

# Overview of textile standards and requirements

## State of play for national textile standards in Ghana

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# The Ghana Textile Industry

The need and benefits of  
standardisation

# Main points:

- A profitable and sustainable sector
- Produces high-quality designs, materials and textile brands
- Products with high market (local & international) value
- Products subjected, and adhere to stipulated high standards
- Notable contributor to national economy

# Ghana Standards Authority (GSA)

- Ensures nation's quality infrastructure by:
  - ✓ Specifying high quality products and services
  - ✓ Enhancing sustainable development of products
  - ✓ Promotion and moderation of innovation and changing trends in an increasingly dynamic environment
  - ✓ Promoting accountability in public governance
  - ✓ Promoting growth in all arms of industry and manufacture

# Standards in the textile industry

- Established and regulated by the Ghana Standards Authority (GSA)
  - ✓ GSA's policies specifically structured for the sector
  - ✓ Sector-specific training programmes
  - ✓ Sector-specific staff and specialist-panel memberships
  - ✓ Continuous standards modifications to reflect changes in all aspects of the sector

# Standards in the textile industry

## ➤ Importance of GSA's roles:

- ✓ Central to economic growth
- ✓ Technological and social benefits
- ✓ Ensure safe incorporation of new/ emerging methods and technologies
- ✓ Ensure consistency in product lines and moderate inevitable changes
- ✓ Elimination of barriers to international trade
- ✓ Promotion of national and sub-regional identities

# Standards in the textile industry

## ➤ Importance of GSA's roles:

- ✓ Established standards facilitate effective product evaluations and comparisons
- ✓ Standardisations minimise variations in components and processes
- ✓ Enhancing work efficiency and productivity
- ✓ Reducing production costs and overheads
- ✓ Enhancement of market advantage
- ✓ Reduction of costs to consumers

# Ghana Standards (GS): Apparel

## ➤ Specifications for materials, sizes, etc.

- ✓ Colour fastness (dry cleaning): GS ISO 4919
- ✓ Colour fastness (washing): GS 126 (2005)
- ✓ Cotton dress fabric: GS 159 (1995)
- ✓ Garment producers: GS 972 (2009)
- ✓ Men's shirts: GS 31 (2008)
- ✓ Fabric tear properties: GS ISO 13937-3

# Existing/ new standards

- Under consideration for adoption:
  - ✓ Size designation: men's and boy's garments
  - ✓ Size designation: women's and girl's garments
  - ✓ Size designation: infant's garments
  - ✓ Size designation: measurement procedures

# Existing/ new standards

- Under consideration for adoption:
  - ✓ Size designation: men's/ boy's underwear, nightwear & shirts
  - ✓ Size designation: women's/ girl's underwear, foundation garments & shirts
  - ✓ Size designation: headwear
  - ✓ Garment construction: body dimensions
  - ✓ Professional care: cleaning & finishing; assessment; care labelling codes, symbols

# Benefits of adherence to standards

- Growing export market (AGOA)
  - ✓ However, difficulties in accessing the US market
- Potential to tap into the country's relatively youthful population (trendy outfits)
- The country has ability to put on shows and exhibitions (Expos)
- International recognition
- Potential to employ high-quality labour

# Standards-related challenges

- Significant section of garment producers unaware of standards
- Insufficient, or lack of:
  - ✓ Basic education among new entrants
  - ✓ High-quality training in the sector
- Possible excesses in adoption of foreign cultures and influences

# Core principles of Ghana standards development

- Standards exist principally to provide a reliable basis on which common expectations can be shared regarding specific characteristics of a product, service or process.
- GSA endorses the globally accepted standardization principles of the World Trade Organization Technical Barriers to Trade Agreement
  - Transparency
  - Openness
  - Impartiality
  - Effectiveness and relevance
  - Consensus

# How Ghana standards are initiated, developed, and approved

- Standards are initiated by receiving and prioritizing requests received from various Stakeholders. (GSA Divisions/Depts., Regulatory bodies, Industry, Government, Individuals, Associations etc)
- GSA drives the standardization activities in Ghana and this is essentially market driven
- Social factors
- Economic factors
- Environmental factors

# THE Standards Development processes

- Proposal stage
- Preparatory stage
- Committee stage
- Enquiry / Public Comments stage
- Approval stage
- Publication stage

# Recommendations

- US Standards should be readily available for adoption by GSA. This would facilitate its availability for use in the industry; ensuring industry meets the export requirements of the US
- Important that an MOU is established with The American Association of Textile Chemists and Colorists (AATCC) a not-for-profit professional association that provides test method development, quality control materials, educational development, and networking for textile and apparel professionals throughout the world.
- To effectively promote relevant standards through Sensitization & Awareness workshops

# Recommendations CONT'D

- Continuous training of Stakeholders in the Industry – Association/Industry should lead the process
- Government intervention with respect to influx of fake/sub-standard textiles into the country should be strengthened.
- The Textile/Apparel Sector should be regulated to minimize the influx of fake 'Textile/Apparel products' on the market

# End of Presentation

THANK YOU VERY MUCH

# Miscellaneous

- [https://www.gsa.gov.gh/sdm\\_downloads/2-gsa-catalogue-2017/](https://www.gsa.gov.gh/sdm_downloads/2-gsa-catalogue-2017/)
- [info@gsa.gov.gh](mailto:info@gsa.gov.gh)