SADC COOPERATION IN STANDARDIZATION

SADC Workshop on Good Regulatory Practices, 1-2 June 2015
Garden Court, Johannesburg South Africa
Content

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About SADCSTAN: Background

- SADCSTAN is a SADC Cooperation in Standardisation mandated by the SADC Council of Ministers to coordinate Standardisation activities and services in the region.
- Established 1997 in Port Louis, Mauritius.
- One of the seven structures implementing the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) Annex to the SADC Protocol on Trade.
- The seven structures form the SADC Standardization, Quality Assurance, Accreditation and Metrology (SQAM) body.
- The umbrella structure, SADC Expert Group (TBTEG) is responsible for coordinating all the regional SQAM activities and supports the SADC Secretariat in an advisory capacity on TBT issues.
About SADCSTAN: Background

The seven TBT structures include:

- SADC Cooperation in Standardization (SADCSTAN)
- SADC Cooperation in Legal Metrology (SADCMEL)
- SADC Cooperation in Measurement Traceability (SADCMET)
- SADC Cooperation in Accreditation (SADCA)
- SADC Technical Regulation Liaison Committee (SADCTRLC)
- SADC Technical Barriers to Trade Stakeholder Committee (SADCTBTSC)
- SADC Technical Barriers to Trade Expert Group (TBTEG)

Functions and rules of all the cooperating structures are laid down in Article 14 of the SADC TBT Annex of 2008.
About SADCSTAN: Objective

Promote the coordination of Standardisation activities and services in the region with the purpose of achieving harmonization of standards in support of the objectives of the SADC protocol on trade.
About SADCSTAN: Aims & Functions

Aims

- Promote regional cooperation in the development of harmonized standards/texts

- Facilitate exchange of information on existing standards, draft standards among members

- Facilitate the adoption of regional standards

- Facilitate the adoption of a common position by members in regional and international standardization bodies

- Encourage the harmonization of legislation relating to standards
About SADCSTAN: Aims & Functions

Functions

- Develop and adopt mechanisms for the formulation & adoption of regional standards
- Examine the need for and develop regional standards
- Develop standards in support of harmonized TR’s
- Coordinate inputs to and liaise with ISO, IEC, ARSO and similar regional and international standardization organizations
- Develop means to disseminate standards information whilst protecting copyrights
- Develop regional mechanisms to facilitate compliance with the WTO/TBT Agreement requirements
SADCSTAN Operational Structures

**SADCSTAN COMMITTEE**
(SADC MEMBER STATES - National Standards Bodies)

 Governing body & Custodian of the aims and functions of SADCSTAN

- **SADCSTAN Secretariat**
  Ensure proper functioning of SADCSTAN

- **Executive Committee**
  Pursues SADCSTAN objectives

- **Standards Management Committee**
  Implements the harmonization procedure

- **Technical Committees (11)**

Elected by AGM
Appointed by ExCo
MS Volunteer
SADCSTAN Committee

- Governing body of SADCSTAN
- Custodian of the aims and functions of SADCSTAN

Membership:
- NSB’s and focal point *(where no NSB exists)*
- Chair and Vice Chair elected from among members for 2 years

Associate Membership
- Upon written request and approval at AGM - Drawn from non-SADC member states
- Stakeholders (industry associations, other SQAM structures, SADC sectors etc.)
Executive Committee (Exco)

Responsible for the pursuit of SADCSTAN objectives

**Composition:**

- Chair, Vice Chair, SADCSTAN Secretariat (RC), SMC Chairperson and 2 MS representatives

**Current members**

- NA- Chair, DRC, MW, ZA, SMC-Chairperson, ZM-RC
Standards Management Committee

Responsibilities

- Maintaining the Principles and Procedures for the Development of SADC Harmonized standards
- Establishment and management of TCs and SCs
- Allocation of TC’s and SC’s Secretariats

Current membership

- BW, DRC, SW, ZA, ZW, MZ
- Zambia, as Secretariat provides regional coordinator
SADCSTAN Secretariat

- Appointed by SADCSTAN for 3 years
- Hosted by NSB

Responsibilities:

- Communication with SADCSTAN members
- Ensuring that details of collaboration and regional technical committees are circulated to all member states
- Preparing and circulating documents of the General Assembly, Executive Committee & SMC as required from time to time
- Conducting day-to-day activities of SADCSTAN in line with policies decided by the General Assembly in order to achieve the objectives as stated in the SADC Protocol on trade
- Ensuring the proper functioning of SADCSTAN
Standards harmonisation process

- Harmonisation work is undertaken within TCs/SCs hosted by a NSB
- Each TC has a scope of work and is responsible for harmonisation work within that scope
- MSs participate as P or O members to TCs.
- P members are obliged to participate actively by commenting and voting on documents
- O members receive all documentation but not obliged to vote/comment
- International standards are the first choice of harmonisation work
- To date 56 standards harmonised (management system, construction, electrical appliances,

Principles

- Consensus, Transparency, Coherence, Relevance, Impartiality
# Standards harmonisation process

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project stage</th>
<th>Associated document</th>
<th>Time frame</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>0: Preliminary stage</strong></td>
<td>Preliminary work item</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>1: Proposal stage</td>
<td>New work item proposal</td>
<td>3 or 5 months</td>
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<tr>
<td>2: Preparatory stage</td>
<td>Working draft(s)</td>
<td>Not applicable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3: Committee stage</td>
<td>Committee draft(s)</td>
<td>4 months (4-6 months)</td>
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<tr>
<td>4: Enquiry stage</td>
<td>Draft harmonized standard</td>
<td>3 months (5 months for direct entry)</td>
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<tr>
<td>5: Approval stage</td>
<td>Final draft</td>
<td>2 months</td>
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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Time frame</th>
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<td>NWIP</td>
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<td>3 or 5 months</td>
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<td>WD</td>
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<td>Not applicable</td>
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<td>CD</td>
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<td>FDHS</td>
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Standards harmonisation process - Stakeholder engagement

1: Proposal stage
- Stakeholders in Member states can propose projects for harmonisation through NSB.
- Stakeholders are consulted to vote on the proposals for harmonisation.

3: Committee stage
- National experts in Member states participate on mirror committees.

4: Enquiry stage
- The NSB circulates the DHS to Stakeholders to comment and vote

The NSB adopts and publishes the harmonised standards and makes them available to all stakeholders.
Standards harmonisation process - Publication of Standards

- SADCSTAN does not publish standards - Member Bodies are required to adopt and publish harmonised standards as national standards.

- Member States are required to inform SADCSTAN Secretariat of progress with regard to adoption and implementation of harmonised standards.

- Member states are expected to align or remove conflicting standards and replace them with harmonised standards.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TC Reference and Title</th>
<th>TC Secretariat Hosting</th>
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<tr>
<td>TC 1: Construction</td>
<td>Botswana</td>
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<tr>
<td>TC 2: Automotive and Transportation</td>
<td>TBA</td>
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<tr>
<td>TC 3 Foods and Agriculture</td>
<td>Mauritius</td>
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<td>SC Tobacco</td>
<td>Zimbabwe</td>
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<td>SC Fish</td>
<td>Zambia</td>
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<tr>
<td>TC 8: Hospitality and Tourism</td>
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<td>Tanzania</td>
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<td>Malawi</td>
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<td>TC 15: Chemicals &amp; chemical products</td>
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<td>TC 18: African Traditional Medicine</td>
<td>South Africa</td>
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<tr>
<td>ISO TC 68: Financial services</td>
<td>South Africa</td>
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**11 TCs and 2 SCs**
Benefits of regional standards

- Eradicate TBTs and facilitate free movement of goods in the region.
- Boost trade between member states
- Keep products not complying with SADCSTAN harmonized standards out of the region
Challenges

- Inadequate participation in the harmonization process by MS
- Low adoption of harmonized standards
- Inadequate resources to support TC work—*physical meetings in particular*
- Poor stakeholder awareness on harmonized standards
Conclusion

- SADCSTAN is responsible for harmonizing standards in the region

- NSBs are required to involve the national stakeholders in the standards harmonization programs

- Regulatory Agencies need to reference harmonized standards in their regulations as necessary
SADCSTAN

THANK YOU

Margaret Lwenje Lungu
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