ASTM International

- Global platform for the development of international standards
- Private sector, not-for-profit organization
- ANSI and SCC accredited SDO
- 33,000 members from 150+ nations
- Providing consensus solutions in more than 90 sectors and related services (proficiency testing, training, certification)
- Supporting public and private objectives for:
  - Health and safety
  - Quality
  - Trade
  - Environmental protection
  - Regulation

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ASTM, Africa and ZABS

Memoranda of Understanding

- ASTM has agreements with two regional bodies on the Continent
  - ARSO
  - SADC
- ASTM has 179 members from African economies engaged in 61 percent of our standards development activities
- And, agreements with national standards bodies of 28 African nations, including Zambia.
- ZABS signed the MoU in 2004

MoU Benefits

- Provides a full collection of ASTM Standards to ZABS
- Provides Zambia with choice
  - Use of ASTM standards as a technical and economic resource (best option for stakeholder needs)
- Offers membership to Zambian stakeholders at no cost
  - Equal ability to influence content, suggest changes
- Facilitates information exchange and training
- Requires the NSB to provide an annual report indicating:
  - Use of ASTM standards,
  - Engagement with ASTM, and
  - Training requests
ZABS Successful Implementation of the MoU

Citations of ASTM Standards by ZABS*

*More than 630 citations of ASTM standards by ZABS – ready, practical, technical tools to aid your work

ASTM TC Sources of ZABS’ Citations

Most Frequently Cited ASTM Technical Committees

- Practical relevance – e.g. Link Zambia 8000
ASTM International Standards: Promoting Public-Private Collaboration for 120 Years

ASTM International standards development brings together the public and private sector to solve technical problems. Our international standards:

- **Support Government Regulations:** Today, over 7,700 citations of ASTM International standards are referenced in regulations or serve as the basis of national standards in over 120 countries – including several African economies.
  - Standards range from raw materials, toys, infrastructure/construction products, and medical devices to the application of additive manufacturing technology, and environmental aspects of air, soil and water.

- **Advance Public Policy Objectives:** ASTM has embraced certain international principles to develop international standards that enable trade, underpin good business regulation, promote private-public collaboration, and improve the integrity of products and materials on a worldwide basis.
Zambia, as other nations do, conducts regional and international trade

Nations share objectives in terms of regulations

- Reduce non-tariff barriers that impede the flow of goods and services
- Cut the cost of differences in regulation and standards
- Increase compatibility, transparency, and cooperation
- Boost the competitiveness of SMEs and companies
- Foster innovation and technology transfer

We want policies and regulations that advance trade and promote greater prosperity
International Standards: WTO Guidance

WTO TBT “Committee Decision”
– The WTO Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) Committee Decision on Principles for the Development of International Standards, Guides and Recommendations

– **Provides guidance** in the form of six principles to help regulators determine which standards may be considered international for the purposes of the TBT Agreement

– **Does not** designate specific bodies that develop international standards – instead outlines principles that should be observed when international standards are developed.

**WHY IT MATTERS**
- International standards have special status under WTO rules.
- Regulations based on international standards are presumed not to create unnecessary obstacles to international trade.
- International standards developed according to the Decision promote trade and public-private cooperation
Attributes of Today’s Standards Systems that Produce International Standards

- Ensure an open and transparent process
  - Direct and equal participation for everyone
  - Participants have access and can comment at all points in the process
- Provide impartial consensus based model of engagement
  - Balanced system where producers votes are equal to those of users
  - Impartial, inclusive and fair to all, with appeals and protections to avoid abuses
- Produce effective and relevant standards
  - Respond to needs and changing conditions, new hazards or emerging technologies
  - Relevant to the global marketplace and performance-based in application
- Driven by research, data and science-based decisions
  - Focus on science and technical quality, and specifically addressing risks and needs
- Collaborate with other standard bodies to avoid duplication
Putting ASTM International Standards to Work in Zambia

- Working together, we can apply WTO principles to recognize and use international standards that enhance trade, underpin good business regulation, and improve the integrity of products and materials

- **TRADE**
  - International standards can assist with the facilitation of business within a country or by connecting firms to global markets *(See handout)*

- **REGULATION**
  - International standards can help make the global business environment more predictable and transparent, while making it simpler and less costly for business to comply

- **INTEGRITY**
  - International standards can make products and materials interoperable and more responsible to environmental, safety and health concerns that consumers expect *(See handout)*

*T See handouts

**Tangible Examples:**

- **Trade:** UNDP Chipota Falls Mini Hydro Power Project June 2017 – China – Zambia Renewable Energy Technology Transfer Project

- **Regulatory:** Compulsory Standards Zambia Bureau of Standards – Zambia Standard ZS 369 – Automotive Gasoil (diesel fuel) – Specifications

- **Safety:** Report of the Auditor General on the Road Projects under the Road Development Agency for the Period January 2012 to December 2015 – National Assembly of Zambia
Moving Forward Together

Working together, we can promote public–private cooperation through standards development by:

- Applying the WTO TBT principles
- Promoting consideration by regulators of all relevant international standards developed according to the TBT Committee Decision
- Advancing the ability of industries to choose the international standards which best meet their needs, regardless of where they are developed
- Encouraging government and private sector participation in standards development

The high-quality, market-relevant international standards we create together can help to support public policy goals by:

- Underpinning effective regulations that help make global business more predictable and transparent, while making it more simple and inexpensive for businesses to comply
- Making products and materials interoperable and more responsible to environmental, safety and health concerns to meet expectations of consumers
- Advancing R&D, product manufacturing, testing, quality assurance, marketing, and trade

In summary, together we can help the world to work better through improved products, increased trade, and greater prosperity for the future.
Questions?

www.astm.org
Thank you!

Teresa J. Cendrowska
tcendrowska@astm.org
What’s App: 610 203 2630

www.astm.org