation for farmer-led food security household income and job creation**" saw both local and foreign exhibitors, many Kenya, Tanzania, Ethiopia, Egypt, Rwanda, Burundi, Germany and Netherlands were in attendance. 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. The trade show was officially opened by Minister of Agriculture Animal Industry and Fisheries Hon. Vincent

Bamulangaki Ssempijja who has been championing the growth of rural income through agriculture across the country encouraged farmers to form associations that will enable them get assistance from government much easier than individuals would. He further stressed the need for technocrats, in our case, the Certification officers to reach the ground and serve people at the grassroots level. He further pointed out that farmers should be on the lookout for fake agricultural inputs. In keeping with the theme, Uganda National Bureau of Standards was in attendance to give this information on the services offered, that is, Certification, Standards development,

imports inspection, testing, and legal metrology as well as showing attendees the difference between sub standards products and those that have been certified by UNBS. UNBS officers taught attendees on what to look out for such as the Q mark for locally manufactured products. Visitors to the UNBS stall included mainly students and producers of carbonated and non-carbonated drinks who were interested in the certification of their products. Students were sensitized on consumer tips and the process of certification. The trade show successfully concluded on Sunday 22nd July 2018.

Upcoming events



16th- 19th
August
2018

Uganda Small Scale Industries Association (USSIA) SME & cottage industry Fair

Venue: UMA Showground Lugogo



19th-21st
September
2018

ISO TC202 meeting on microbeam analysis

Venue: Hotel Africana

14th
October
2017

World
Standards
Day

Pictorial



ISO SG on a tour of the materials lab



ISO SG meeting with Standards officers

