Kenya Bureau of Standards
Standards for quality life

ISO 9001:2008 certified firm

THE ROLE OF KEBS IN FACILITATING TRADE

KEBS Vision

To be a global leader in standards-based solutions that deliver quality and confidence.

KEBS Mission

To provide standardization solutions for sustainable development.

Diamond Mark of Quality

Standardization Mark

Import Standardization Mark

KEBS Services

KEBS provides confidence in products and services offered in the country through:

- Development and harmonization of standards through a process that ensures all competing interests are heard, their points of view considered and consensus reached.
- Availing for sale Kenya standards, regional and international standards.
- Testing of raw materials and finished products.
- Calibration of equipment.
- Product and system certification.
- Undertaking educational work in standardization and practical application of standards.
- Maintenance and dissemination of International System of Units (SI) of measurements.
- Support growth of industry by provision of quality assurance and inspection.

Role of standards in facilitating trade

Standards provide a common reference point for the assessment of the quality of goods and services. Standards ensure that products and services are safe, reliable and of good quality. For business, they are strategic tools that reduce costs by minimizing waste and errors and increasing productivity. They help companies to access new markets, level the playing field for developing countries and facilitate free and fair global trade. Standards are also used by the business community to gauge the quality of inputs, equipment and the product itself. KEBS has developed over 7000 standards that cover several sectors such as:

- Food
- Textile and Leather
- Agriculture
- Electro-technical
- Chemical
- Mechanical
- Civil Engineering
- ICT
- Services sector e.g. Tourism, education and Financial Services.

Pre-Export Verification of Conformity (PVoC)

KEBS carries out pre-export verification of conformity of all products imported into the country that have an impact on the health and safety of Kenyans. PVoC is a conformity assessment procedure based on Article 5 of the WTO/TBT Agreement. The programme is consistent with rules, regulations and legitimate instruments incorporated in the said agreements.

The main objectives of the programme are:

- Ensuring that substandard or counterfeit goods are stopped at country of supply.
- Provision of a cost-effective procedure in implementation of standards in harmony with the modernization programmes undertaken by major stakeholders e.g. Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA) and Kenya Ports Authority (KPA).
- Ensuring that local manufacturers import and use quality raw materials and other inputs.
- Minimizing cargo turnaround times at ports of entry.

Kindly visit www.kenyapvoc.com or www.kebs.org for more information on the requirements and procedures for the PVoC programme.

National Codex Contact Point

KEBS is the national codex contact point for Kenya that links and coordinates Codex Allimentarius Commission (CAC) activities in the country through the National Codex Committees. The CAC mandate is to ensure that food standards developed are science-based, protect the health of consumers and facilitate fair food trade.

Kenya's legislation on consumer rights

The Kenya Constitution 2010 spells out Consumer rights to goods and services of reasonable quality; to the information necessary for them to gain full benefit from goods and services; to the protection of their health, safety and economic interests.

On the other hand the Consumer Protection Act, 2012, focuses on consumer rights to quality goods and services including a right for consumers to be represented at Kenya Consumer Protection Advisory Committee and on all regulatory bodies.

KEBS through the Standards Act, has developed over 7000 standards for common consumer and utility goods to protect consumer health, safety and the environment — i.e. food and safety, chemicals, textiles, electrical and electronic, mechanical and civil engineering products, etc. KEBS also carries out quality control, inspection and market surveillance — retail, wholesale and open markets to assure products in the markets are safe.

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