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Egyptian Organization for Standardization & Quality

- Founded by Presidential decree in 1957.
- Governmental body affiliated to the Ministry of Trade & Industry.
- National standards body for Egypt.
- More than 900 staff members.
- More than 105 technical committees.
- More than 1500 experts working in the technical committees.
- About 7000 published Egyptian standards.
Standardization

- The setting of standards is a crucial exercise.
- Standards can have a positive or negative impact on economy.
- On the positive side, standards:
  - Increase competition on prices, because standardized technologies and products can be compared.
  - Ensure compatibility and interoperability between products.
- On the negative side, standards:
  - Can be used as a trade barrier to protect an economy or discriminate a group of products.
  - Can be used by large manufacturers, especially in the high-tech industry, to monopolize markets.
Standardization in Egypt

- For a country like Egypt:
  - A non-conformity to existing international standards can lead to a severe drop of its exports of materials or products and a loss of market share.
  - A non-conformity to Egyptian standards of imported goods and locally produced goods can lead to unfair competition, health and safety problems for consumers, and negative environmental effects.

It is therefore very important to encourage and promote conformity to standards.
Standardization in Egypt

- Fields covered by Egyptian standards include:
  - Chemical
  - Food
  - Mechanical
  - Electrical
  - Information technology
  - Metrology
  - Petroleum
  - Documentation
  - Metallurgical
  - Yarns and textiles
  - Building materials
Standardization in Egypt

Principles for the development of Egyptian standards:
- Transparency
- Openness
- Impartiality
- Consensus
- Effectiveness
- Relevance
- Coherence

Thus, our standardization system is harmonized with well known and applicable international practices.
Harmonization of Egyptian Standards

- EOS commenced an initiative to harmonize all Egyptian standards.
- Phase I of project ended in May 2006 with more than 3400 Egyptian standards harmonized to international counterparts.
- Phase II of project started and includes all the remaining standards in the Egyptian standards catalogue.
Harmonization of Egyptian Standards - Objectives

The objectives of harmonization are:

- Promoting and increasing Egyptian exports.
- Facilitating trade by removal of technical barriers to trade.
- Assuring quality of products and technology transfer.
- Better competitiveness of Egyptian goods and products.
- Ensuring that the harmonization practice is embedded in the Egyptian standard making process.
Harmonization of Egyptian Standards – Target groups

- Target groups include:
  - Industry at large.
  - Importers.
  - Exporters.
  - Consumers.
  - Conformity assessment entities.
Harmonization of Egyptian Standards

Harmonized Egyptian standards per sector

- Chemical: 23%
- Engineering: 33%
- Textile: 12%
- Food: 19%
- Measurements: 12%
- Documentation: 1%
Harmonization of Egyptian Standards

References used in the harmonization process

- International (ISO, IEC, CODEX, etc…) 75%
- European (EN) 6%
- Foreign (ANSI, ASTM, BS, DIN, etc…) 14%
- Other references 5%
Harmonization of Egyptian Standards – Impact on Economy

For Egyptian manufacturers:
- More Egyptian products are produced to international standards.
- Greater access to international markets.

For foreign manufacturers and foreign investments:
- Removing technical barriers to trade.
- Attracting foreign investments as international companies will no longer be obliged to produce according to locally based standards.
Harmonization of Egyptian Standards – Impact on economy

For Egyptian manufacturers:

- Biscuits manufactured to ES416/2005 which is harmonized to CODEX
- Tungsten lamps manufactured to ES27/2005 which is harmonized to IEC
- Processed cheese manufactured to ES999-2/2005 which is harmonized to CODEX
- Bottled mineral water manufactured to ES1588/2005 which is harmonized to CODEX
- Tomato Ketchup manufactured to ES132-3/2005 which is harmonized to CODEX

For Foreign manufacturers:

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Harmonization of Egyptian Standards – Impact on economy

Sources: US Census bureau, Egyptian Combined Foreign Trade Report – Ministry of Trade & Industry 2005
Egypt and the United States

![Graph showing exports to the US from 1999 to 2005.](image)

**Value in million USD**

Source: US Census bureau, Egyptian Combined Foreign Trade Report – Ministry of Trade & Industry 2005
Technical Assistance – Forms of cooperation

- Memorandum of understanding signed between EOS & ASTM on 08/10/2002.
  - Joint sponsorship of training programs.
  - Possibility to participate in ASTM technical committees.
  - Updated catalogue of ASTM standards.

- Various training courses in U.S.A. sponsored by the Commercial Law Development Program CLDP
  - 10 participants in 2002.
  - 11 participants in 2003.
  - 30 participants in 2004.
Technical Assistance - Challenges

- Awareness with American standards & technical regulations:
  - A need to increase awareness with the American system for the development of technical regulations (TR) and bridging the gap between it and the existing methodology followed in Egypt.
  - A need to increase awareness with the scope covered by American standards for areas of common economic interests and promoting the use of such standards in the process of developing Egyptian standards.

- Participation in the works of American/international technical committees:
  - A need to support EOS technical committee members in the participation of the works of American/international mirror committees.

- Technology transfer and automating the Egyptian standards making process using the experiences in hi-tech which is well developed in the United States and the creation of live-links between Egyptian and American technical committees.
Technical Assistance - Challenges

- Assistance in developing tools for income generation through methods that have been used within the United States (member subscription, etc…).

- Assistance in the area of promoting the use of standards and attracting more participation from the private sector/industry.
  - There is a need to assist in promoting the use of standards and attracting more participation from the private sector/industry.
Technical Assistance - Challenges

- Assistance in developing health and safety standards/systems.
  - Exposure of top and middle management at EOS to OSHA training sessions.
  - Qualifying a group of EOS experts in the field of developing occupational health & safety standards and systems.
  - Promoting the use of safety standards and the creation of a culture of “safe work-place” among Egyptian companies.
Thank you

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