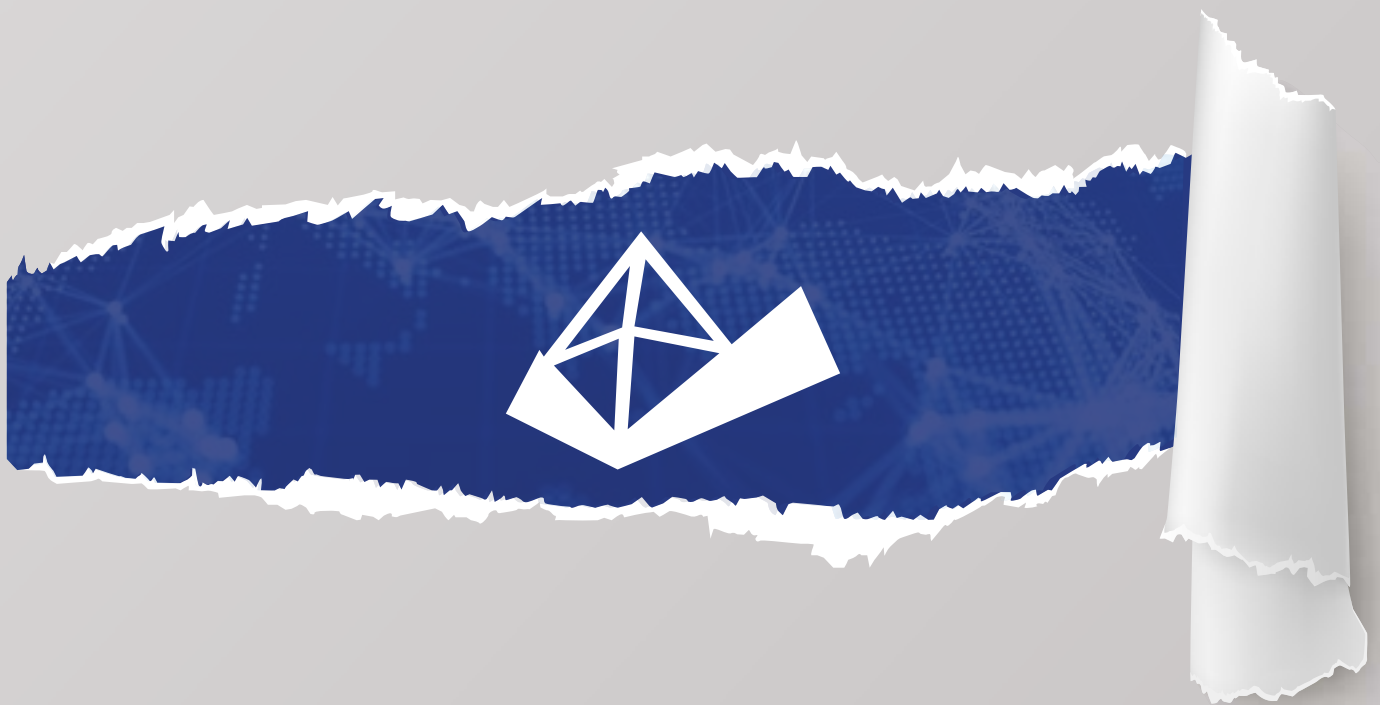




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THE MONTHLY NEWS LETTER



KEBS Moves to Ease the Product Certification Process With Revised Standardization Mark Scheme

In this issue

Main Feature:

KEBS Moves to Ease the Product Certification Process With Revised Standardization Mark Scheme *pg2*

Industry Feature:

Local manufacturer feted with Diamond Mark of Quality *pg4*

News Briefs:

KEBS urges the use of calibrated and certified Infrared thermometers to contain COVID-19 spread *pg6*

Kenya Joins the World in Marking World Metrology Day *pg7*

KEBS Moves to Ease the Product Certification Process With Revised Standardization Mark Scheme



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Under the revised S-Mark scheme, manufacturers will be issued with a permit that is valid for two years instead of one year as has been the case.”

Beginning 1st of July 2020, manufacturers applying for the Standardization Mark (S-Mark) will be issued with a permit that is valid for two years and is accessible electronically.

The revision of the S-Mark scheme is aimed at improving efficiency and enhancing the ease of doing business in Kenya by addressing logistical and administrative challenges, including delays in the processing of S-Mark permits that have often led to loss of business opportunities and undue shortages of respective goods.

“Under the revised S-Mark scheme, manufacturers will be issued with a permit that is valid for two years instead of one year as has been the case. Manufacturers will also be able to apply and make payment for the

S-Mark permit online. Additionally, the S-Mark permit will also be prepared and transmitted electronically. This will save time and cut costs associated with manual applications,” says Lt Col (Rtd.) Bernard Njiraini, Managing Director, KEBS.

Launched in March 2008, the S-Mark is a mandatory product certification scheme for locally manufactured products provided for under section 10 of the Standards Act Cap 496, Laws of Kenya.

To acquire the S-Mark, locally manufactured goods are expected to meet quality requirements as specified in the various National/International or other approved standards. A permit to use a standardization mark is issued by KEBS to a firm to certify that a product conforms to requirements of the particular standard.



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In the revised SM scheme, the issuance of standardization mark permits will be based on factory inspection and product sampling for laboratory tests.”

“In the revised SM scheme, the issuance of standardization mark permits will be based on factory inspection and product sampling for laboratory tests. Throughout the two-year period, KEBS inspectors will carry out targeted and random market surveillance, factory inspection and sampling the products for testing,” he adds.

Besides, KEBS will be accepting test results from accredited or designated laboratories a list of which will be available in KEBS website for the purpose of product certification. This will certainly reduce the turnaround time of product certification

Additionally, firms will be required to maintain in-house testing and quality control records, as agreed in the respective schemes of supervision and control.

These records shall constitute the basis for maintenance of the product certification and future permit renewal.

Further, KEBS has developed a guideline document for remote assessment activities to complement the traditional on-site assessment activities during extraordinary events or circumstances such as the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic as part of the business continuity strategy.

Currently, **14,400 valid SM permits** have been issued by KEBS to manufacturers.

Consumers, manufacturers, traders, and other stakeholders are encouraged to “**Wajibika Na KEBS**” and be on the lookout and report any products suspected to be substandard. **To Wajibika**, verify whether the **S-Mark permit** on your

14,400

Valid SM permits have been issued by KEBS to manufacturers.

product is valid by sending the code underneath the **S-Mark to 20023 (SM#Code)** to get product validity status details. If the details are different, report to **KEBS Toll-Free 1545** during official **working hours of 8.00 AM to 1.00 PM and 2.00 PM to 5.00 PM, Monday to Friday.**



Local manufacturer feted with Diamond Mark of Quality

The Kenya Bureau of Standards (KEBS) conferred the Diamond Mark of Quality to Salwa Kenya Limited, an agribusiness company which refines, processes and markets edible oil and fat products from crude palm oil in Kikambala, Kilifi County.

The Diamond Mark of Quality, also known as the D-Mark, is the highest level of certification recognition awarded by KEBS to manufacturers (local or International) who have demonstrated high degree of excellence in product manufacturing and quality product certification scheme and is issued under a voluntary scheme.

Salwa Kenya Limited was awarded the D-mark following a comprehensive step by step review process that included application for D-Mark, industrial inspection by KEBS

quality assurance officers, testing of product at KEBS laboratories to check compliance with Kenya standards and award of the permit by the Permits Approval Committee (PAC) of the National Standards Council (NSC) in its sitting on 22nd April 2020.

“KEBS is committed to boosting business and manufacturing, locally and abroad through standard based initiatives such as the Diamond Mark Certification Scheme. We encourage manufacturers to apply for the D-Mark as it is applicable to all types

of business from large firms to medium and small enterprises (MSMEs), including the Jua Kali sector,” says Lt Col (Rtd.) Bernard Njiraini, Managing Director, KEBS.

Currently, there are over 363 valid permits from various firms who have successfully met the requirements for the D-Mark ranging from food, textile, electrical, civil, mechanical, chemical to water sectors

Holders of the Diamond Mark permit automatically qualify for the KEBS

Standardization Mark (S-Mark), which is a mandatory requirement for placement of goods in the Kenyan market. S-Mark assures market access within the East African Community (EAC) member countries due to mutual recognition of the marks issued by the respective National Standards Body in the region. In addition, the product enjoys consumer confidence and its quality is underpinned by the national quality system.

The Diamond Mark permit is valid for three years, subject to satisfactory quality performance and full compliance with other contractual obligations signed between KEBS and the D-Mark permit holder.

Other marks of quality issued by KEBS include, the Import Standardization Mark

(ISM) applicable to all imported products intended for sale in the Kenyan market and the Fortification Mark of Quality (issued on behalf of Ministry of Health) that requires all wheat flour, dry milled maize products, salt, vegetable fats and oils to be fortified with essential vitamins and minerals to prevent micronutrient deficiency as recommended by World Health Organization (WHO)

To verify the authenticity of KEBS marks of quality, use of the KEBS Official Mobile App or send a text message with the code (numbers) underneath the mark of quality logo to 20023 on a safaricom line (i.e. type message SM#Permit Number or ISM#UCR Number or DM#Permit Number and SMS to 20023).



KEBS is committed to boosting business and manufacturing, locally and abroad through standard based initiatives such as the Diamond Mark Certification Scheme.”



KEBS urges the use of calibrated and certified Infrared thermometers to contain COVID-19 spread



We must ensure the equipment used to screen patients for COVID-19 and other conditions are calibrated. Calibration will establish their overall functionality, accuracy, and reliability

The infrared thermometers (thermal guns) are considered key to the early detection of COVID-19. Manufacturers, traders, and users of the infrared thermometers should therefore ensure that they are calibrated and certified to assure that the value they read is actually the true value. These thermometers are currently being used to measure human body temperature at entrances to offices, shopping malls and government installations as an early indicator of coronavirus infection.

“We must ensure the equipment used to screen patients for COVID-19 and other conditions are calibrated. Calibration will establish their overall functionality, accuracy, and reliability, as well as minimize the uncertainty of the measurements. Failure to calibrate monitoring medical equipment could lead to false results and misdiagnosis,” advises Lt Col (Rtd.) Bernard Njiraini, Managing Director, KEBS.

“The need for fast and accurate testing is imperative given the long incubation period and the contagious nature of COVID-19. We urge the manufacturers, traders, and users of these medical equipment to ensure that they are calibrated to the accepted International System of Units (SI) at the KEBS Metrology laboratories or any other accredited calibration laboratories,” he adds,

Contact and non-contact thermometers (infrared guns and ambient temperature monitors), respiratory ventilators, refrigerators, and freezers for storage of reagents, medicines, and samples, are some of the critical healthcare equipment calibrated by KEBS. Others include high-temperature sterilizers, furnaces, and incinerators.

During calibration of infrared thermometers, KEBS checks whether

they are measuring correctly, and verifies their reliability in performing the intended functions. These functions include body temperature measurement and to ensure that any errors in measurement are within allowable limits. Upon calibration, a certificate is issued, with the appropriate corrections applicable for the measurement range.

KEBS has the applicable standards which guide on the testing and calibration of the health equipment to ensure their basic safety, reliability, and effectiveness. It is worth noting that the KEBS metrology laboratories are accredited by DAkkS which is the National Accreditation Body of Germany, and by this DAkkS gives third party attestation of the competence of KEBS to offer calibration services.

Kenya Joins the World in Marking World Metrology Day



World Metrology Day is celebrated annually on 20th May to commemorate the signing of the Metre Convention in 1875. The treaty sets the framework for global collaboration in the science of measurement and its application in industrial, commercial, and social spheres of life

Organized under the theme, *“Measurements for global trade”* this year’s celebration sought to raise awareness on the significance of Metrology in ensuring fair global trade; ascertaining that metrology is useful for products and services to meet the quality thresholds expected by end-users – the customer.

This year, Kenya Bureau of Standards (KEBS) dedicated the day to recognising and celebrating professionals in the field of science whose contributions have been best exemplified as we combat the COVID-19 pandemic.

Speaking during the celebrations in May, Lt Col (Rtd.) Bernard Njiraini, Managing Director, KEBS said, “The significance of metrology as the science of measurement is demonstrable in scientific discovery and innovation, industrial manufacturing,

international trade, improved quality of life, and the protection of the global environment. It validates and verifies applicable standards in every aspect of our lives, provides the necessary assurance and confidence that measurements are accurate, and provides a sound basis for global trade today.”

“Covid-19 has brought challenges as well as opportunities that underscore the crucial role of accurate measurements in supporting the fight against the virus. Worldwide, metrology is at the center stage, with institutions and scientists applying their knowledge in the science of measurement to find new ways to test for the virus, rapidly develop medical devices, and to find a vaccine,” he added.

Globally, the National Metrology Institutes (NMIs) continually advance measurement science by developing and validating new measurement techniques across the world. This has had a significant contribution in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Locally, KEBS, through its metrology department, is calibrating medical equipment such as non-contact thermometers, refrigerators, and freezers for

storing drugs and sterilizers, including other devices used in hospitals or laboratories.

Additionally, KEBS is working closely with innovators to develop ventilators, as well as manufacturers of Personal Protective Equipment (PPEs) and hand sanitizers to ensure they meet the accuracy and quality thresholds for effective and efficient application. On 19th June 2020 KEBS issued Kenyatta University a calibration certificate for their ventilator to support the current global impact of the COVID -19 pandemic. Currently we are also working closely with Dedan Kimathi University of Technology and Mutisimoto Motor / NJA technologies company in the development of ventilators.

As the National Standards Body, KEBS, continues to research, upgrade, and apply the best technologies and measurements to ensure a safe environment. Consumers, manufacturers, traders, and other stakeholders are encouraged to remain vigilant and report any PPEs suspected to be substandard via KEBS **Toll-Free Number 1545** during official **working hours of 8.00 AM to 1.00 PM and 2.00 PM to 5.00 PM, Monday to Friday.**