

Standards development and enforcement as a strategic tool for achieving Ghana's industrial development objectives

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The Ghana Standards Authority - GSA

- GSA is the national standards body for Ghana
- Its prime purposes are *the promotion of trade and protection of the public*
- Established by an Act of Parliament
 - Standards Act, NRCD 173 of 1973
- Other relevant acts include
 - Weights and Measures Act, NRCD 326 of 1975
 - “to ensure fair trading practices through the verification of weights and measures”
 - Verification of “weights, measures, weighing and measuring instruments”

GSA - aims

- The aims of the Authority are
 - (a) to *establish and promulgate standards* with the object of **ensuring high quality of goods** produced in Ghana, whether for local consumption or for export;
 - (b) **to promote standardisation in industry and commerce;**
 - (c) to **promote industrial efficiency and development;**
 - (d) to promote standards in public and industrial welfare, health and safety

GSA - functions

- **Standardisation**
- **Metrology**
 - Industrial
 - Legal
 - Scientific
- **Conformity Assessment**
 - Testing
 - Inspection
 - Certification
 - Products
 - Systems

Standards

- A **standard** is a **document**, established by a consensus of subject matter experts and approved by a recognized body that provides guidance on the design, use or performance of materials, products, processes, services, systems or persons – *lay definition*
- Technical definition (ISO/IEC)
 - a document, **established by consensus** and **approved by a recognized body**, that provides, for common and repeated use, rules, guidelines or characteristics for activities or their results, aimed at the achievement of the optimum degree of order in a given context

Types of standards

- International Standards
- National Standards
- Industry Standards
- Professional Association Standards
- Company Standards
- Group Standards

Who needs standards?

- Everyone
 - Governments, industry, companies, individuals, MDAs, schools etc .
 - EVERYONE NEEDS STANDARDS
- Standards make “interoperability” easy
 - Bank cards; vehicle tyres, batteries, cell phones, light bulbs, shaving sticks, clothes/shoe sizes, medicines, foods, aeroplanes
- Standards are needed everywhere by everyone

Why are standards important?

- Standards ensure consistency of essential features of goods and services
 - Such as quality,, safety, reliability, compatibility, interoperability, efficiency etc.
- Standards codify the latest technology and facilitate its transfer
 - Standards are an invaluable source of knowledge

Why are standards important?

- Standards avoid reinventing the wheel
 - they distil expert knowledge and make it available to all
- International Standards:
 - Help make the development, manufacturing and supply of goods and services more efficient, safer and cleaner
 - **Make trade between countries easier and fairer** because the same specifications are adopted for use in different countries as national or regional standards

Standards benefit everyone - I

- **For manufacturers, standards:**
 - Rationalize the manufacturing process
 - Eliminate or reduce wasteful material and/or labour
 - Reduce inventories of both raw material and finished products
 - Reduce the cost of manufacture
- **For customers, standards:**
 - Assure the quality of goods purchased and services received
 - Provide better value for money
 - Are convenient for settling disputes, if any, with suppliers

Standards benefit everyone - II

- **For traders, standards:**
 - Provide a workable basis for acceptance or rejection of goods or consequential disputes, if any
 - Minimize delays, correspondence, etc., resulting from inaccurate or incomplete specification of materials or products
- **For technologists, standards:**
 - Provide starting points for research and development for further improvement of goods and services

In short.....

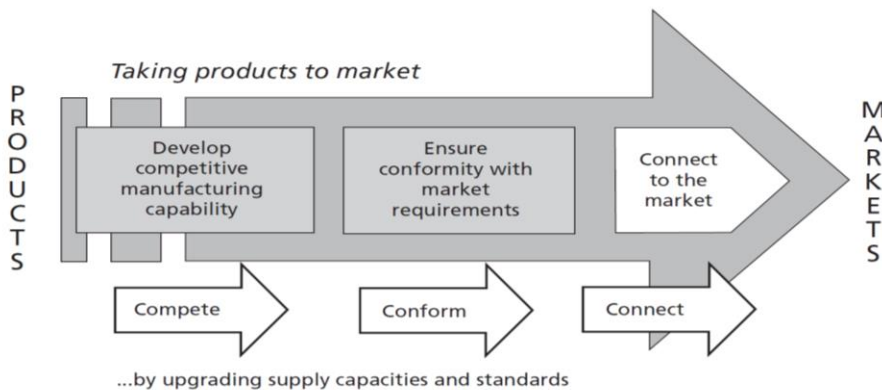
- Standards are the LANGUAGE of International Trade
- Standards build trust
- Standards ensure value for money
- Standards ensure consistency
- Standards enforce honesty
- Standards promote quality
- Standards facilitate trade

Standards development and ENFORCEMENT for Ghana's industrial development

- Standards development and use will assist industries in Ghana to compete and trade internationally
- National standards provide confidence to manufacturers and consumers
- They can and should be incorporated in ALL PUBLIC PROCUREMENT
- Standards make manufacturing simpler and more efficient and help connect to the market

Standards as a strategic tool for industrial development

- COMPETE: removing supply-side constraints and developing competitive manufacturing capability
- CONFORM: developing and ensuring product conformity with technical and market requirements
- CONNECT: enhancing integration with and connectivity to markets



Source: UNIDO publication titled: *Standards – a guide for small and medium-sized enterprises*

Standards in Ghana

- The GSA uses the following as standards for Ghana in order of decreasing priority
 1. Ghanaian standards
 2. International standards
 3. Globally recognized standards (EU, USA etc.)
 4. In the absence of the above, Manufacturer Specifications or “industry standards”

Ghanaian standards

- The GSA has developed/adapted/adopted over 2600 standards
- Covers areas as diverse as food, drinks, vehicles, batteries, renewable energy, oil, gas, storage, fish, pesticide residues, processes, systems etc.

GSA standards - examples

- Cereals, Pulses and Derived Products - Hausa Koko Flour (GS 948 : 2008)
- Food Products - Plantain Chips (GS 915 : 2017)
- Starch and Derived Products – Gari (GS 237 : 2017)
- Fruits and Vegetables – Pineapples (GS 101 : 2016)
- Fruits and Vegetables - Okra - Fresh GS (905 : 2016)
- Beverages - Alcoholic Beverages - Akpeteshi (Local Gin) [GS 931: 2011]
- Jewellery - Colours of Gold Alloys (GS ISO 8654 : 2006)
- Management Systems - Occupational Health and Safety – Requirements (GS 1014 : 2011)
- Manufacturing Engineering (Vocabularies) [GS ISO 7583 : 2006]
- Motor Vehicles - Periodic Inspection (GS 806 : 2006)
- Petroleum and Petroleum Products - Lubricating Oils - Monograde Oil - Petrol Engines- Class (GS 820-1 : 2017)

Final thoughts

- Ghana has several standards
- HOWEVER
 - Ghanaians are NOT aware of these standards
 - These standards are not adhered to in trade and industry
 - Ghanaian standards and their requirements do not feature (by name) in public procurement tenders
 - Ghanaian standards are poorly enforced

All is changing

- **Ghana Beyond Aid** requires
 - An aggressive industrialisation approach with a focus of good quality products for local consumption as well as exports
 - Adherence to national and international standards
 - Enforcement of standards both for locally made goods and imports
 - Developing a knowledge-based economy relying on science, IT, AI and the brilliance and excellence of Ghanaians and their collaborators be they local or international

Standards ENFORCEMENT

- Enforcement of standards prevents dumping
- Reduces unfair competition
- Promotes business for those doing genuine manufacturing
- Supports exports to lucrative markets

Ghana Beyond Aid OR Business As Usual?

THE CHOICE IS OURS