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INSIDE STORIES



TBS Director General Dr. Ashura Katunzi proudly displays the Best Regulatory Agency 2025 Award. A prestigious national honour celebrating excellence, innovation, and commitment to quality.



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President Samia's drive for quality a testament to visionary leadership

EDITORIAL



Samia Suluhu Hassan

President of the United Republic of Tanzania.

In a time when nations are striving to balance economic growth with social welfare and quality assurance, Tanzania stands as a shining example under the leadership of Her Excellency President Samia Suluhu Hassan. During the four-year period of President Samia, Tanzania Bureau of Standards has made various achievements in implementing its statutory obligation,

i.e. undertaking measures for quality control of products and promoting standardization in industry and commerce.

The financial year 2024/2025 is an example of the Bureau's remarkable achievements aligned to national strategic goals. One such achievement is bringing services closer to the people. In line with President Samia's commitment to bringing Government services closer to the people and lowering the cost of access, TBS has embarked on a massive expansion of laboratory infrastructure. Under the President's guidance and leadership, strategic regions such as Dodoma and Mwanza are now home to new laboratories that will serve the central and northern zones of the country, ensuring that citizens no longer have to travel long distances for quality assurance services.

Furthermore, in Arusha, preparations are underway for the construction of a new test house. These efforts directly support citizens and businesses alike, improving turnaround time for services and enhancing public trust. A massive allocation of TZS 2.7 billion underscores the commitment to strengthening regional and border offices—an initiative that not only enhances inspection capacities but ensures Tanzanians are protected from substandard products while fostering a safer, more reliable market environment.

Another achievement is enhanced trade facilitation including empowerment of small and medium-scale entrepreneurs. President Samia's inclusive economic philosophy has placed special emphasis on empowering entrepreneurs and enabling trade. Under her guidance, TBS has developed an impressive 1,823 new standards across key sectors, paving the way for producers to access both local and international markets with confidence.

With more than 2,400 quality certificates issued—over 1,000 of them to small-scale entrepreneurs—the Government has reaffirmed its dedication to uplifting local businesses. Notably, more than TZS 350 million is allocated annually to support these entrepreneurs at no cost, removing barriers and unlocking potential across the country.

Equally commendable is the registration of over 31,500 food and cosmetics premises, thus reinforcing national efforts to safeguard public health and consumer safety. Through TBS, the country also inspects thousands of cargo shipments and imported used motor vehicles each year, curbing low-quality goods at the border and upholding Tanzania's reputation in regional and international markets.

Another shining outcome of President Samia's leadership is the prioritization of public education and awareness on standardization and conformity assessment. With over 5,000 stakeholders trained in standards and quality assurance, and outreach conducted through radio, television, social media, seminars, and district campaigns, knowledge is now more accessible than ever and the public is not only more informed but more engaged.

Laboratory accreditation is yet another area which has improved during the four years of President Samia. Under President Samia's administration, all 12 TBS laboratories have received international accreditation—an achievement that cements Tanzania's reputation as a leader in quality assurance. These laboratories have tested over 118,000 product samples and calibrated nearly 37,000 equipment units, making tangible contributions to product safety and market competitiveness. For the financial year 2024/2025, a further TZS 3.18 billion has been allocated for the procurement of cutting-edge laboratory equipment, reflecting a strong commitment to scientific advancement and reliability. Simultaneously, the deployment of user-friendly electronic systems ensures that TBS services are accessible to Tanzanians everywhere—another leap forward enabled by the President's digital-first approach to governance.

In 2023, TBS was honored with the African Regulator of the Year Award—an accolade that directly reflects President Samia's commitment to excellence and integrity in public institutions. Moreover, TBS has become the first institution in the Southern African Development Community (SADC) to secure certification under ISO 22003-1:2022, Food safety — Part 1: Requirements for bodies providing audit and certification of food safety management systems. Adding to this list, the Bureau became the second institution to obtain international accreditation for product certification systems under SADCAS, further enhancing Tanzania's standing on the global stage.

In a nutshell, the Bureau's accomplishments are a mirror of the greater national transformation being driven by H.E. Dr. Samia Suluhu Hassan. Her commitment to inclusive growth, quality assurance, and international competitiveness is steadily building a resilient, self-sustaining economy.

As the nation continues on its path to industrialization and economic empowerment, the results speak for themselves. From strengthening border inspections to supporting grassroots entrepreneurs, from digital innovation to global certifications—President Samia's leadership remains the cornerstone of Tanzania's ongoing success story.

PM lays Viwango House foundation, directs TBS to block substandard goods

NEWS IN BRIEF

By Deborah Haule and Neema Mtemvu



Prime Minister Hon. Kassim Majaliwa (right) lays the foundation stone of the TBS Viwango House in Dodoma.

The Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS) has intensified nationwide efforts to promote a culture of quality and compliance by empowering both students and producers with knowledge on standards and certification.

In Arusha, TBS engaged students at Arusha Technical College (ATC), urging them to become ambassadors of standards within their communities and future professions. Speaking during the awareness session, Northern Zone Manager Eng. Joseph Ismail emphasized the importance of equipping future engineers with a strong understanding of standards and their application in engineering and everyday life.

He noted that substandard products pose serious health and economic risks, underscoring the need for early education on quality assurance. Students were introduced to the benefits of standards, including consumer safety, removal of trade barriers, increased market confidence, and improved access to international markets—where standards act as a “passport” for products. The session, held in preparation for African Organization for Standardization Day (ARSO Day), concluded with students committing to promote standards in their communities and professional careers.

At the same time, TBS extended its outreach to producers in Tabora Region, conducting awareness and sensitization campaigns for rice traders and millers in Nzega, Igunga, and

Tabora districts. The sessions, led by Acting Western Zone Manager Hamis Seleleko, focused on guiding stakeholders through the procedures and benefits of obtaining the TBS Quality Mark.

Seleleko explained that many small-scale producers lack adequate knowledge of standards, packaging, labeling, and certification requirements. He stressed that the Quality Mark not only ensures compliance with legal requirements for food products but also enhances consumer trust and opens opportunities within the East African Common Market and beyond.

Participants were also trained on how to apply for certification through TBS’s online system and were informed about the documentation and support available, particularly for small and medium-scale enterprises. Rice producers welcomed the initiative, noting that it would improve product quality, boost competitiveness, and expand their market reach.

Through these initiatives, TBS continues to strengthen awareness across different segments of society—preparing students as future custodians of standards while equipping producers with the tools needed to meet quality requirements, protect consumers, and drive sustainable economic growth.

TBS destroys over 90 tons of substandard goods in Eastern Zone crackdown

By Glory Mgomberi and Denis Mzamilu



Substandard products seized during a special operation conducted by TBS in Dar es Salaam, Coast, and Morogoro Region being destroyed at Pugu dumpsite in Dar es Salaam

The Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS) has intensified its crackdown on substandard and unsafe goods, destroying more than 90 tons of products worth over 828 million Tanzania Shillings in separate enforcement operations across the Eastern Zone.

In one operation conducted in Kisarawe District, Coast Region, TBS destroyed 43 tons of goods valued at 303 million Shillings. The items, seized between July 2024 and February 2025 in Dar es Salaam, Coast, and Morogoro regions, included cosmetics and second-hand underwear—products that are prohibited due to serious health risks.

Acting Director General and Director of Enforcement and Compliance, Dr. Candida Shirima, said the exercise was part of ongoing efforts to remove substandard products from the market, safeguard public health, and support national economic growth. She emphasized that under the Standards Act No. 2 of 2009, TBS has the mandate to confiscate, destroy, or return non-compliant goods at the importer's expense, urging traders to comply with national quality standards to avoid losses.

In a separate exercise on September 24, 2025, at the Pugu dumpsite in Dar es Salaam, TBS destroyed an additional 50 tons of substandard goods worth 525 million Shillings. The products had been seized during inspections in multiple locations, including Ifakara, Mlimba, Morogoro Municipality, Chalinze, Bagamoyo, Kisarawe, and across all municipalities of Dar es Salaam. According to Noor Meghji, the confiscated items included substandard and expired food products such as baby formula, soft drinks, energy drinks, cornflakes, and tomato paste.

TBS officials warned that the sale of expired and unregistered products poses significant health risks, particularly when wholesalers offload near-expiry or expired goods to retailers. Traders were urged to prioritize compliance and ensure all goods meet required standards, while consumers were encouraged to check expiry dates and quality marks before purchasing products.

The Bureau reaffirmed that inspections and destruction of substandard goods will continue nationwide as part of its mandate to protect consumers and curb the circulation of unsafe products in the market.

TBS urges certification to protect consumer health

By Glory Mgomberi and Denis Mzamilu

The Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS) has intensified its call for entrepreneurs, manufacturers, and producers to certify their products, emphasizing that compliance with standards is essential for protecting consumer health, enhancing business sustainability, and strengthening Tanzania's economic growth.

Speaking during various national exhibitions, TBS officials highlighted product certification as a critical tool for ensuring that goods meet required health and safety standards while building consumer trust and confidence in locally produced products.

At the 12th Trade and Tourism Exhibition in Tanga Region, TBS Quality Assurance Officer Mr. Abdul Ngozoma said certification plays a vital role in safeguarding the public from harmful or substandard goods. He noted that as consumers become increasingly aware of product safety risks, certification ensures goods meet stringent requirements, thereby promoting a healthier society and strengthening market loyalty.

Mr. Ngozoma also encouraged entrepreneurs to take advantage of the government-supported certification programme, which allows small-scale producers to obtain certification free of charge through an introduction letter from the Small Industries Development Organization (SIDO). He emphasized that misconceptions about high certification costs continue to discourage many entrepreneurs, yet the service is accessible and affordable.

"Three years is a crucial period for a small business to establish itself. We urge entrepreneurs to use this opportunity and visit TBS offices for certification," he said, adding that exhibitions provide an important platform to educate both businesses and the public on TBS services.

Similarly, during the 11th National Trade Exhibition in Zanzibar, TBS Marketing Officer Maryam Abdulaziz stressed that adherence to standards enhances product competitiveness and facilitates access to both local and international markets. She explained that certified products face fewer trade barriers, particularly within the East African Community (EAC), where mutual recognition agreements allow goods approved by one standards body to be accepted across member states.

She further noted that collaboration between TBS and the Zanzibar Bureau of Standards (ZBS) ensures that products certified on either side are recognised, guaranteeing safety and quality for consumers. She urged manufacturers to ensure their products bear the TBS Standards Mark, which serves as proof of compliance and a gateway to wider markets.

In Coast Region, TBS Eastern Zone Manager Ms. Noor Meghji underscored the role of certification in promoting sustainable business and investment. Speaking during the Industrial and Investment Exhibition in Kibaha, she said certified products enhance business credibility, attract investors, and support long-term economic growth.

"Certification strengthens the economy by ensuring businesses produce safe and reliable goods, while building strong reputations that attract customers and partners," she said. She added that compliance with standards also improves operational efficiency, reduces risks, and aligns businesses with industry best practices.

Regional authorities have also recognised TBS's role in supporting entrepreneurs. During the 2025 Nanenane Exhibition in Morogoro, Regional Administrative Secretary Dr. Mussa Ali Mussa commended the Bureau for offering free certification services and enhancing the competitiveness of Tanzanian products in regional and global markets. He called for continued collaboration between TBS and stakeholders, particularly in agriculture and industry, to improve product value.

Across the country, TBS officials have continued to engage stakeholders through exhibitions such as Nanenane, where they provide education on quality assurance, product testing, and certification processes. In Mwanza, Eastern Lake Zone Manager Ms. Happy Kanyeka emphasized that stakeholder engagement is key to driving business growth, noting that TBS works closely with producers to help them meet standards rather than penalising them.



TBS Senior Public Relations Officer Ms. Neema Mtemvu attends to visitors at the Bureau's pavilion during the 2025 Nanenane exhibitions in Mwanza

"TBS is not just an enforcement body but a partner that guides entrepreneurs toward compliance," she said.

The Bureau has also extended its outreach to farmers and sector-specific stakeholders. In Lindi, Southern Zone Manager Mr. Abel Mwakasonda urged farmers to follow extension officers' guidance on the proper use of agrochemicals to ensure food safety and protect public health. Meanwhile, in the mining sector, TBS officials have called for adherence to mineral standards to enhance value addition and increase income.

Through its nationwide campaigns and participation in public events, TBS continues to reinforce the importance of standards in everyday life. The Bureau has urged consumers to check for certification marks, verify expiry dates, and report substandard products to authorities.

With government support covering certification costs for small-scale entrepreneurs, TBS maintains that there is no barrier preventing businesses from complying with standards. The Bureau believes that widespread certification will not only protect consumers but also unlock market opportunities, boost investor confidence, and contribute to sustainable economic development.

PM lays Viwango House foundation, directs TBS to block substandard goods

By Glory Mgomberi and Denis Mzamilu

Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa has laid the foundation stone for the new headquarters of the Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS), Viwango House, in Dodoma, while directing the Bureau to intensify action against substandard goods entering the market.

Majaliwa instructed TBS to ensure that low-quality products are intercepted and destroyed before reaching consumers, stressing the need for strict compliance with national standards by both manufacturers and importers. He also

called on regulatory authorities to strengthen collaboration with TBS in enforcing quality and safety across all sectors.

He further urged the private sector and other stakeholders to work closely with the Bureau by involving it throughout the supply chain, emphasizing that eliminating substandard goods is a shared responsibility that requires vigilance and cooperation.

The Prime Minister commended TBS for its performance in



TBS Board Chairman Prof. Othman Chande Othman (centre) leads members of the TBS Board of Directors and service providers during a recent inspection of the Bureau's new laboratory and office complex under construction in Mwanza.

fulfilling its mandate, noting that the construction of Viwango House reflects the Government's broader strategy to strengthen quality assurance infrastructure. He added that similar facilities will be established in other zones to decentralize operations and improve service delivery nationwide.

"Through this effort, the Government aims to bring services closer to the people, improving accessibility and responsiveness," he said.

Minister for Industry and Trade Selemani Jafo praised the project and lauded TBS for its achievements, including recent recognition as one of Africa's leading standards institutions.

TBS Board Chairperson Othman Chande called on the public to cooperate with the Bureau, stressing that maintaining high standards requires collective effort. "We cannot achieve our mission without public cooperation," he said.

TBS Director General Ashura Katunzi said the Viwango House project, valued at about 24.3 billion, had reached around 76 percent completion as of May 2025.

Meanwhile, the TBS Board of Directors has urged the contractor to ensure timely completion of the project following inspections showing steady progress above 70 percent. Once completed, the facility will host modern laboratories in Dodoma, improving service delivery in the

Central Zone and neighbouring regions.

Project Manager Engineer Dr. Johnson Malisa said preliminary works are over 90 percent complete, with finishing works ongoing as procurement of specialised imported laboratory equipment progresses.

In a related development, TBS is also expanding its laboratory network across the country. The Bureau is constructing an Eastern Lake Zone laboratory complex aimed at bringing testing services closer to clients and reducing the need to send samples to Dar es Salaam.

TBS Board Chairman Prof. Othman Chande said the project aligns with national efforts to decentralize services and improve accessibility, instructing the contractor, CJIC, to accelerate construction. TBS Director General Dr. Katunzi noted that while samples are currently sent to Dar es Salaam, regional laboratories will significantly reduce costs and turnaround time once operational.

Project reports indicate the Eastern Lake Zone facility is about 47.7 percent complete and is expected to be finished by April 2026, with an estimated investment of 12 billion.

Once both projects are completed, TBS is expected to significantly strengthen its national coverage, improve efficiency in standards enforcement, and enhance consumer protection through faster and more accessible services.

TBS unveils National Emergency Response Food Safety Plan

By Neema Mtemvu

TBS has launched the National Emergency Response Plan for unsafe food in a move aimed at protecting public health, ensuring quick response to food related threats and promoting higher food safety standards across the country.

Deputy Minister of Industry and Trade, Exaud Kigahe, said recently that the move is aimed at ensuring food produced and sold in the country is safe for consumers' health.

"Through this plan, our goal is to improve citizens' health. Our biggest challenge is not food availability, but ensuring that the available food is safe for human consumption," said Kigahe.

Mr. Kigahe was speaking during the celebration of World Food Safety Day, emphasizing that the Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS) developed the National Plan to protect public health and strengthen the country's food systems.

He stated that legal action will be taken against anyone found in violation of food safety regulations.

He added that the first step in ensuring food safety is achieving sufficient food production something the Government has largely accomplished and the current focus is on making sure that food is safe for consumption.

Mr. Kigahe further said the Ministry of Industry and Trade, through TBS, is responsible for overseeing the quality of all products and marked the day by providing public education on everyone's role in ensuring access to safe food.

"TBS has established a strong plan to support producers in adhering to standards, to ensure that citizens receive quality and safe food," said Kigahe.

Additionally, the Deputy Minister directed all local Government authorities across the country to collaborate with institutions from various sectors to educate the public on the importance of food safety.

He urged citizens to be vigilant by reading product packaging information, checking food quality, and maintaining hygiene during food preparation and sales.

Meanwhile, TBS Chairman, Prof. Othman Chande Othman, said that TBS will continue working closely with citizens to ensure that all food sold in the market is safe for human consumption.

He emphasized that food safety is the foundation of national health and economic development, noting that the Bureau has taken strong measures to ensure every citizen accesses food that meets acceptable safety standards.

On top of that, TBS Director General, Dr. Ashura Katunzi, stated that the effects of unsafe food include a weakened national workforce due to illnesses caused by consuming unsafe food.

She said that TBS, in collaboration with various stakeholders, has developed the National Emergency Response Plan to hazardous food, which will help take quick and preventive actions in the event of a food safety issue.

“We call on the public to apply scientific principles at every stage of food preparation because the consequences of unsafe food can lead to illnesses and even death,” said Dr. Katunzi.

On her part, Director of Member Services at the Confederation of Tanzania Industries (CTI), Ms. Neema Mhondo, said that industries play a critical role in ensuring the production and distribution of safe and quality food that meets required standards.

“In partnership with TBS and other international stakeholders, we are continuously building capacity to achieve global food safety standards. We thank TBS for their close cooperation in advancing this important agenda,” said Mhondo.

This year’s World Food Safety Day themed: “Food Safety: Science in Action.”



Deputy Minister for Industry and Trade, Hon. Exaud Kigahe (MP) (second right), officially launches the National Emergency Response Plan for Unsafe Food during the World Food Safety Day celebrations in Dar es Salaam.

TBS emphasizes safety in clean cooking

By Deborah Haule



TBS officers (right and second right) educate visitors in the TBS pavilion during the East Africa Clean Cooking Energy Conference in Arusha

The Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS) has emphasized that efficiency and safety of clean cooking products are fundamental as the country strives towards achieving 80 per cent adoption of clean cooking energy.

TBS Standards Officer, Eng. Mohamed Kaila, said at the three day East African clean cooking energy conference in Arusha recently that, safety is a key factor in protecting users' health from potential hazards, such as smoke produced by substandard fuels.

“We urge local manufacturers of clean cooking energy solutions and importers to prioritize users health and safety by adhering to standards,” he said.

He stated that TBS has sufficient experts, laboratories and equipment for testing clean cooking energy products and its role is to ensure that all imported and locally manufactured products meet clean energy standards.

Furthermore, he noted that TBS certifies clean cooking energy products made by local manufacturers.

“Once certified, a producer is granted a license to use TBS Standards Mark of Quality, allowing them to sell their products both locally and internationally without issues,” he stated.

According to Eng. Kaila, another factor TBS evaluates is durability, as the aim is to prevent consumers from buying stoves that break down after only few months.

He explained that one of the key elements of standards is that manufacturers must truthfully disclose the efficiency of their products.

For example, a manufacturer might claim 90 per cent efficiency, but if TBS does not verify and determine if it is actually 90 per cent, it would be easy for the public to be misled.

“That’s why we, at TBS, step in to ensure that if a manufacturer claims 90 per cent efficiency, it is indeed 90 per cent,” he said.

EU hands over laboratory equipment worth 1.7 million Euro to TBS

By Deborah Haule



The Director of Trade Development in the Ministry of Industry and Trade Mr. Sempeho Nyari (centre), holds a list of received laboratory equipment after official handing over ceremony.

The European Union (EU) has handed over advanced laboratory equipment to the Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS) worth 1.7 million Euro.

The event that took place at the national standards body headquarters in Dar es Salaam marked a key milestone in the implementation of the QUALITAN Project, which had a total budget of 7 million Euro.

The project is a component of a wider EU-funded project called "BEGIN" (EURO 23 M) which focused on improving the Tanzanian business environment, growth and innovation.

Implemented by the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), the QUALITAN project aims to strengthen the national quality infrastructure by improving laboratories, building institutional capacity, promoting digital innovation, and supporting small and medium enterprises (SMEs).

Out of the total budget, 1.7 million Euro was specifically allocated for the procurement of advanced laboratory equipment, which has now been delivered and formally handed over to TBS.

Speaking on behalf of the Minister of Industry and Trade, Director of Trade Development, Sempeho Nyari described the ceremony as a powerful demonstration of the Government's resolutions to promote quality, safety, and industrial growth.

"What we are witnessing today is not just the delivery of equipment it is a symbol of transformation," Nyari said.

"The QUALITAN Project aligns with our national vision to build an industrial economy that is globally competitive, environmentally responsible, and rooted in product safety and compliance," he said

During the ceremony, the Director General of TBS, Dr. Ashura Katunzi, highlighted several key achievements under the QUALITAN Project.

She said through the project the Bureau has managed to install 38 state-of-the-art equipment in Food Chemistry, Microbiology, Chemistry, Electrical, and Metrology laboratories.

She said trainings have been conducted for over 300 TBS technical staff in international standards, capacity building for 988 MSMEs across 10 regions in Good Manufacturing Practices, certification, and market readiness.

She said the project benefits included digital innovation such as development of a Laboratory Information Management System (LIMS), an online standards webstore, and a QR-code traceability app.

She said the Viwango Academy which is a training centre has been strengthened, through training equipment, methodology and international exposure through benchmarking visits to South Africa, Egypt and Namibia.

Speaking in the event, the EU ambassador to the United Republic of Tanzania, Christine Grau, said the EU is proud to support Tanzania in strengthening its national quality infrastructure by providing state of the art equipment to TBS.

She said that the EU is complementing efforts of the Tanzanian Government in enhancing the quality and competitiveness of goods manufactured in Tanzania, which enables them to gain better access to global markets including the EU.

The UNIDO representative, Lorence Ansermet, praised the strong cooperation between all parties and emphasized UNIDO's role in aligning technical assistance with national development priorities.

Baraka Aligaesha from the President's Office (Planning and

Investment) said the equipment handed over will significantly strengthen TBS's capacity to meet international obligations such as accreditation, certification, and testing while also enhancing consumer protection.

He said the equipment will also help boost exports and improving Tanzania's position in the global trade system, where women and youth are active participants.

He also thanked the European Union for their generous support and UNIDO for their continued technical assistance and collaboration.

Vice President calls for adoption of common standards

By Neema Mtemvu



Delegates follow the proceedings of the 31st ARSO General Assembly held in Zanzibar

Zanzibar Second Vice President, His Excellency Hemed Suleiman Abdulla, has urged African Standardization institutions to ensure that they adopt common standards that protect African products.

Opening the 31st General Assembly of the African Organization for Standardization (ARSO) at the Golden Tulip Hotel in Zanzibar, the Second Vice President said harmonizing standards is a vital strategy for promoting trade and accessing international markets, adding that the move would eliminate trade barriers.

The Vice President who represented the President of Zanzibar and Chairman of the Revolutionary Council, Dr. Hussein Ally Mwinyi, commended Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS), Zanzibar Bureau of Standards (ZBS) and ARSO, for holding the meeting in Zanzibar.

He added that the meeting has offered an opportunity to showcase the country's capacity in quality assurance and foster learning among stakeholders of standardization.

Meanwhile, the ARSO General Secretary Dr. Hermogene

Nsengimana said standardization has emerged as an essential tool for facilitating trade and driving economic growth across Africa and the world at large.

Dr. Nsengimana added that standardization has helped establish a common framework for measuring the quality of product and service from ancient times and to the present, enabling trade to move across borders without technical barriers.

TBS Director General Dr. Ashura Katunzi emphasized on how standards provide a common language that allows Africa to benefit fully from the African Continental Free Trade Area by increasing product competitiveness and reducing the cost of doing business.

She added that standards are integral to sustainable development both in Africa and worldwide.

The 31st ARSO General Assembly was held in Zanzibar in June 2025 being the second time to be held in Tanzania, the first time being in 2016 in Arusha. The meeting was successful as it is a forum that strengthens cooperation with regional and

international bodies makes it easier to coordinate standards, even as countries face challenges related to limited resources and inadequate infrastructure.

TBS unveils National Quality Awards to scale up innovation and excellence

By Deborah Haule



TBS Director General, Dr. Ashura Katunzi addresses journalists (not in picture) during the launch of the National Quality Awards 2025.

The Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS) has officially unveiled the 6th phase of its National Quality Awards, marking a significant step in promoting innovation and excellence across the country.

The annual initiative aimed to boost innovation and elevate the standards of products and services nationwide, while fostering a culture of quality within Tanzania's industries.

Speaking to reporters during the launch, TBS Director General, Dr. Ashura Katunzi, underscored the broad objectives behind the prestigious awards.

"Our primary goal is to recognize and commend individuals who have made significant contributions to improving our quality infrastructure," Dr. Katunzi said. "At the same time, we celebrate institutions that demonstrate exceptional performance in upholding quality standards in their production and service delivery."

She added that the awards also served to encourage continuous improvement and innovation across a wide range of products and services, guided by established procedures within the national quality infrastructure to ensure sustainable progress.

Dr. Katunzi further noted that winners would have the opportunity to represent Tanzania in regional competitions organized by the East African Community (EAC) and the Southern African Development Community (SADC), offering them a platform for international recognition.

For the 2025 cycle, the 6th phase featured competition across seven categories: Best Company of the Year, Best Product of the Year, Best Service Provider of the Year (Private Company), Best Exporter of Agricultural Products, Best

Exporter of Mixed Products, Best Service Provider of the Year (Public Institution), and a special award for an individual who demonstrated outstanding performance in quality matters.

Participation guidelines were made available on the websites of TBS and the Zanzibar Bureau of Standards (ZBS). Key evaluation criteria included efforts to enhance product or service quality, efficiency in production, and overall performance.

Dr. Katunzi also highlighted the strong track record of the awards, noting that five previous phases—2019/2020, 2020/2021, 2021/2022, 2023/2024 and 2024/2025—had been successfully implemented.

She pointed out that the 2024/2025 winners went on to represent Tanzania in regional competitions, including the EAC and SADC Quality Awards, further strengthening the country's regional presence in quality standards.

At the EAC level, Tanzania secured top honours, including Large Company of the Year, Product of the Year (Large Company), and Service of the Year (Entrepreneur).

At the SADC level, Tanzania also performed strongly, winning three awards. These included first place in the individual category for outstanding contribution to improving SADC's quality infrastructure, awarded to Prof. Bendatunguka Tiisekwa of Sokoine University of Agriculture, as well as second place for Company of the Year (Entrepreneurs).

Dr. Katunzi noted that participation in the SADC awards in Zimbabwe also created business opportunities, with Tanzanian participants promoting their products and services and securing trade agreements with partners from other member states.

TBS unveils 2024 Food Fortification Regulations

By Neema Mtemvu



TBS Standards Officer Ms. Mwajuma Iddi addresses stakeholders during a training session on quality standards and Food Fortification Regulations for maize products held in Dar es Salaam recently.

The Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS) has officially launched the Food Fortification Regulations of 2024, mandating the addition of essential nutrients to staple foods such as maize flour to improve the health and nutrition of millions of Tanzanians.

This was unveiled recently in Dar es Salaam by the TBS Director of Standards Development, Mr. David Ndibalema during a stakeholder training session focused on quality, standards, and the new food fortification requirements for maize products.

"The implementation of the 2024 Food Fortification Regulations is a major step towards combating malnutrition and improving public health in Tanzania," said Ndibalema.

He explained that by requiring the fortification of widely consumed staples like maize flour, the regulations aim to reduce nutrient deficiencies that contribute to anaemia, stunted growth, and other health issues particularly among vulnerable groups.

"This initiative not only ensures safer and more nutritious food for consumers, but also elevates industry standards, encourages compliance among producers, and aligns Tanzania with global nutrition and food safety guidelines," he added.

Mr. Ndibalema emphasized that the regulations support the country's broader goal of enhancing national well-being and productivity through improved nutrition.

To ensure compliance, TBS has organized specialized training for stakeholders in the maize industry, focusing on adherence to Tanzania Standard 328. The 2024 Regulations require the fortification of packaged foods such as maize flour, wheat flour, cooking oil, and salt as a prerequisite for product registration and certification.

Representatives from the industry welcomed the initiative whereas Mr. Tabrani Kinoni, representing the Dar es Salaam Maize Flour Processors Association (UWAWASE), pledged to fully implement the training, noting its importance in meeting national quality standards.

Mr. Emanuel Benjamin, Chairman of the Grain Distributors for Milling Machines praised the training for addressing concerns about low-quality grains and committed to educating customers on the importance of maintaining product quality.

TBS, ZBS strengthen partnership to boost trade

By Neema Mtemvu

The Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS) and the Zanzibar Bureau of Standards (ZBS) have signed a five-year Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) aimed at enhancing institutional performance, facilitating trade, and improving the management of standards across the United Republic of Tanzania.

The agreement, which will run from 2025 to 2030, marks the third formal collaboration between the two institutions. It focuses on knowledge sharing, capacity building, and streamlining the movement of goods between Mainland Tanzania and Zanzibar.

Speaking during the signing ceremony in Dar es Salaam, ZBS Director General Mr. Yussuf Majid Nassor described the MoU as a significant milestone.

"TBS has over 50 years of experience, while ZBS has only 15 years since its establishment in 2011. This partnership has been instrumental in our development, especially in laboratory services," said Nassor.



TBS Acting Director General Mr. David Ndibalema (left) and ZBS Director General Mr. Yussuf Nassor proudly display the signed MoU during the signing ceremony held at TBS Headquarters in Dar es Salaam

He noted that the agreement addresses past challenges where products certified on one side of the Union faced entry restrictions on the other. Under the new arrangement, goods bearing a quality mark from either TBS or ZBS can now move freely across both jurisdictions.

"For example, bottled water from the mainland can now enter Zanzibar without barriers, and vice versa," he added.

Mr. Nassor also congratulated TBS on reaching its 50-year

milestone and underscored the importance of sustained collaboration for the benefit of citizens across the Union.

For his part TBS Acting Director Mr. David Ndibalema echoed the sentiment, stating that the strengthened partnership is simplifying trade procedures and enhancing consumer protection. He emphasized the need for harmonized standards to ensure product quality and mutual recognition, ultimately contributing to Tanzania's economic and social development.

TBS calls on engineers to enforce national standards in feasibility studies

By Neema Mtemvu

The Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS) has urged engineers to consistently apply National Standards throughout feasibility studies and construction projects, emphasizing their vital role in ensuring structural integrity, public safety, and regulatory compliance.

This was highlighted by TBS Standards Manager, Eng. Yona Afrika during the 22nd Commemoration of Tanzania Engineers Day in Dar es Salaam.

He said the Bureau's participation aimed mainly at raising awareness on the importance of using certified products that meet safety and quality verified by TBS laboratories.

"We urge engineers to use only products tested and certified by TBS in their projects. Our state-of-the-art laboratories ensure all products meet the required quality standards," he said.

He noted that TBS operates three specialized laboratories dedicated to testing engineering and construction materials, and also calibrates testing equipment to ensure accurate, standards-aligned results.

He emphasized the shift from international to locally developed standards which are created in collaboration with



TBS Standards Manager, Eng. Yona Afrika, speaks to visitors at the TBS pavilion during the 2025 Engineering Day exhibition held recently at Mlimani City in Dar es Salaam

stakeholders which now serve as official benchmarks for all national projects.

He reaffirmed TBS's readiness to provide technical support, encouraging engineers to prioritize certified products and adhere to Tanzania Standards to uphold safety and quality in development initiatives.

PS urges TBS to maintain its momentum at 50

By Neema Mtemvu

The Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Industry and Trade Dr. Hashil Abdallah has urged the Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS) to continue fulfilling its daily responsibilities as it commemorates its 50th anniversary since establishment to ensure that its objectives are fully achieved.

The celebrations were held under the theme: "Inspiring quality and safety for better livelihood."

Dr. Hashil Abdallah made the call recently on behalf of Minister for Industry and Trade, during the launch of the 50th anniversary celebrations of the Bureau.

He stated that the anniversary serves as a unique opportunity to reflect on the Bureau's 50-year journey as an important institution and a pillar of industrial and commercial development in the country, through safeguarding public health and safety via the development of standards, quality control, and metrology services that promote continuous improvement.

"Over the past five decades, TBS has made significant progress in its operations, including expanding the scope of service delivery by bringing its services closer to the public and stakeholders, facilitated by improved electronic systems and the strengthening of zonal offices," he said.



The Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Industry and Trade Dr. Hashil Abdallah addresses participants (not in photo) during the launch of the TBS's 50th anniversary celebrations held at TBS Headquarters in Dar es Salaam recently.

He added that TBS has earned significant international recognition for its outstanding performance, receiving the Best Regulator in Africa Award in 2023 and attaining a top-tier ranking.

"In 2024, TBS became the first institution within the Southern African Development Community (SADC) to obtain International Quality Certification, and this year it has achieved International Accreditation for the Food Management System," he said.

He noted that TBS is the first institution within SADC to achieve this milestone, a clear testament to the strong collaboration between the Board, management, and all members of staff.

Meanwhile, the Bureau's Director General Dr. Ashura Katunzi highlighted the long journey of success the institution has achieved over half a century having developed thousands of

national standards.

She stated that the achievements have positioned Tanzania among the leading countries in the field of standardization in Africa.

"TBS has successfully developed standards across multiple sectors in collaboration with stakeholders, and quality licenses have been issued to over 4,000 producers including more than 1,700 small-scale entrepreneurs who receive these services through government sponsorship," she said.

TBS was established in 1975 under the Standards Act No. 3 as a standards institution and officially commenced operations on April 14, 1976. In 1977, the Government amended the name and officially recognized it as the Tanzania Bureau of Standards through Act No. 1 of 1977.

Tanzania launches energy-efficiency laboratories as government pushes for smarter appliance use

By Deborah Haule

Tanzania has taken a significant step toward reducing electricity costs and improving the quality of household appliances with the launch of the state-of-the-art energy-efficiency testing laboratories and the introduction of Minimum Energy Performance Standards (MEPS).

The new facilities, located at the Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS) headquarters at Ubungu, will test widely used appliances such as refrigerators, air conditioners, televisions, and electric motors to ensure they meet required efficiency and safety standards before reaching consumers.

Officiating at the event, the Deputy Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Energy Dr. James Peter Mataragio, described the launch as a proud milestone for the nation.

"These laboratories mark a major milestone in our journey toward energy efficiency. Every appliance used in our homes, offices, and industries must contribute to smarter energy use," he said, noting that the initiative supports the Government's broader goal of expanding access to modern, affordable energy services.



Deputy Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Energy Dr. James Peter Mataragio together with UNDP and EU representatives, officially launches the state-of-the-art energy efficiency testing laboratories and introduces Minimum Energy Performance Standards (MEPS). Looking on from left is the TBS Director General, Dr. Ashura Katunzi.

The project, supported through a partnership between TBS, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the European Union, is expected to curb the influx of substandard appliances while helping consumers save on electricity bills.

For her part TBS Director General Dr. Ashura Katunzi emphasized that the new laboratories give Tanzania the capacity to verify appliance performance locally rather than relying on foreign testing.

"This work strengthens consumer protection, boosts the confidence of local manufacturers, and helps eliminate energy wasting products from our markets," she noted.

The system will also introduce official energy labels, providing shoppers with clear information about electricity consumption, in line with international best practices.

Stakeholders from government, industry, and development partners attended the launch, expressing optimism that the new standards will ease pressure on the national grid, reduce carbon emissions, and promote fair competition in the appliance market.

TBS further announced that public awareness campaigns will continue in the coming months to help manufacturers, importers, and consumers understand and comply with the new requirements.

Government commends TBS for quality assurance efforts, urges greater pace in service delivery

By Neema Mtemvu

The Government has expressed satisfaction with the Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS) for its continued efforts in safeguarding quality assurance, while urging the organization to accelerate its pace in service delivery.

The commendation was made recently by the Minister of Industry and Trade Hon. Judith Kapinga during her visit to TBS headquarters where she met with the management team.

"I congratulate the Director General Dr. Ashura Katunzi, the Management, and all members of staff. I also thank the Board of Directors for the good supervision they continue to provide in our organization," said Hon. Kapinga.

Alongside her praise, the Minister called on TBS to intensify the speed of implementation of its duties with innovation and cooperation. She pledged full support to ensure citizens access



Minister for Industry and Trade Hon. Judith Kapinga (second right) in one of the TBS laboratories during a familiarization visit. On her right is the TBS Director General Dr. Ashura Katunzi.

quality and safe products, emphasizing the importance of ethics, accountability and digital systems in protecting the health and income of Tanzanians.

Minister Kapinga further directed TBS to establish standards education programs for the public and strengthen collaboration with the Fair Competition Commission (FCC) to ensure effective quality control. She also urged timely completion of projects to improve services and efficiency, stressing the need for proper contractor supervision.

The Deputy Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Industry and Trade Dr. Suleiman Serera echoed the call for

professionalism and cooperation in executing the Bureau's mandate.

Representing the Chairman of the TBS Board of Directors, Mr. Hussein Sufian assured that the Board was ready to implement the directives to enhance service delivery and contribute to the goals of the Sixth Phase Government.

For her part, Dr. Ashura Katunzi, TBS Director General affirmed that the organization has received the Minister's directives and will continue to collaborate with institutions under the Ministry of Industry and Trade and other government ministries to ensure effective execution of its responsibilities.

TBS promotes standards awareness, strengthens institutional relations through SHIMMUTA games

By Maryam Abdulaziz

The Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS) has emphasized that the Federation of Sports for Public Institutions, Organizations and Private Companies in Tanzania (SHIMMUTA) games provide a vital platform for strengthening inter institutional relationships while promoting standards-related services to the public.

TBS Sports Chairperson Nyabuchwenza Magongo noted that sports, like any other sector requires adherence to clear rules and quality benchmarks.

"TBS is leveraging the games to build stronger networks with other public and private entities, fostering collaboration that can enhance national quality systems," she said in Morogoro as the SHIMMUTA 2025 season kicked off.

She added that the event offers a unique opportunity to raise public awareness about the importance of standards in everyday life, reinforcing TBS's role beyond regulatory enforcement. This dual purpose of relationship building and public education positions SHIMMUTA as a valuable avenue for advancing the Bureau's mandate in a socially engaging and accessible environment.

Magongo further stressed that one of the TBS roles is to "oversee standards" wherever they are, underscoring the institution's commitment to promoting a culture of compliance beyond traditional industrial and commercial settings.

"The reference to both national and international standards highlights our intention to align local practices with global expectations, reinforcing professionalism, safety, and accountability even within the realm of sports," she noted.

This perspective frames SHIMMUTA not merely as a sporting event, but as a platform for advancing standards awareness and institutional credibility.

Magongo confirmed that this year TBS participated in eight sports, including football, men's and women's netball, tug of war, traditional games, and indoor games.

For his part, TBS Sports Secretary Hassan Amiri, explained that preparations for the tournament have been underway for an extended period to ensure players are in strong physical and mental condition.

"Through these games, we are able to promote TBS," he said, emphasizing that such events foster meaningful relationships, bring diverse organizations together, and enhance public understanding of the Bureau's mandate and services.



Some TBS netball team players in action during the SHIMMUTA Games, showcasing energy and determination on the court

TBS conducts training to electrical equipment stakeholders

By Gloria Mgomberi



Director of Standards Development Mr. David Ndibalema (second from right, seated) joins some members of the TBS Management and training participants for a group photo during the training held at TBS Headquarters.

The Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS) has conducted training for manufacturers and traders of electrical equipment aiming at ensuring that products entering the market meet standards requirements, pass inspections, and safeguard consumer safety while promoting efficiency in economic activities.

Representing the Director General at the session which brought together various stakeholders, Director of Standards Development Mr. David Ndibalema said the training was designed to build a common understanding among manufacturers and importers regarding the standards required for electrical products produced locally or imported.

"We have specific standards for various electrical products. If someone imports sockets or wires, they must meet the

relevant standard requirements. We provide procedures to ensure products from abroad are inspected and certified before entering the country," he explained.

Mr. Ndibalema cautioned that traders who import products that fail to meet standards risk losses, as such products are destroyed in accordance with regulations and laws. He added that fines are also imposed on those who violate procedures.

For her part, TBS Eastern Zone Manager Ms. Noor Meghji noted that the meeting provided traders with clarity on inspection processes and the steps required to ensure compliance.

"We identified challenges and offered guidance on what needs to be done to improve the quality of electrical products entering the market," she said.

On behalf of local manufacturers, Engineer Gilbert Mauto, said the training was timely and would help producers meet both market demands and TBS standards.

Ms. Neema Kiboha, a distributor from Kariakoo praised the education provided noting that it will help traders make informed decisions and prevent the importation of substandard products.

"I promise to pass this education on to my customers and fellow traders to ensure we protect our market against unsuitable products," she said.

TBS recognized as Best Regulatory Agency 2025

By Neema Mtemvu

The Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS) has been recognized as the Best Regulatory Agency in 2025 at the Public Sector Innovation Awards, underscoring its outstanding contribution to serving the community.

The awards ceremony which brought together more than 40 public institutions, was organised under the Public Sector Innovation Awards framework and involved citizen participation in selecting institutions that have made notable societal impacts.

This accolade marks the second major recognition for TBS in recent years, following its 2023 award as the Best Regulatory Authority in Africa, highlighting the Bureau's consistent excellence and commitment to public service.

Speaking after receiving the award, TBS Director General Dr. Ashura Katunzi said the recognition holds great significance

for the institution.

"Our institution is an engine of the national economy, particularly in the industrial and trade sectors, with the responsibility of ensuring the quality and safety of manufactured products so they remain competitive, while at the same time protecting Tanzanians to ensure they receive what is best," she said.

Dr. Katunzi expressed gratitude to the President of the United Republic of Tanzania Dr. Samia Suluhu Hassan for the confidence demonstrated in the institution through substantial investments, which have empowered TBS to execute its core responsibilities effectively. She also acknowledged the Treasury Registrar's Office, the Ministry of Industry and Trade, and the TBS Board of Directors for their continued oversight and strategic guidance.

Highlighting the significance of the recognition, she noted that the award represents national acknowledgment of TBS's performance, reinforcing its reputation for excellence. She emphasized that this is not the first time TBS has been recognized, reflecting a sustained record of achievement and contribution to society.

For instance, in 2023, TBS was awarded Best Regulatory Authority of the Year in Africa, and its current national recognition represents another milestone in its trajectory of success.

Dr. Katunzi added that TBS is internationally recognised in metrology and calibration, with inspectors and inspection systems accredited to international standards.

"TBS is the home of standards, and the work we do is carried out according to international standards. This is a great source of pride for us. And we continue to assure Tanzanians that we will keep serving them with the professionalism they expect, enabling them to conduct productive business and to use quality products certified by TBS," she concluded.



TBS Director General Dr. Ashura Katunzi proudly displays the Best Regulatory Agency 2025 Award. A prestigious national honour celebrating excellence, innovation, and commitment to quality.



Quality is remembered long after the price is forgotten. Choosing low-cost products may seem economical at first, but poor quality often leads to disappointment, higher maintenance costs, and reduced performance over time. The bitterness of poor quality remains long after the attraction of a low price has faded. To ensure safety, reliability, and value for money, always choose products that meet recognized quality standards. By using TBS-certified products, consumers can be confident that they are purchasing items that have been tested and approved for quality, safety, and compliance. Make the smart choice today—always use TBS-certified products for lasting satisfaction and peace of mind.



**TBS mark of quality:
An assurance that
you are buying
a quality product**



ISO 14001: Raising the bar for environmental performance

ISO NEWS

The new edition of ISO 14001 has been released, giving organizations a clearer, more effective way to turn environmental ambition into measurable results.



The pressure is on. Across industries and regions, organizations are being asked the same question: not whether they care about the environment, but what they are doing about it. The landscape for sustainability in business is tightening. Environmental responsibility is no longer defined by commitments alone, but by the ability to demonstrate real, measurable performance.

ISO delivers a decisive answer with the publication of ISO 14001:2026, Environmental management systems – Requirements with guidance for use, the new edition of the world's most widely used environmental management standard.

Trusted by more than 670 000 certified organizations worldwide (ISO Survey, 2024), ISO 14001 has long provided a structured way to manage environmental responsibilities, improve performance and ensure long-term resilience. The 2026 edition builds on that legacy, refining a proven framework to meet today's expectations with greater clarity, usability and impact.

Commenting on the release, ISO Secretary-General Sergio Mujica said: "The new edition of ISO 14001 is smoother to implement and integrates seamlessly with other ISO management system standards, making it easier for organizations of all sizes to embed environmental management into their strategy, achieve tangible results and demonstrate real impact."

ISO 14001:2026 does not reinvent the standard. It sharpens it

for a world where environmental performance is judged on results, not intentions.

The updated edition introduces clearer guidance, more intuitive navigation and stronger alignment with key environmental priorities such as climate change, biodiversity and resource efficiency. It also reflects rising expectations, with greater emphasis on leadership, governance and a more integrated approach to managing impacts across operations and value chains.

Susan Taylor Martin, Chief Executive of the British Standards Institution (BSI), which holds the secretariat for ISO's subcommittee on environmental management systems (ISO/TC 207/SC 1), said:

"As environmental risks become more complex and interconnected, and expectations for transparency and accountability continue to rise, this latest revision represents far more than a routine update. It is a major step forward, strengthening governance, enhancing resilience and aligning with emerging priorities such as climate change, biodiversity and natural capital. It will equip organizations with the tools to embed environmental thinking into strategy, demonstrate real accountability and deliver measurable impact to support the transition to a fair society and a sustainable world."

The result is a standard that is simpler to understand, easier to use and more effective in practice, without losing the credibility and reliability that have made ISO 14001 a global benchmark.

What sets ISO 14001 apart is not just its global reach, but its ability to turn ambition into action. Organizations today are under pressure to move beyond statements and targets, and demonstrate consistent, measurable progress. ISO 14001 supports this momentum by helping them address a wide range of environmental challenges – from resource use and waste to pollution and biodiversity – while embedding these efforts into operations and value chains.

This impact is not theoretical. It is increasingly measurable.

Preliminary research led by the Standards Council of Canada (SCC) points to a clear link between the adoption of ISO 14001 and reductions in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. Analysing data from 83 countries between 1999 and 2022, the two-year study found that a 1 % increase in ISO 14001 certifications is associated with a 0.14 % decrease in GHG emissions per unit of GDP.

For Chantal Guay, CEO of SCC, which holds the secretariat of ISO/TC 207 for environmental management, the findings confirm a wider trend:

"We know that standards help reduce costs, improve efficiency, and support stronger economies. We've been measuring these impacts at the organizational level. But increasingly, through targeted research, we're able to demonstrate their broader, system-wide benefits. This study

is a strong example of that. In simple terms, increasing the use of ISO 14001 is associated with lower emissions, even as the economy continues to grow.

“Another important finding is that countries with more mature standardization systems – where industry, government and regulators work closely together – see even greater benefits. These are significant findings that reinforce what we’ve long believed: standardization delivers real value across economic, environmental and societal fronts.”

The study reinforces the credibility and value of the ISO 14000 family, and underlines the relevance of the new edition launched today.

“We are encouraged by the findings of this new research and excited to launch the new edition of ISO 14001: a trusted standard, renewed for today – helping organizations everywhere continue to turn environmental commitment into performance, resilience and lasting value,” Sergio Mujica said.

ISO 14001:2026 reflects a moment of acceleration, where environmental responsibility is moving from principle to practice, from narrative to measurable outcome. The landscape has changed: expectations are higher, scrutiny is sharper, and environmental performance is now judged on what organizations achieve, not what they promise.

The new edition responds with clarity and direction, helping organizations focus their efforts, embed environmental management into decision-making and drive results with consistency and credibility. The framework is in place. The next step is action – discover ISO 14001:2026.

New ISO standards bring clarity to chain of custody



Sustainability claims are everywhere. From recycled plastics and responsibly sourced fibres to renewable fuels and low-carbon materials, companies increasingly promise products with specific environmental or social characteristics.

But in complex global supply chains, proving those claims is not always straightforward. Materials move through multiple processing steps, are mixed, transformed and traded across borders. Without robust systems to track and verify what happens along the way, the credibility of sustainability claims can quickly come into question.

That is where chain-of-custody (CoC) systems play a critical role.

Chain of custody provides the mechanisms that allow organizations to trace, account for and communicate the characteristics of materials as they move through supply chains. Yet these systems have often been applied differently across industries, sometimes without a common reference point.

To address this challenge, ISO has published two International Standards – ISO 22095 2 and ISO 22095 3 – strengthening the global framework for CoC systems. They introduce internationally harmonized requirements for two widely used CoC models: mass balance and book and claim. Designed to work across sectors, the new parts serve as umbrella references that support certification bodies and policymakers while facilitating cross border trade.

Developed by technical committee ISO/TC 308, Chain of custody, the standards build on ISO 22095:2020, which established the common terminology and models used across industries. While that first standard laid the conceptual foundations, the new parts move one step further: they provide practical operational requirements for two of the most widely used CoC models.

ISO 22095 2 focuses on the mass balance model, widely used in sectors such as chemicals, plastics, agriculture and textiles. In mass balance systems, materials with and without specified characteristics – such as recycled or renewable content – can be mixed with conventional materials during processing.

What matters is not physical segregation, but accurate accounting of the quantities entering and leaving the system. The standard defines clear requirements for how these models should operate, including system boundaries, attribution rules, conversion factors and communication principles.

ISO 22095 3, meanwhile, addresses another widely used model: book and claim. Here, sustainability characteristics are transferred through administrative instruments rather than physical material flows. These instruments – known as Transferable Instruments with Entitlement to Claim (TIECs) – allow organizations to support sustainable production even when physical traceability is impractical.

The new standard establishes a globally aligned methodology for how these instruments are created, transferred and retired, helping prevent double counting and strengthening transparency. It also provides a trusted foundation for mechanisms such as Environmental Attribute Certificates (EACs) used in energy and environmental markets.

“With the publication of these two new parts, the chain of custody toolbox is further completed, giving the user communities two essential new instruments,” says Jack Steijn, Chair of ISO/TC 308. “They reduce the risk of misinterpretation and double counting, strengthen the

integrity of sustainability claims and establish core principles that will guide future standardization efforts across industries.”

Good data, better decisions: ISO showcases new environmental standards dashboard at UNEA-7

Nairobi, Kenya, 8 December 2025 – As the 7th United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-7) convenes in Nairobi this week, ISO, in collaboration with Standards Australia, is showcasing a new interactive dashboard designed to help policymakers, technical experts and the public navigate the world of environmental data standards.

Launched earlier this year, the dashboard maps over 1,100 International Standards from 48 ISO technical committees, covering essential areas such as ecosystem monitoring, pollution tracking, environmental performance, product sustainability, and the responsible use of artificial intelligence.

The tool is being spotlighted in Nairobi as governments and stakeholders from around the world gather to address the triple planetary crisis of climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution. UNEA-7 has placed particular focus on the role of environmental data and AI in building a more sustainable future – themes the dashboard directly supports.

Noelia Garcia Nebra, ISO Head of Sustainability and Partnerships, said the global conversation on environmental governance was shifting, and that good decisions depend on good data.

“By making ISO’s extensive portfolio of environmental data standards accessible and easy to navigate, this dashboard gives governments, institutions, and communities a practical tool to drive more transparent, informed, and impactful decision-making,” said Ms Garcia Nebra.

“Environmental data is no longer a technical issue – it’s a strategic enabler of effective climate and nature policy. Standards are essential to ensuring that the data we rely on is consistent, comparable, and trustworthy across borders.

“Showcasing the dashboard at UNEA-7 underscores Kenya’s role as a hub for global environmental policy and multilateral cooperation. It also serves as a broader call to action: to make use of the tools that already exist, avoid duplication, and accelerate progress through collaboration and shared standards.”

Esther Ngari, Managing Director of the Kenya Bureau of Standards (KEBS), welcomed the platform’s relevance for Kenya and the wider region.

“This dashboard is a valuable tool for turning global environmental commitments into action on the ground,” Ms Ngari said.

“For Kenya and many other countries, access to clear, consistent, and interoperable data is essential to deliver results. Standards provide the backbone for this, and KEBS is committed to promoting their use to support national development and environmental goals.”

The dashboard offers a searchable, user-friendly interface that allows users to explore standards by theme, data type, or sustainability priority – from green finance to AI governance. This helps researchers, regulators, standards bodies, and other stakeholders identify practical tools to support national and international environmental goals.

Adam Stingemore, Chief Development Officer at Standards Australia, said with interest in environmental data surging globally, this platform arrives at exactly the right time.

“We’re proud to have worked with ISO to deliver a resource that not only identifies the standards we already have but also shows how they can be applied to meet today’s biggest environmental challenges – including those being debated right now at UNEA-7,” Mr Stingemore said.

“Whether you’re a policymaker working on data governance, a technical expert tackling interoperability, or an environmental advocate demanding better information, this tool helps you see where standards fit, and how they can be used. It’s practical, accessible, and grounded in international consensus.”

ISO encourages stakeholders globally, including across Kenya and East Africa to engage with the tool and consider how global standards can support national quality infrastructure, environmental planning, and data-driven policy implementation.

How ISO 22372 strengthens infrastructure resilience

Extreme events are defining our era. Floods, storms, wildfires, heatwaves and droughts are striking harder and more often, disrupting lives and economies worldwide. From stalled development to soaring costs and growing vulnerability, their impact has become impossible to ignore.

As the backbone of modern society, infrastructure must not only endure these shocks but adapt and evolve to meet them. That’s where ISO 22372:2025 comes in, a new International Standard designed to help organizations strengthen the resilience of essential services through a systems-based, collaborative approach.

“Countries need to switch from being reactive to disasters and using limited strategies for security, protection and safety for infrastructure resilience,” says Prof. Liz Varga CBE, Project Leader for the standard’s development. “A proactive approach that strengthens collaboration, develops foresight through information exchange, and builds adaptive capabilities to prevent, detect, minimize and recover from inevitable residual disruptions, is urgently needed.”

According to the UNDRR 2024 Annual Report, disasters are draining the global economy with estimated losses of more than USD 300 billion every year, not to mention the even larger indirect costs. Meanwhile, the World Economic Forum’s Global Risks Report 2025 ranks extreme weather, ecosystem collapse and infrastructure failure among the most serious long-term threats to our future.

Developed by technical committee ISO/TC 292, Security and resilience, with the contribution of the United Nations Office

for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR), ISO 22372 provides practical guidance for planning, maintaining and improving infrastructure resilience across sectors and borders.

The standard is built on the UNDRR Principles for Resilient Infrastructure, ensuring alignment with broader global initiatives such as the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goal 9.

"ISO 22372 provides a global framework that supports the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030," says Abhilash Panda, UNDRR Deputy Chief, Intergovernmental processes, Interagency cooperation and Partnerships Branch, "ensuring resilience is embedded in every infrastructure decision, from national policies and investment pipelines to the design, construction and operation of critical systems."

The new standard marks a shift from reactive responses to proactive strategies, emphasizing foresight, collaboration and adaptability. It provides tools to assess vulnerabilities, understand infrastructure interdependencies, and make risk informed investments that reduce long term costs and disruption.

With this globally recognized framework, decision-makers can shape policies and strategies that make infrastructure not only stronger, but also smarter, safer and more resilient.

ISO and ARSO sign landmark Kigali Agreement to boost technical cooperation and advance free trade in Africa

Kigali, Rwanda, 9 October 2025 – The International Organization for Standardization (ISO) and the African Organisation for Standardisation (ARSO) have today signed the historic Kigali Agreement, establishing a framework to strengthen technical cooperation and accelerate the adoption and impact of international standards across Africa.

The agreement comes at a pivotal moment for the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), the largest free trade area in the world covering 54 African Union member states, and a flagship initiative of the African Union's Agenda 2063. Technical standards are essential to AfCFTA's success, enabling regulatory harmonization, assuring product and service quality, and facilitating cross-border trade.

Under the Kigali Agreement, ISO and ARSO will coordinate standards development, encourage work programme alignment, and promote the alignment of national and regional standards to strengthen harmonization and reduce technical barriers to trade across the continent.

ISO Secretary-General Sergio Mujica said the landmark Kigali Agreement represented a bold step in strengthening the role of international standards as enablers of development, trade and integration across Africa.

"The Kigali Agreement is a milestone in our long-standing partnership with ARSO and a major opportunity to deepen ISO's impact across Africa," Mr Mujica said.

"This Agreement is not only about technical cooperation, but building a more inclusive, connected and sustainable future for the region. Through shared standards, we can strengthen industrial development, support regulatory convergence, and empower national standards bodies to shape solutions that reflect local needs and global expectations.

"ISO is proud to support Africa's journey toward greater economic integration under AfCFTA."

Inspired by the Vienna Agreement – the cooperation agreement between ISO and the European Committee for Standardization (CEN) – the Kigali Agreement is tailored to Africa's diverse regulatory and infrastructure realities, while aligning with the priorities of AfCFTA and the African Union's broader development goals.

The five-year agreement coincides with the next cycle of ISO's Action Plan for Developing Countries, ensuring that the organizations' collaboration will be firmly anchored within ISO's broader strategy to improve inclusivity, capacity building, and access to standards for developing nations.

ARSO Secretary-General Dr Hermogene Nsengimana said the announcement marked a transformative step in building a stronger, more coordinated standardization system for Africa.

"AfCFTA's vision of a seamless and unified continental market depends on the harmonization of standards," Mr Nsengimana said.

"This Agreement gives ARSO and its members the tools and framework to accelerate that process – by reducing duplication, aligning national and regional priorities, and promoting the adoption of globally recognized benchmarks in the context of 'One Standard-One Market'."

"Ultimately, this will help unlock trade, drive industrial development, and ensure that African products and services can compete fairly and successfully on global markets.

"We look forward to implementing this agreement with ISO and working together to build a future where standardization supports Africa's ambitions for growth, resilience, and inclusive development."

The announcement was made during ISO's Annual Meeting 2025, hosted in Kigali, Rwanda by Rwanda Standards Board. The event, which has gathered thousands in person and online, has taken place throughout the week from 6-10 October, and focused on advancing action on International Standards and their role in achieving the global sustainable development agenda.

ISO AM25 is open to all with an interest in standards, providing a unique opportunity for global leaders, national standards bodies, civil society, international organizations, the private sector, policymakers, academics and young professionals to engage in forward-looking dialogue. The 2026 edition will take place in Paris, France – to be hosted by the Association Française de Normalisation (AFNOR).

ISO unveils landmark global standard for child-friendly services for victims of violence

With over a billion people worldwide affected by childhood violence, a new ISO initiative seeks to transform the way child victims receive care, justice and protection. Launched at the 58th Human Rights Council, these groundbreaking international requirements set a new global benchmark for child-friendly services.

In a historic move to combat the global crisis of violence against children, ISO has unveiled the world's first international requirements for child-friendly multidisciplinary and interagency response services. Announced jointly with the Permanent Mission of Iceland at the 58th United Nations Human Rights Council on 12 March 2025, this initiative aims to transform the way child victims receive care, protection and justice.

The statistics are staggering. UNICEF estimates that over one billion people experienced violence during childhood. Every four minutes, a child dies due to violence somewhere in the world. Meanwhile, 650 million girls and women – one in five – live with the trauma of sexual abuse. The consequences of such violence are devastating and lifelong, affecting brain development, mental and physical health, and a child's ability to learn.

To tackle this urgent issue, ISO has developed the first-ever global guidelines for child-friendly services designed to support victims of violence. This groundbreaking document promotes a holistic, child-centred approach, creating a coordinated, trauma-informed response that spares young survivors from further harm.

At the heart of this initiative is a commitment to upholding children's fundamental rights, said ISO Secretary-General Sergio Mujica, emphasizing that every child should receive the protection and support they deserve.

"With these new international requirements, ISO is establishing a global approach that ensures child victims receive the compassionate, coordinated support they need, without being retraumatized by the very systems meant to help them," Mr Mujica said.

"The requirements establish a consistent global baseline for multidisciplinary and interagency services, ensuring that child protection efforts meet a high standard worldwide, while allowing for adaptability to different legal, cultural and social environments.

"These recommendations enable governments and frontline services, from social workers to law enforcement, healthcare professionals and legal entities, to collaborate efficiently, ensuring a global, standardized response to child victims of violence and abuse.

"We are proud to launch the requirements today at the 58th United Nations Human Rights Council. Importantly, the guidelines have been developed with the input of child abuse survivors, children and key global partners, making them a truly inclusive approach for addressing violence against children."

The development of these guidelines was proposed by the Ministry of Education and Children of Iceland, a member of the Human Rights Council, and led by Icelandic Standards (IST) and the Swedish Institute for Standards (SIS). The process involved more than a hundred contributors, including the Icelandic Government, UNICEF, the Council of Europe, Europol, Eurojust, the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, and the UN Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence Against Children.

Erna Kristín Blöndal, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Education and Children in Iceland, said Iceland spearheaded the initiative to establish global standards for child-friendly services for victims of violence.

"These recommendations are rooted in the Icelandic Barnahús model (Children's House), which provides a child-friendly, multidisciplinary and interagency approach to support children who are victims or witnesses of violence," Ms Blöndal said.

"While this model has been widely adopted and endorsed by prominent international organizations, inconsistencies in its implementation across countries have emerged in recent years.

"The launch of today's guidelines seeks to address these disparities by developing internationally recognized guidelines to harmonize the implementation of the Barnahús model, with the potential to incorporate conformity assessment processes in the future.

"Our hope is that this development will address challenges posed by fragmented services and emphasize the importance of integrated, holistic approaches to safeguarding children from further harm."

UNICEF Regional Director for Europe and Central Asia, Regina De Dominicis, said, "Violence against children is pervasive, and the consequences are lifelong. Yet, the services and support children affected by violence receive are often substandard, compounding children's trauma.

"This universal framework for child-friendly services has the power to change this through standardization of child protection models like Barnahús, ensuring that every child receives the same level of quality care and protection."

The development of the recommendations was a truly inclusive process, shaped by the voices of children and survivors themselves. Through workshops led by Samfés in Iceland, their insights were directly incorporated, ensuring the final requirements and recommendations are grounded in real experiences and needs.

This initiative also reinforces global commitments to child protection, aligning with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) – notably Target 16.2, which seeks to end abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against children, and Target 16.3, which promotes equal access to justice for all.

(All news from <https://www.iso.org>)

Projects initiated

During the year 2025, the following New Work Items (NWI) were initiated across various Technical Committees. These projects cover a wide range of sectors including water quality, construction materials, electrical engineering, environment, food safety, textiles, petroleum, agriculture, and industrial products.

In the area of water quality (CDC 6), the programme includes CDC 6 (3419) NWI Water quality – Vocabulary; CDC 6 (3477) NWI Water quality – Determination of trace elements using atomic absorption spectrometry with graphite furnace; CDC 6 (3476) NWI Water quality – Determination of selenium Part 2 using hydride generation atomic absorption spectrometry (HG-AAS); CDC 6 (3475) NWI Water quality – Determination of selenium Part 1 using hydride generation atomic fluorescence spectrometry (HG-AFS); CDC 6 (3474) NWI Water quality – Determination of ammonium nitrogen in water using small scale sealed tube method; CDC 6 (3473) NWI Water quality – Determination of selected parameters by discrete analysis system Part 2 covering chromium (VI), fluoride, alkalinity, hardness, calcium, magnesium, iron, manganese and aluminium; and CDC 6 (3472) NWI Water quality – Determination of selected parameters by discrete analysis system Part 1 covering ammonium, nitrate, nitrite, chloride, phosphate, sulfate and silicate.

Under paint, coatings and chemical products (CDC 13), the list includes CDC 13 (3464) NWI 2-pack acrylic resin-based auto-refinishing paint specification; CDC 13 (3463) auto-refinishing paint Part 1 synthetic resin-based specification; CDC 13 (3461) water-thinned priming paint for wood specification; CDC 13 (3459) floor polish Part 2 water emulsion buffable type; CDC 13 (3458) floor polish Part 1 solvent type (liquid and paste); CDC 13 (3481) insecticidal aerosol specification; and several related industrial paint standards including gloss, grind fineness, drying tests, lead determination, and sampling procedures such as CDC 13 (3765), (3767), (3768), (3772), (3773), (3775), and (3777), as well as interior emulsion paints CDC 13 (3695) and (3696).

In the electrical and electronic engineering sector (EDC 6, EDC 2, EDC 1, EDC 7), standards include varistors IEC 61051-1, fibre optic calibration IEC 61315, fibre sensors IEC 61757, ICT safety IEC 62368-3, projection measurement IEC 61947-1, fibre optic test methods IEC 61300-1, lithium batteries IEC 61960-4, electric vehicle safety ISO 6469 series parts 1, 3 and 4, electrical installations IEC 60364 series, renewable energy systems IEC TS 62257-9-8, household appliances safety series including water heaters, fans, pumps, irons, microwave ovens, air fryers, cooking appliances, and performance measurement standards for electrical tools and appliances.

The electrical energy and transport systems also include USB interface standards IEC 60364, USB Type-C specification, and ICT equipment safety IEC 3781.

In the building, construction and infrastructure sector (BCDC), the programme includes ISO-based standards on fibre-cement sheets, BIM frameworks, glass security testing,



A TBS officer educates a visitor at the Bureau's pavilion during the exhibition organized by the Tanzania Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture (TCCIA) in Tanga.

ceramic tile performance, structural glazing, wood-based panels, parquet classification, mechanical properties of wood, and concrete testing series covering shrinkage, creep, modulus of elasticity, chloride resistance, carbonation resistance, and self-compacting concrete properties. Additional standards include waterproofing membranes, structural design guidelines, and ceramic tile classification, testing, adhesives, grouts, and flooring materials.

In the environmental and water management sector (EMDC), standards include water quality biological testing (*Clostridium perfringens*, *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, *Salmonella* spp., *Campylobacter* spp.), AOX determination, radium measurement, biodegradability tests, wastewater management guidelines, industrial effluent sampling, toxicity bioassays, and effluent tolerance limits for industries including textile, tanning, sugar, pulp and paper, oil and gas, and fertilizer industries. Environmental management systems also include material flow cost accounting, climate change adaptation guidelines, and noise measurement standards.

The food and agriculture sector (AFDC) includes fermented beverages, spices, mayonnaise, pepper, dehydrated products, fish and seafood products, traceability systems, vitamin analysis methods, cocoa processing codes of practice, oils and fats specifications, food hygiene standards, nutritional labelling, dairy products testing, yoghurt microbiology, cheese and butter sampling, nuts and seeds standards, cereal and bakery products, biotechnology and GMO detection methods, and food safety management systems including GMP and retail hygiene guidelines.

In the textile sector (TDC), standards include burning behaviour of textiles, ignition resistance of bedding items, textile fibre testing, yarn strength, absorbency, floor coverings, carpet tiles, artificial grass, school and laptop bags, HDPE/PP woven fabrics, flexible intermediate bulk containers, and used textile product inspection guidelines.

The mechanical and domestic products sector (MEDC) includes furniture standards for chairs, tables, beds, storage units, testing of durability and stability, agricultural implements, LPG systems, gas cylinders, brake fluids, cookstoves, agricultural tractors, coupling systems, and safety requirements for household cooking equipment and cleaning solutions.

In the mineral, mining and energy sector (MMDC), standards cover coal and coke sampling, calorific value determination, ash and moisture content testing, chromium ore analysis, mercury determination, float and sink characteristics, Hardgrove grindability, and fuel quality testing.

In the consumer goods, cosmetics and chemicals sector (CDC 2, CDC 3, CDC 11, CDC 14, CDC 15, CDC 17, etc.), standards include soaps, detergents, liquid soaps, carbolic soaps, toothbrushes, skincare products, hair dyes, PVC food contact materials, rubber testing, lubricants classification, fuel specifications (Jet A-1, diesel, gasoline, LPG, kerosene), oil analysis, and paint and varnish performance and safety testing.

Finally, in the tourism, leisure and service sector (GDC 8), standards include recreational diving training, tourism information services, online booking platforms, restaurant vocabulary, cycling tourism, and scientific diving training requirements.

Overall, the 2025 Standards Programme reflects a comprehensive national standardisation agenda covering more than 500 new, revised, and draft standards across industrial, environmental, agricultural, health, construction, energy, and service sectors, aimed at strengthening quality infrastructure and regulatory compliance.

Finalized standards

During the year 2025, a total of Finalized Tanzania Standards (FTZS) were developed across a wide range of technical sectors, reflecting sustained efforts to strengthen the national quality infrastructure system and respond to market demand, stakeholder requirements, and regional harmonization obligations. The standards were developed through multiple processes including adoption of East African Standards (EAS) and ISO standards, revision of existing standards, systematic review, and development of new national standards. Both compulsory and voluntary standards were covered, depending on regulatory significance and application in the market.

Across general techniques, standards focused on packaging materials, paper products, corrugated fibreboard testing methods, freight containers, sacks, and related testing systems. These were largely driven by the need to improve packaging performance, testing accuracy, and material specifications, with strong alignment to ISO-based practices.

In chemicals and chemical products, standards were adopted mainly from EAS and covered products such as paints, cosmetics, insecticides, mattresses, printing inks, floor polish, petroleum products, water treatment chemicals, fuels, personal care products, and hygiene-related materials. The focus was on ensuring product safety, quality assurance, and regulatory compliance across consumer and industrial goods, supported by laboratory testing and conformity assessment requirements.

Mechanical engineering standards addressed tools, industrial equipment, automotive systems, fire safety systems, LPG handling, emergency response equipment, and agricultural machinery. These standards emphasized safety, reliability, technical performance, and operational efficiency, with significant alignment to ISO and regional frameworks.

Mining and minerals standards covered coal sampling, coke analysis, rare earth elements, and mineral testing methods, strengthening accuracy in resource evaluation, industrial application, and trade facilitation.

The textiles and leather sector recorded extensive standards covering protective clothing, medical textiles, hygiene products, footwear, and leather goods. These included specifications for surgical gowns, rubber gloves, sanitary products, and performance testing such as resistance to fluids, microbial penetration, and flammability, reflecting strong emphasis on health, safety, and product performance.

Environmental standards focused on acoustics, noise control, radiation protection, indoor air quality, water quality testing, and environmental monitoring systems, supporting improved environmental management and occupational health and safety.

Food and agriculture accounted for the largest share of finalized standards. These covered fresh fruits and vegetables, cereals, cocoa, honey, edible oils, starch products, processed foods, fish and fish products, tobacco products, fertilizers, seeds, feed products, and biotechnology applications. Food safety systems, traceability, antimicrobial resistance control, and quality assurance measures featured prominently. These standards were largely compulsory and aimed at safeguarding public health, enhancing food security,



TBS Marketing Officer Ms. Maryam Abdulaziz provides education to entrepreneurs during the 11th National Trade Exhibition held in Dimani, Zanzibar.

and improving agricultural productivity.

Electrotechnical and ICT-related standards addressed information technology systems, cybersecurity, artificial intelligence governance, energy efficiency, household appliances, renewable energy systems, electric mobility, and hydrogen technologies, reflecting growing adoption of emerging technologies and digital transformation requirements.

Building and construction standards covered building information modelling, cement and concrete products, glass safety, ceramics, sealants, wood-based materials, and structural components, promoting safe, durable, and sustainable construction practices.

Across service-related standards, emphasis was placed on general techniques including facility management, asset management, organizational resilience, security systems, and emergency medical services. Standards for ground and water ambulance services and business development service delivery were introduced to improve service quality, safety, and professional systems.

Transport-related standards included road vehicle identification systems, particularly retro-reflective registration plates for motor vehicles and trailers, improving visibility, compliance, and road safety.

Overall, the finalized standards for 2025 demonstrate a consistent balance between adoption of international and regional standards, revision of existing national standards, and development of new ones. The process was strongly driven by market demand, stakeholder input, safety considerations, and the need for harmonization across the East African and global standardization systems.

In total, 615 Finalized Tanzania standards were finalized during the year, of which 95 were adopted from EAS and ARSO frameworks, reflecting continued regional and continental integration of Tanzania's standardization system.

Collectively, these standards reinforce a dynamic and responsive national quality infrastructure that supports industrial development, consumer protection, public safety, environmental sustainability, and trade facilitation.



Gazetted standards

During the calendar year 2025, a total of 240 Tanzania Standards were gazetted in Government Notice No. 641 published on 31/10/2025. The standards cover multiple sectors and are all designated as compulsory, reflecting their importance in ensuring safety, quality, and regulatory compliance in the national economy.

Building and Construction

The building and construction sector recorded the gazettment of several compulsory standards covering key construction materials and components. These include specifications for bituminous mixtures used in road construction, refractory bricks for rotary kilns, concrete blocks for masonry works, and fibre-cement corrugated sheets for roofing and cladding. Additional standards address wooden door shutters, including solid core, cellular, hollow core types, and general wooden door specifications as well as test methods for wood-based products. These standards collectively aim to improve durability, safety, performance, and consistency in construction materials and building components used in the country.

Electrical

The electrical sector saw extensive gazettment of compulsory standards covering a wide range of technologies including alarm and security systems, biometric information protection, video surveillance systems, and road vehicle alarm systems. Standards also cover information technology infrastructure such as generic cabling systems, image scanners, audio archive systems, and communication cables.

Further standards address renewable energy systems, including wind energy generation systems (both offshore fixed and floating designs), photovoltaic systems, and electric vehicle charging infrastructure. Household and commercial electrical appliances are also covered, including safety requirements for ovens, vacuum cleaners, insect killers, refrigeration equipment, and dispensing machines.

Additional standards regulate surge protection devices, switchgear systems (low and high voltage), batteries, capacitors, and electrical tools used in live working conditions. These standards reinforce electrical safety, technological advancement, and alignment with international IEC requirements.

Food and agriculture

The food and agriculture sector accounts for the largest volume of gazetted standards, covering a broad range of food products, agricultural inputs, animal feeds, and food processing requirements. Standards cover processed foods such as bakery products, confectionery, frozen foods, fruits, vegetables, cereals, and traditional and modern food products.

A significant number of standards address edible oils, milk and dairy products, meat products, fish and fish products, beverages, and alcoholic products. Food safety and labelling requirements, including nutrition labelling and health claims, are also included to enhance consumer protection and transparency.

Agricultural standards include certification requirements for seeds of major crops, fertilizers, soil conditioners, and animal feed formulations. Biotechnology and biobanking standards for plant and animal materials have also been introduced, reflecting advancements in agricultural science and research.

Additional standards cover food additives, contaminants, packaging materials in contact with food, and processed agricultural products such as flour, starch, cassava products, soy-based products, and feed premixes. These standards aim to ensure food safety, improve agricultural productivity, and strengthen value chains from production to consumption.

Chemical

The chemical sector includes compulsory standards covering a wide range of products including medical protective equipment, cosmetics, personal care products, detergents, petroleum products, lubricants, laboratory glassware, and industrial chemicals. Medical-related standards cover face coverings, respirators, surgical gowns, protective apparel, and face shields, ensuring safety in healthcare environments.

Cosmetic standards regulate formulations and safety requirements for hair care products, skincare products, cosmetics additives, and labelling requirements. Industrial chemical standards cover fuels, lubricants, hydraulic oils, and engine coolants.

Laboratory equipment standards ensure accuracy and safety in scientific testing through specifications for glassware and related apparatus. Additional standards cover cleaning products, packaging plastics, assistive devices for visually impaired persons, and household chemical products. These standards collectively enhance product safety, environmental protection, and quality assurance across chemical-based industries.

Mechanical

The mechanical engineering sector includes standards for industrial equipment, mining tools, drilling systems, chains, welding consumables, gas cylinders, cranes, and machinery safety systems. Mining-related standards address drilling equipment, core drilling systems, and rock drilling tools, supporting mineral exploration and extraction activities.

Energy and transport-related mechanical standards include biogas systems, railway safety management systems, electric and hybrid vehicle safety requirements, and automotive components. Standards also cover high-strength steel products, galvanized wires, and welding classifications.

Safety-related mechanical standards include machinery guarding requirements, crane safety, gas cylinder testing and marking, and industrial load handling equipment. These standards aim to improve operational safety, efficiency, and reliability in industrial and transport systems.

Textile

The textile sector standards focus on medical textiles, protective clothing, and leather products. Medical textile standards include absorbent cotton, gauze, bandages, compression stockings, surgical dressings, and nonwoven medical materials, with emphasis on performance, safety, and testing methods.

Protective clothing standards cover industrial safety nets and specialized garments for high-risk environments such as automobile racing, focusing on heat and flame resistance.

Leather standards address applications such as safety footwear, industrial lining, and specialized leather products including sports equipment materials. These standards ensure protection, hygiene, and durability across textile and leather products used in both medical and industrial contexts.

General standards

General standards include provisions for cross-border trade of second-hand goods and rural and urban addressing systems. These standards support trade facilitation, administrative organization, and national planning systems.

Packaging

Packaging standards cover materials and systems used in transport and storage. These include steel strapping for packaging applications and recycled plastic materials used in transport packaging for dangerous goods. These standards support safe handling, environmental sustainability, and international trade compliance.

Misuse of TBS quality mark is a **CRIMINAL OFFENCE**

PUNISHABLE UNDER THE STANDARDS ACT NO. 2 OF 2009



CONSUMER PROTECTION FIRST

The misuse of the mark may result in penalties, including fines and other legal actions. The TBS Quality Mark is intended to protect consumers by ensuring that products meet the required quality and safety standards.

For more information or to report concerns, contact the appropriate consumer protection organization or regulatory authority.



GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL
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In the calendar year 2025, a wide range of trainings on standardization and quality assurance were conducted, targeting Micro and Small Enterprises (MSEs), laboratory personnel, government and private sector stakeholders, as well as academic and institutional participants. These trainings were designed to enhance compliance with national and international standards, improve product quality and safety, and strengthen institutional and technical capacities across various sectors.

During the first quarter of the year, several trainings focused on food safety, hygiene, and certification procedures. For example, trainings on standards, Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP), and Good Hygiene Practices (GHP), alongside business and product registration procedures, were delivered to MSEs involved in fish processing and catering services in Kigoma, Mpanda, and Sumbawanga, reaching over 150 participants. In parallel, specialized technical trainings on ISO/IEC 17025:2017 for testing and calibration laboratories were conducted in Mbeya, Mwanza, and Mtwara, while HACCP (TZS 1770:2016) training was offered to participants from the hospitality sector in Dar es Salaam. Additional sessions on quality control, inspection standards (ISO/IEC 17020:2012), and internal auditing (ISO 9001 and ISO 15189) were also carried out, targeting both private and public sector participants.

Notably, a large-scale awareness training on standards and quality control was delivered to police staff in Dar es Salaam, reaching 955 participants, representing one of the highest attendance figures during the year. Other awareness sessions included drinking water standards and general standards education for stakeholders in Morogoro and Dar es Salaam.

In the second quarter, emphasis shifted toward sector-specific trainings for MSEs, particularly in leather processing, catering services, salt production, and grain handling. These trainings, conducted in regions such as Morogoro, Kibaha, Bagamoyo, and Mkuranga, covered GMP, GHP, food safety, and certification procedures. Technical capacity-building sessions also continued, including method validation and verification, laboratory risk management, conformity assessment decision rules, and internal auditing courses, delivered in Dar es Salaam, Mwanza, Dodoma, and Arusha. Additionally, a training on standards and quality inspection for grains benefited 200 staff from the Warehouse Receipt Management Board.

The third quarter saw an expansion of outreach activities, particularly in agro-processing and small-scale manufacturing. Numerous trainings on national standards for maize flour (including compliance with the Standards (Food Fortification) Regulations, 2024), cosmetics, blocks, packaging materials, and animal feeds were conducted across multiple regions such as Kibaha, Arusha, Moshi, Babati, and Dar es Salaam municipalities (Ubungo, Ilala, Kinondoni, and Tembeke). These sessions combined technical knowledge on processing technologies with regulatory requirements, business registration, and product certification procedures, reaching hundreds of MSEs.

In addition, awareness trainings targeting industrial sectors were conducted on roofing sheets, alcoholic beverages, and pipes manufacturing standards at the TBS Headquarters in Dar es Salaam. Further laboratory-focused trainings on ISO/IEC 17025:2017 and HACCP were also provided to both private and public sector participants, reinforcing competence in testing, calibration, and food safety systems.

In the final quarter of the year, training activities continued with a focus on quality management systems, environmental management (ISO 14001), laboratory documentation, and risk management. These were delivered in locations such as Morogoro, Kibaha, Dodoma, and Dar es Salaam. Additional awareness sessions on national standards for alcoholic beverages and steel bars were conducted in Mwanza, Bukoba, and Dar es Salaam.

Extensive outreach to MSEs persisted, particularly in maize processing, cosmetics production, animal feeds, and block making. Trainings were conducted in Songea, Simiyu, Musoma, Mwanza, Iringa, Singida, Dodoma, Ruvuma, and Mtwara, ensuring nationwide coverage. These sessions emphasized compliance with national standards, GMP, GHP, processing technologies, and certification procedures.

Overall, the 2025 training programme demonstrated a strong commitment to enhancing quality infrastructure in Tanzania by building capacity across key sectors. The trainings reached a diverse group of stakeholders and addressed critical areas such as food safety, laboratory competence, industrial standards, and regulatory compliance, thereby contributing significantly to improved product quality, consumer safety, and market competitiveness.



TBS Southern Zone Manager Mr. Abel Mwakasonda provides standards education to entrepreneurs during the 2025 Nanenane Southern Zone Exhibitions 2025 in Lindi Region.

During the reporting period, the Metrology Section made notable progress in strengthening its technical capacity through the procurement of key equipment. A total of five Standard Platinum Resistance Thermometers (SPRT/PRT) with readouts were acquired, alongside ten temperature-humidity data loggers. Additional equipment procured included one hydraulic pressure pump, one height gauge, one thickness gauge, six stopwatches, two tachometers, and eight moisture meters. These acquisitions are expected to enhance measurement accuracy, expand calibration capabilities, and support service delivery across various metrology laboratories.

Capacity building remained a priority during the year. Six staff members received hands-on training in the production of reference materials in chemical metrology, specifically focusing on the preparation of alcohol-in-water reference materials. Further technical training was conducted on the calibration of ECG machines and patient monitors, strengthening competence in medical equipment calibration. In addition, three staff members enrolled in Master's degree programmes, contributing to long-term institutional capacity development.

In terms of service delivery, a total of 10,692 equipment and items were calibrated across different laboratories. The Thermometry Laboratory handled the largest share with 4,675 calibrations, followed by the Mass and Volume Laboratory with 2,455, and the Electrical, Time and Frequency Laboratory with 1,251. Other contributions included 916 calibrations from the Mechanical Metrology Laboratory, 845 from the Length Laboratory, and 550 from the Chemical and Biology Metrology Laboratory. These figures reflect sustained demand for calibration services and the Section's capacity to meet national needs.

The Metrology Section continues to maintain accreditation by the Southern African Development Community Accreditation Service (SADCAS) in accordance with ISO/IEC 17025:2017. The scope of accreditation covers nine fields: temperature, humidity, time and frequency, length, mass, volume, pressure, torque, and force. Notably, force is the most recently accredited field, achieved in November 2026, further expanding the Section's technical scope and recognition.

Significant milestones were also achieved in Calibration and Measurement Capability (CMC) publication. Through the Tanzania Bureau of Standards National Metrology Institute (TBS NMI), a total of 18 CMCs have been published on the BIPM Key Comparison Database (KCDB). Of these, 17 are from the temperature field, utilizing alcohol and oil baths as well as block calibrators/furnaces as heat sources. These cover instruments such as liquid-in-glass thermometers (-30 to 200 °C), digital thermometers (PRT type: -30 to 350 °C; thermocouple type: -30 to 400 °C), platinum resistance thermometers (-30 to 350 °C), and both base metal and noble metal thermocouples (-30 to 450 °C). One CMC has been published in the volume field, covering micropipettes in the range of 5 µl to 10,000 µl.

The publication of these CMCs provides several key benefits, including demonstration of technical competence and an effective quality management system, assurance of metrological traceability to national and international standards, and reliable evaluation of measurement uncertainty. It also enhances international recognition of measurement capabilities, builds customer and stakeholder confidence, and promotes standardized reporting of calibration results.



TBS Lake Western Zone Manager Mr. Joseph speaks to a visitor at the Bureau's pavilion during the 8th National Mining Technology Exhibition in Geita Region.

The Human Resource Section is responsible for ensuring that human resource policies and procedures are properly implemented and aligned with the strategic focus of the Bureau. The Section also coordinates recruitment, placement, confirmation, career development, performance management, promotions, and staff transfers. In addition, it handles matters related to discipline, health, safety, and gender issues.

During the year 2025, the Human Resource activities covered include new recruitment, retirement, training (brief summary), termination, and bereavement.

Training

During the period from January to December 2025, various training programmes were coordinated. A total of eight (8) staff members were facilitated to attend long-term training within the country. In terms of short-term training, one hundred and three (103) staff attended group training programmes conducted within the country. Additionally, forty (40) staff members participated in individual short-term training programmes both within and outside the country.

Recruitment

During the period from January to December 2025, the Bureau undertook a comprehensive recruitment exercise that resulted in the engagement of a total of 103 new staff across various professional and operational cadres. This recruitment aimed at strengthening institutional capacity and enhancing service delivery across the Bureau.

Among the professional positions filled were two (2) Planning Officer II, one (1) Public Relations Officer II, and one (1) Graphics Designer II. In the area of information and communication technology, three (3) Assistant Information Communication Technology Officers II were recruited. Customer-focused roles were also strengthened with the addition of two (2) Assistant Customer Service Officers II, alongside two (2) Receptionists II to support front-office operations.

In the finance and administration function, one (1) Assistant Accounts Officer II and two (2) Accounts Officers II were employed, while records and information management was reinforced by three (3) Records Management Assistant II and one (1) Librarian II. Additionally, one (1) Estates Officer II and one (1) Driver II were recruited to support administrative and logistical functions.

Technical and core operational areas received the largest share of new staff. This included twenty-seven (27) Quality Assurance Officers II, twenty (20) Inspection Officers II, fifteen (15) Technicians II, and ten (10) Laboratory Assistants II, reflecting the Bureau's commitment to strengthening quality assurance and inspection services. Further support in specialized technical roles included four (4) Metrologists II, three (3) Engineers II, three (3) Artisans II, and one (1) Research Officer II.

Overall, the recruitment distribution demonstrates a strategic focus on enhancing technical capacity while maintaining adequate administrative and support services, thereby ensuring balanced organizational growth and improved operational efficiency.



Tanzania Bureau of Standards Quality Assurance Officer Mr. Issa Dadi (right) provides standards education to a product manufacturer during the 2025 Social Welfare Week Exhibitions 2025 in Dar es Salaam.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO EXPORTERS (TAE)

Technical Assistance to Exporters (TAE) is a specialized support function within the Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS) designed to help Tanzanian exporters comply with required standards and technical regulations in international markets. Its main purpose is to ensure that locally produced goods meet the quality, safety, and labeling requirements expected by importing countries.

Through TAE, exporters are guided on how to comply with relevant standards such as TZS, ISO, Codex Alimentarius, and other destination-market requirements. This includes providing technical advice on product quality, packaging, labeling, and general conformity to trade regulations.

The TAE function also involves assisting exporters with pre-export inspections and evaluations, helping them identify and correct non-conformities before goods are shipped. In addition, it supports businesses in understanding certification processes, including product certification and the use of quality marks.

Overall, TAE plays an important role in reducing the rejection of Tanzanian products in foreign markets. It strengthens export competitiveness by ensuring that products leaving the country are compliant, reliable, and acceptable in regional and global trade systems.

During the year 2025, TAE was provided as shown in Table 1

APPLICATION NUMBER	COMPANY	INVOICE NUMBER	PRODUCT	RECEIVER	COUNTRY	DATE
TBS-EXP-L-20 25-852	Artaha Food Industries Private Limited	PI No. 0001/4-25	Chewing Gum and Candy	Zabeen Holding Pty Ptd.	Botswana	2025-05-13 13:20:12
TBS-EXP-L-20 25-889	Bakhresa Food Products Limited	BFPL/PFI/09 /2025/011	Azam Ice Lollies	Bakhresa Grain Milling (Rwanda) Ltd	Rwanda	2025-10-09 09:45:09
TBS-EXP-L-20 25-855	Bakhresa Food Products Limited	BFPL/EXP/0 6/2025/1213	CARBONATED SOFT DRINK	SAID NASSER AL AISARI TRADING	Oman	2025-06-12 15:59:37
TBS-EXP-L-20 25-835	Bakhresa Food Products Limited	BFPL/PFI/01 /2025/240	African Fruit Juice	Bakhresa Grain Milling (Rwanda) Ltd	Rwanda	2025-02-26 10:06:22
TBS-EXP-L-20 25-831	Bakhresa Food Products Limited	BFPL/PFI/02 /2025/002-I CE	ICE CREAM	MARTIN MGUMILO KIHAMPA	Mozambique	2025-02-25 10:42:04
TBS-EXP-L-20 25-832	Bakhresa Food Products Limited	BFPL/PFI/02 /2025/002-I CE	ICE CREAM	Bakhresa Grain Milling (Rwanda) Ltd	Rwanda	2025-02-25 10:41:54
TBS-EXP-L-20 25-820	Bakhresa Food Products Limited	BFPL/PFI/11/ 2024/20 ICE	ICE CREAM	BAKHSON PRODUCTS LIMITED	Kenya	2025-01-14 14:05:21
TBS-EXP-L-20 25-819	Bakhresa Food Products Limited	BFPL/PFI/01 /2025/001	ICE CREAM	Bakhresa Grain Milling (Rwanda) Ltd	Rwanda	2025-01-14 11:40:41
TBS-EXP-L-20 25-849	MAARS WELD COMPANY LIMITED	MWCL-015- 2024-25	WELDING ROD	KHAMBATI IMPEX CO.LTD	Uganda	2025-04-24 21:08:22
TBS-EXP-P-2 025-995	MAINLAND FARMERS CENTRE COMPANY LIMITED	111	CHICKEN AND DOG FEEDERS	HAMED SEIF	Uganda	2025-03-19 12:53:10

APPLICATION NUMBER	COMPANY	INVOICE NUMBER	PRODUCT	RECEIVER	COUNTRY	DATE
TBS-EXP-L-20 25-911	Sayona Fruits Limited	SFL/EXP/20 25/00036	MANGO PULP	HARISS INTERNATIONAL LTD	Botswana	2025-12-17 11:31:33
TBS-EXP-L-20 25-906	Sayona Fruits Limited	SFL/EXP/20 25/00032	Pineapple Juice (PJC 60 B)	Doehler South Africa (Pty) Ltd	South Africa	2025-11-04 13:10:51
TBS-EXP-L-20 25-893	Sayona Fruits Limited	85001318	VIRINGE MANGO PULP	Coca-Cola Beverages Uganda Limited	Uganda	2025-10-24 11:57:05
TBS-EXP-L-20 25-892	Sayona Fruits Limited	SFL/EXP/20 25/00028	VIRINGE MANGO PULP	Hariss International Ltd	Uganda	2025-10-17 11:05:04
TBS-EXP-L-20 25-890	Sayona Fruits Limited	85001289	VIRINGE MANGO PULP	COCA-COLA BEVERAGES UGANDA LIMITED	Uganda	2025-10-09 15:26:37
TBS-EXP-L-20 25-891	Sayona Fruits Limited	85001290	VIRINGE MANGO PULP	COCA-COLA BEVERAGES UGANDA LIMITED	Uganda	2025-10-09 15:26:29
TBS-EXP-L-20 25-883	Sayona Fruits Limited	SFL/EXP/20 25/00026	Tomato Concentrate	Neelkanth Fresh Foods Ltd	Zambia	2025-09-25 15:41:04
TBS-EXP-L-20 25-872	Sayona Fruits Limited	85001229	VIRINGE MANGO PULP	COCA-COLA BEVERAGES UGANDA LIMITED	Uganda	2025-08-20 13:51:00
TBS-EXP-L-20 25-871	Sayona Fruits Limited	85001230	VIRINGE MANGO PULP	COCA-COLA BEVERAGES UGANDA LIMITED	Uganda	2025-08-20 13:48:32
TBS-EXP-L-20 25-871	Sayona Fruits Limited	85001230	VIRINGE MANGO PULP	COCA-COLA BEVERAGES UGANDA LIMITED	Uganda	2025-08-20 13:48:32
TBS-EXP-L-20 25-869	Sayona Fruits Limited	SFL/EXP/20 25/00020	VIRINGE MANGO PULP	RAWAT FOOD INDUSTRIES LTD	Uganda	2025-08-01 09:38:38



Miraji Kambangwa

Benefits of recycling codes on plastic products

Plastic is one of the most versatile and useful materials known to humans. Malleable, lightweight, and cheap to work with, plastic can be formed into almost any shape and is used across countless industries.

Plastic products are items that consist entirely or in part of plastic materials, which are either synthetic or semi-synthetic polymers, known for their adaptability, strength, and capacity to be formed into different shapes.

Plastic containers are storage or packaging products made from various plastic materials (polymers or resins). They are used to hold, protect, store, and transport a wide variety of goods, such as food, beverages, household products, chemicals, and personal care items.

The recycling codes (also called Resin Identification Codes, or RICs) are helpful information for identifying different types of plastics used in containers and packaging. These codes are usually printed inside the triangle of arrows on plastic products and containers. Each number represents a different plastic resin, which impacts recyclability, reuse, and environmental impact.



Plastic containers marked with recycling codes (Picture by Wikipedia)

The recycling codes for plastics are divided into seven categories. Generally, the higher the number, the more difficult it is for the material to be recycled. These codes help in

sorting plastics for recycling, since different resins have different properties and recycling processes. The codes range from 1 to 7, and the list below explains what each number refers to.



Polyethylene terephthalate (PET or PETE)

These are very common, easy to recycle types of plastic. It is commonly found in disposable food and drink containers, including water and soda bottles, and prepared and frozen food containers.

PET/PETE plastic is widely accepted in recycling programs because it is easy to recycle, highly demanded, safe and versatile, energy-efficient to process, and profitable for recycling businesses. It can be recycled into new containers, textiles (fleece jackets), carpets, and strapping.

It is important to note that PET/PETE is usually single-use. If reused, it can absorb flavours and bacteria.



High-density polyethylene (HDPE)

These are non-transparent plastics, also widely accepted in municipal recycling programs. It is commonly found in household cleaner bottles/detergent bottles, milk jugs, juice bottles, and shopping bags.

HDPE is easily recycled. It can be recycled into pipes, plastic lumber, new bottles, and crates.

It is worth noting that HDPE is strong and resistant to moisture, safe for food, and for long-term use.



Polyvinyl chloride (PVC)

PVC is more difficult to recycle than PET 1 and HDPE 2. This type of plastic can be found in children's toys, pipes, clear food packaging, shrink and wrap. It can be recycled into pipes, tiles, and flooring. It contains chlorine, a potential health hazard, if burned or degraded improperly.



Low-density polyethylene (LDPE)

A soft, flexible type of plastic that is commonly used to make thin plastic bags. This type of plastic can be plastic bags, bread bags, frozen food bags, and squeeze bottles. It can be recycled into trash can liners, floor tiles, and shipping envelopes.

LDPE is flexible and lightweight, often used for film and wrap packaging.



Polypropylene (PP)

PP plastic can be found in straws, soft-drink cups, and certain food containers. It is commonly used for yogurt containers, straws, bottle caps, and food tubs. It can be recycled into brooms, ice scrapers, trays, and car battery cases. Important note is that PP is heat-resistant, safe for microwave and dishwasher use.



Polystyrene (PS)

PS plastic is also known as Styrofoam. It is commonly found in takeout containers and disposable cups. It is generally not accepted within recycling programs.

It is important to note that PS is lightweight but breaks easily. It may pose an environmental concern due to microplastics.



Other (mixed or layered plastics)

This type commonly uses bisphenol A (BPA) — containing plastics, polycarbonate, bioplastics and sunglasses. Recyclability of these types of plastics varies depending on the material; some are recyclable, others are not.

It is important to note that this is the catch-all category. Some are bio-based plastics and others are compostable plastics.

Benefits of recycling codes on plastic products

The recycling codes can make life a lot easier for consumers, often seen as numbers inside the chasing arrows symbol on plastic products, but play a crucial role in the identification of their features.

Some of the key benefits of recycling codes on plastic products include helping consumers properly sort and recycle plastics. The codes also inform manufacturers and recycling facilities of the resin type, which determines processing methods. They also increase awareness to users on health and environmental impacts associated with different plastics.

Another key benefit of recycling codes on plastic products is that the codes can be used by consumers to make a distinction between plastics that would be safer to use than other plastics because some plastics with code (like number 7 "Other") may contain harmful chemicals like bisphenol A (BPA). Economically, coding creates jobs. The more recycling the more employment in sorting, processing, and reuse sectors.

Disadvantages of missing recycling codes on plastic products

Some plastic products degrade to chemicals with estrogenic activity. The primary building block of polycarbonate, bisphenol A (BPA), is an estrogen-like endocrine disruptor that may leach into food. Research in environmental health perspectives indicates that BPA leached from the lining of tin cans, dental sealants, and polycarbonate bottles can increase the body weight of laboratory animals' offspring.

It may lead to incorrect disposal of plastic waste. The most common negative impact of labeling errors or not labeling the identification codes is that plastics get disposed of in the wrong way. Recyclable plastics like PET and HDPE might be simply tossed into the trash, or hard-to-recycle plastics could get mixed in with others.

The wasted resources occur when plastics that are difficult to recycle (like those with the codes 4 - 7) are mixed in with others, a lot of time and effort have to be wasted in separating them all before they can be properly recycled.

Mixing incompatible plastics may also lead to contamination risk. The unknown materials can contaminate batches, making entire loads of recyclables unusable and that also can damage the recycling equipment. Moreover, some plastics melt at different temperatures or release harmful fumes during melting, hence without codes, this increases health risk the people.

To conclude, it is worth noting that resin identification codes make recycling more efficient, safe, and sustainable, and help everyone from consumers to manufacturers contribute to reducing plastic waste. In protecting the health of consumers of plastic products such as plastic containers, the manufacturers should display recycling codes on plastic products and packaging (containers). Also due to the possibility of emerging plastic particles (contaminants) such as microplastics or nanoplastics in bottled water and BPA, the Bureau has the duty to insure the plastics and plastic containers conform to their specific standards, manufactured from required resin, recycled in the manner as required, and educate/insists manufactures on the bottles obtained from recycled plastic are not used in food and drink containers.

At regional level, the East African Standard (EAS), Plastic — Codes for resin identification on plastic products, specifies codes for identifying the resin content of plastic containers used by the public and for facilitating sorting as prerequisites for successful plastic recovery and recycling. After gazettelement, Tanzania will enforce the standard at national level to ensure public safety and health.

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Building a net-zero metals future with harmonized standards

By Noelia García Nebra

Head of Sustainability and Partnerships, ISO

If there's one lesson I learned from last week's Villars Institute Ocean Forum, it's this: without harmonized standards, data cannot deliver impact, whether for oceans or industry. The path to a net-zero future depends on every industry doing its part, and few are more pivotal than the steel and aluminium sectors.

These industries are foundational to how we live, work and move. From the cities we build to the cars we drive, aluminium and steel are indispensable. But they have a cost, particularly when it comes to their carbon footprint. Their production, still heavily reliant on fossil fuels, accounts for a significant share of global industrial emissions.

At the recent WEF FMC (First Movers Coalition) metals roundtable, I had the privilege of joining some of the brightest minds in the metals industry to delve into the challenges we face in decarbonization. The discussion was candid and insightful, but it quickly became clear that the key to progress is not just in innovation, but in harmonized standards. Without a unified framework for carbon accounting, the road to near-zero metals becomes much harder to navigate.

With demand for aluminium in particular set to soar by 40 % by 2030, the urgency to act is undeniable. The question now is: how do we accelerate change? How do we create a consistent, transparent marketplace for near-zero metals that fosters trust, drives investment and scales innovation?

Barriers to decarbonization

One of the primary obstacles we discussed at the roundtable was the fragmentation of carbon accounting standards. Right now, there's no universal definition of "green", no unified system for measuring and verifying emissions reductions across different projects and industries. This lack of clarity creates a huge problem. How can we price near-zero metals or create a market for them if there's no consensus on what constitutes a "green" product?

Equally critical is the question of who bears the risk of decarbonization: the producers, investors or consumers? Without harmonized standards, this risk is absorbed inconsistently, and often opaquely, across the value chain, driving up the overall system costs.

The fragmentation isn't just theoretical – it's real and costly. Multiple certification schemes, conflicting requirements and overlapping frameworks complicate the entire process. The result? Increased costs, wasted time and stalled progress.

What we need is a single, harmonized standard for emissions accounting. Only then can we provide the transparency and trust necessary to unlock the potential of near-zero metals.

Decarbonization is a monumental challenge, but it's also a tremendous opportunity.

Why harmonization matters

In a fragmented market, it's hard for companies to know where to invest, what to measure and how to verify progress. But when standards are harmonized, everyone plays by the same rules.

By adopting a common framework for measurement, reporting and verification, we can ensure consistency across borders and sectors. This consistency builds trust – among buyers, investors and regulators – and opens the floodgates for investment in sustainable technologies. When we can trust the data, we can trust the market. That trust will drive scalability, and scalability is the key to decarbonization.

But it's not just about making life easier for companies. Harmonization also means less red tape, fewer audits and a clearer path for policymakers to embed consistent requirements into law. This lowers the cost of compliance and eliminates the confusion and delays that are all too common today.

Partnering for progress

ISO is actively working to address this fragmentation. In collaboration with the Greenhouse Gas Protocol (GHGP), we're harmonizing our existing GHG standards and co-developing new ones to provide a cohesive and universally accepted approach to emissions accounting. This will lay the groundwork for a globally interoperable market for near-zero metals.

Looking ahead, we have set ourselves an ambitious goal: By 2028, we aim to have built the standards infrastructure required to create functioning carbon markets, consistent regulation and harmonized emissions reporting. This portfolio of aligned standards will make it easier for companies to report, measure and verify their emissions. It will simplify the process for producers and create a level playing field for all.

As a signatory to the Steel Standards Principles initiative, ISO is also collaborating with key industry organizations to advance aligned, credible standards for near-zero steel. This

is just one example of how we are reinforcing our commitment to transparency, coherence and global access.

Decarbonization is a monumental challenge, but it's also a tremendous opportunity. By aligning on standards and

creating a transparent, trusted marketplace for near-zero metals, we can unlock the full potential of these critical industries. The path to net-zero might not be easy, but with the right tools, partnerships and commitment, it's a path we can all take – together. (<https://www.iso.org>)



TBS's role in advancing clean cooking technologies

By Mohamedi Kaila

Clean cooking technology refers to cooking methods and devices that significantly reduce or eliminate the harmful pollutants produced during cooking, especially compared to traditional methods like open fires or basic biomass stoves. These technologies are designed to improve health, reduce environmental impact, and promote energy efficiency.



The key features of clean cooking technology are low emissions, efficient fuel use, safe design and sustainable fuels. Clean cooking technologies release fewer harmful gases like carbon monoxide (CO), particulate matter, and black carbon; and use less fuel to produce the same amount of heat, saving money and resources. They also reduce the risk of burns, fires, and other accidents and often use clean energy sources like electricity, LPG, ethanol, or solar power.

Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS), which is the national standards body for Tanzania, plays a pivotal role in supporting and advancing clean cooking technology through standardization and conformity assessment that ensure safety, attainment of intended performance, and shape technological advancement.



One of the primary ways TBS contributes to clean cooking technology is by developing comprehensive standards for the design, performance, and testing of cooking devices. The standardization of technologies ensures that the products meet certain safety and efficiency benchmarks, which is essential for widespread adoption.

As of now, TBS has developed national standards that support the implementation of the National Clean Cooking Strategy. These standards aim to promote the adoption of clean and efficient cooking technologies across the country. By aligning with global best practices, this initiative positions Tanzania as a leading nation in advancing clean cooking solutions and contributes significantly to the achievement of global commitments, including the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly Goal 3 (Good Health and Well-being), Goal 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy), and Goal 13 (Climate Action)."

National standards for clean cooking technologies

Various Tanzania standards have been developed to ensure that clean cooking technologies are safe, efficient, environmentally friendly, and health-protective. The standards so far developed in the area include standards for gas cylinders, namely TZS 1228:2009/ISO 22991:2004, Gas cylinders — Transportable refillable welded steel cylinders for liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) — Design and construction; TZS 915: 2015 ISO 10691, Gas cylinders — Refillable welded steel cylinders for liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) — Procedures for checking before, during and after filling; and TZS 916: 2015 ISO 10464: 2004, Gas cylinders — Refillable welded steel cylinders for liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) — Periodic inspection and testing.

Other standards are for LPG burners, namely TZS 3128, Mountable burner for use with Liquefied EAS 940:2020 Petroleum Gas (LPG) – Specification; standards for LPG gas stove, i.e. TZS 3808, Domestic gas stoves for use with liquefied petroleum gases – Specification; and standards for grill and LPG gases, namely TZS 3129/ EAS 939:2020, Grill for domestic Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) cylinders – Specification and TZS 818: 2022, Liquefied petroleum gases (LPG) – Specification respectively.



Some of the products/facilities for which national standards exist

Conformity assessment on clean cooking technologies

In addition to developing standards, TBS promotes clean cooking technology by providing testing facilities that measure the performance, safety, and environmental impact of cooking devices. These testing protocols focus on several critical aspects, including emission levels, energy efficiency and thermal efficiency.

Under the aspect of emission levels, standards are set to measure emissions such as particulate matter (PM), carbon monoxide (CO), black carbon, and volatile organic compounds (VOCs). By establishing rigorous testing methods for emissions, they help ensure that cooking technologies, especially those that use biomass or other fuels, meet minimum air quality standards.

Under energy efficiency, standards are developed to test the efficiency of cooking technologies in terms of fuel consumption and cooking time. Efficient cooking devices that require less fuel and cook food faster not only reduce environmental impact but also decrease costs for users, especially in developing regions. On the other hand, thermal efficiency includes testing how effectively a stove or cooking technology uses heat. More efficient stoves convert more of the energy into useful heat, which improves cooking performance and reduces fuel use.

In a nutshell, TBS promotes clean cooking technologies through standardization and rigorous conformity assessment practices including inspection, testing and certification. By developing and enforcing standards, testing products for emissions, energy efficiency, and safety, and certifying clean cooking devices, TBS helps ensure that these technologies are safe, effective, and reliable.

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TBS officers engage rice producers during an awareness session in Tabora Region.

Batch Certification of Imports

During the calendar year 2025, imports and exports control activities recorded significant inspection volumes across different certification schemes. A total of 98,299 consignments were inspected under the Destination Inspection batch certification scheme, while 37,809 consignments were inspected under the Pre-Verification of Conformity (PVoC) Certificate of Conformity (CoC) batch certification. In addition, 55,815 imported used motor vehicles were inspected, reflecting continued efforts to ensure compliance with applicable standards and regulations for goods entering and leaving the country.



Tanzania Bureau of Standards Northern Zone Manager, Eng. Joseph Ismail, emphasizes a point during an awareness session at Arusha Technical College.



TBS Director General Dr. Ashura Katunzi (right) launches the 13th National Essay Writing Competition for the year 2025-2026, accompanied by organizing committee member Mr. Nickson Ndoi.

Product Certification

In 2025, the Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS) issued and/or renewed Standards Mark Licences and Tested Product Certificates for a wide range of products across various sectors of the economy. These included alcoholic beverages such as gin brands like Painted Dog (ERIMAT Industries Ltd), CRETOO Gin (RGO Beverages), and Kiroba (R.VL Company Limited), as well as vodka brands such as Akili Vodka (Minsk General Production Limited), Kijogoo (R.VL Company Limited), and Dhahabu Vodka (Manluli Company Limited). The Bureau also certified a variety of food and consumer products including bubble gum (Tikiti Maji by Jumbo Food Industries Limited), mozzarella cheese (Kondiki Milk Processing Plant Ltd), palm olein brands such as Viking, Sania, and Korie (Wilmar Palm Products Sdn Bhd), and laundry soaps including Mari Soap Grade II (MARI Business (T) Ltd) and Noneria Soap.

Additional certified products included spices such as pilau masala (Naence Spices Limited and JUMIPA Company Ltd), fortified edible fats and oils like Best Harvest Sunflower Oil and Kyela Cooking Palm Oil (Covenant Edible Oil Limited), bath preparations such as RONA Ultrafeesh (Rona Herbal and Beauty Products), and brandy products including African Choice (Makessy Beverages Company Limited). Certification also extended to staple foods such as composite flours (Afya Lishe products and others) and milled rice from various producers including Masunga Super Rice and Kenmill Rice, alongside a wide range of beverages such as fruit syrups, bottled drinking water, energy drinks, and other non-alcoholic drinks.

Beyond food and beverages, TBS certified numerous industrial and construction-related products including HDPE pipes, steel sheets, cement, tyres, lubricants, transformers, batteries, paint products, adhesives, and safety glass. Household and consumer goods such as mattresses, sanitary pads, soaps, hair products, cosmetics, and packaging materials were also covered. The certification scope further extended to agricultural products including cashew nuts, sunflower oil, tea, fish feed, honey, cassava flour, and spices. Overall, as shown in the table above, TBS certification in 2025 spanned a broad spectrum of sectors, underscoring the Bureau's role in ensuring quality, safety, and compliance across the economy.

In total, 490 certifications were issued during the year, comprising 262 under the Normal category and 228 under the SME category. It should be noted that this figure reflects the number of certifications rather than unique companies, as some companies received certification for multiple products.

Sector-wise, the certifications were heavily concentrated in the food sector (263), followed by chemical (90), mechanical (51), building and construction (32), packaging technology (30), electrical (16), and textile (8) sectors. This distribution highlights the dominance of food-related products within the certification landscape, alongside significant activity in chemical and industrial categories.

Geographically, certified companies were largely concentrated in major urban and industrial hubs. The highest representation was recorded in Kinondoni (68), followed by Mkuranga (55), Ilala (50), Kigamboni (43), and Kibaha (40). Other notable locations included Arusha, Temeke, and Dodoma, while the remaining certifications were distributed across various regions in smaller proportions, indicating a growing but still uneven spread of certified production across the country.

**For safety and
higher efficiency,
always buy
TBS-marked /
certified products.**





Vision:

“Sustainable standardization for high quality livelihood society”.



Mission:

“To promote standardization , safety and quality assurance in industry and commerce through standards development, certification, registration, inspection, testing and metrology services for sustainable socio-economic development”.

CORE VALUES



Customer Focus

We prioritize customers' needs first therefore committed to responding timely and proactively to their expectations.



Team work

We work together by sharing experiences while respecting each other to realize institutional goals.



Accountability

We shall be responsible to our actions, decisions and outcomes in executing our functions.



Transparency

We ensure open sharing of information and proper provision of feedback to our stakeholders in equal treatment.



Quality Policy

“Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS) is committed, as mandated, to deliver quality products and services in standardization, safety management, conformity assessment and metrology. TBS strives to meet legal requirements and customer needs and expectations, even exceeding them so as to retain customer loyalty. TBS provides resources and continually improves its processes to ensure that employees are capable of timely and consistently providing quality products and services.”



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