Overview of textile standards and requirements

State of play for national textile standards in Ghana

BY : SHARRON SENYO BOCCORH
MEMBER: TEXTILE, LEATHER AND GARMENT SECTOR
ASSOCIATION OF GHANA INDUSTRIES
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)
- Garment producers: GS 972 (2009)
- 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

- info@gsa.gov.gh