



# INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS & BEST PRACTICES THAT FACILITATE IMPLEMENTATION OF STANDARDS AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL

by

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## Why standards? Why International Standards?

- Standards are the “common trading language” used by industry to describe attributes of the commodity being sold
- They provide the terms of reference for ensuring the business transaction
- They are cost efficient – replacing the need to be present for every transaction- thus Transcending physical distance and time
- For Producers- It is a tool to measure the success or efficiency of the production system
- Governments- Trade facilitation and consumer protection
- Removes personal favorites from the produce. **It is What is Seen**  
NOT **Who It Comes From**

# Why standards?

Standards must mean the same thing to all parties having a financial interest in the trade:

- ▶ Producers, researchers (academia)
- ▶ Traders
- ▶ Importers, consumers
- ▶ Cargo/shipping services, financial institutions
- ▶ Regulators /governments

## Standards

- ▶ Ensures that marketable product is exported
- ▶ Increases the chances that the exporter gets paid.
- ▶ Ensures the longevity of exporters business
- ▶ Provides for common trading advantages
- ▶ A means for justifying quality /price relationship
- ▶ Food safety and regulatory concerns

# Standards within the Domestic Framework

*Standards must be implemented through a legal but practical framework*

**It is important to Know:**

- ▶ Target audience/sector
- ▶ Boundaries - economic, socio-cultural, political, other domestic factors
- ▶ How the standards will be enforcement: Voluntarily/mandated; export only or domestic and export

**Disputes Settlement**

- ▶ Who enforces judgments of violation and dispute settlements arising from the standard application?
- ▶ What types of judgements- cash, compensation, warnings, reprimands etc.
- ▶ producer ↔ buyer ↔ wholesaler ↔ retailer ↔ consumer  
producer ↔ exporter ↔ importer ↔ distributor  
shipper ↔ transportation services  
shipper ↔ transporter ↔ receiver

# Standardization Procedures

## Incorporating Standards within National Legislation:

Standards gain legal authority by their incorporation into national legislation. This is done using one of these methods based on domestic political system:

- ▶ Act of Parliament:

After the standard is developed it is actually voted into the national legislation directly by the national legislation. Or Accepted by a national parastatal body or the relevant Ministry given the authority by an act of Parliament.

- ▶ Emergency and Executive Orders:

In a crisis or emergency situation the executive head of the government ministry (Minister or Secretary), or a statutory/parastatal body such as the national standards institute uses authority given by the constitution through the issuance of an Executive Order to designate a national standard.

# Key Stakeholders in the National Standardization Process





# Standard Development Methods

Standards are developed using one of the following three methods:

- ▶ Initial Development
- ▶ Adaptation
- ▶ Adoption

# Initial Development

## Justifications:

- When there are no existing standards for the said commodity.
- The product is unique to country or region.
- Country wants to take first mover advantages in a marketplace

### Advantages

- First mover advantages - Dictate parameter of subsequent foreign and international standards
- Differentiate the product in a crowded market place
- Establish a better quality/price relationship

### Disadvantages

- Financially costly & time consuming
- Non acceptance by domestic trade and trading partners
- Disrupts existing trading practices



# Adaptation

## Justifications:

- When minimal changes are needed to an existing international or foreign standard to meet the country needs
- Country may want to generate domestic stakeholder's involvement/ownership of standards
- Short timespan for development is required

### Advantages

- Less time and resources to develop.
- Easier to meet market needs
- Most sections of the standard are already validated through its existing use by stakeholders including regulatory agencies

### Disadvantages

- Some aspects overlooked may always meet the country needs
- Industry may not support this effort
- Political and nationalistic overtones. (Some stakeholders may resent the source of the original standard for various reasons)

# Adoption

## Justifications:


- Existing foreign or international standard perfectly meets country needs.
- Joining trading blocs with pre-existing standards
- The targeted standard is already widely used and accepted nationally by the trade and national regulators.

### Advantages

- Less time and resources to develop and implement. The standard is already validated
- Easier to meet market needs, the standard is already widely accepted and used
- Technical expertise to implement the standard are already existing

### Disadvantages

- The standard may not always meet the national trade/industry and regulatory needs. Provisions in the standard may be contrary to domestic trading practices and thus pose problems for acceptance
- Country may not have the abilities and infrastructure to fully implements all aspects of the adopted standard
- Political and nationalistic overtones. (Some stakeholders may resent the source of the original standard for various reasons)



# Standardization Development Procedures to Maximize Stakeholder Involvement and Ownership

## OPTION 1:

National Standardization Board or Authority



Technical Committee (Stakeholders)



Technical Sub-Committee (stakeholders)

# Standardization Procedure

## Option 1: Steps-

- ▶ **Technical Sub- Committee (SC):-** undertakes the initial drafting and/or revision of the draft text. When the SC is satisfied with the draft standard, it forwards the draft standard Technical Committee for review.
- ▶ **Technical Committee (TC):-** reviews the draft standard for technical correctness. If satisfied the TC recommend to the National Standardization Authority for adoption as a national standard. If the TC is dissatisfied with the draft standard, the TC returns the draft standard to the Technical Sub-Committee (SC) for further development.
- ▶ **The National Standardization Body/Authority:-** informs the stakeholders (public/private) of its decision to implement the standard and may provides a comment period. If comments are received, changes are made-if necessary- prior to publication as national standard in the country's Official Gazette.



## OPTION 2:



### OPTION 2: Steps-

- **Technical Committee (TC)** reviews the draft standard and recommends to the National Standardization Authority to adopt it as a national standard.
- **The National Standardization Body/authority** informs the stakeholders (public/private/academia) of its decision to implement the standard and provides final public comment period. The stakeholders (public/private/academia) make the final comment followed by changes if necessary prior to publication as national standard in the each country's Official Gazette.

Questions???????

