



INTRODUCTION

The Standards Alliance is a public-private partnership between the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) and USAID designed to assist developing countries in effectively implementing their commitments under the WTO's Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) agreement.

The main objectives of the overall Standards Alliance program includes increased understanding of WTO TBT principles, encourage transparency in the development and alteration of technical regulations, and improve implementation of the TBT Agreement's Code of Good Practice for the preparation, adoption and application of standards, with the larger goal of promoting trade and economic development.

The Standards Alliance received various forms of input that contributed to the Year One Work Plan for the Southern African Development Community (SADC). Lesotho, Malawi and Zambia submitted applications to participate in the Standards Alliance that identified areas for assistance. In November 2013, ANSI carried out its joint assessment for the region. ANSI traveled to South Africa and met with SADC Cooperation in Standards (SADCSTAN), the SADC Standardization, Quality Assurance, Accreditation and Metrology (SADCSQAM) body responsible for coordinating standardization activities and services in the region. ANSI also met with the South African Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) and the South African Bureau of Standards (SABS), among other organizations. A summary of the joint assessment is available upon request. Both before and after the joint assessment, ANSI communicated with ANSI members regarding their interest in supporting the project's engagement with the region.

The Standards Alliance recognizes the need to engage SADC in such a way that responds to both the unique and shared needs of the countries within the region. As such, engagement will proceed through multiple channels. The Standards Alliance will engage SADCSQAM bodies in an effort to respond to regional priorities. Additionally, the project will engage individual, or numerous countries within SADC, on issues best addressed at the national level. In addition to Lesotho, Malawi and Zambia, the project anticipates working with other countries within the region.

The Standards Alliance looks forward to carrying out the SADC work plan in cooperation with USAID's Southern African Trade Hub (SATH). SATH will take the lead on several activities, as indicated.

The Standards Alliance has set the following as goals for its engagement with SADC:

1. More effective National Notification Authorities (NNAs) and Enquiry Points (EPs).
2. Enhanced standards development process, especially through increased participation in standards activities.
3. Improved interagency coordination on technical regulations.
4. Established relationships between US SDOs, certification and accreditation bodies and SADC national/regional standards bodies.

These goals, and the activities listed below, are subject to change as our understanding of needs and capacities deepen.

WORK PLAN ACTIVITIES FOR YEAR ONE

GOAL 1: More effective NNAs and EPs

ACTIVITY	PROPOSED COUNTERPART	LEAD IMPLEMENTER	EST. DATE
1. WTO TBT Enquiry Point Training For details on this activity, visit the Standards Alliance web site.	Lesotho, Malawi, Zambia	SATH/ Thompson Consulting	COMPLETED December 2013
2. US benchmarking visit and NNA/EP training Representatives from Lesotho, Malawi and Zambia traveled to Washington, DC to participate in EP training with NIST. The representatives also met with ANSI, several SDOs, and US government officials. For details on this activity, visit the Standards Alliance web site.	Lesotho, Malawi, Zambia	SATH	COMPLETED January 2014
3. Continued operations and technical support, as well as awareness building for NNAs/EPs. This activity will be carried out by both SATH and Diane Thompson, of Thompson Consulting. Diane Thompson will provide capacity building to enquiry points as follow-up to initial EP training she carried out in Lesotho, Malawi and Zambia in December 2013. Diane will work with each country to develop and follow an action plan for this capacity building. Details on the action plans will be provided as they are developed. SATH's activities will include IT and material support and national roadshows to promote awareness for the functions of the EP/NNA.	Lesotho, Malawi and Zambia	Thompson Consulting	March 2014 – June 2015
		SATH	January – July 2014

GOAL 2: Enhanced standards development process, especially through increased participation in standards activities

ACTIVITY	PROPOSED COUNTERPART	LEAD IMPLEMENTER	EST. DATE
4. Capacity-building ISO national mirror committees This activity focuses on how to develop the membership, operating procedures and strategy of mirror committees for priority ISO TCs.	Lesotho, Malawi, and/or Zambia	ANSI/SATH	December 2014
5. Stakeholder outreach for standards development This includes the Lesotho and Zambia National Standards and Quality Awards, and consumer and private sector outreach activities in Zambia.	Lesotho, Zambia	SATH	January 2014 – January 2015
6. Improved standards development process This activity includes among other things: (i) the development of a general standards body structure and strategy in Lesotho; (ii) the development of a food safety control system in Lesotho; and (iii) training for TC members in Zambia.	Lesotho, Zambia	SATH	March 2013 – June 2015
7. Updated and improved SADCSTAN web site	SADCSTAN	SATH	November

This includes updating the content and structure of the web site to better direct users to resources and content related to SADCSTAN activities.			2014
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GOAL 3: Improved interagency coordination for technical regulations

ACTIVITY	COUNTERPART	LEAD IMPLEMENTER	EST. DATE
<p>8. Exchange on good regulatory practices (GRPs), including best practices for national TBT committees</p> <p>This activity would pull in relevant US experts, including from OIRA, etc. and could include other local partners (e.g., University of Pretoria) to provide an exchange on GRPs.</p>	SADCSQAM, or one of its bodies	ANSI/SATH	November 2014 or in conjunction with planned SADCSQAM meeting
<p>9. Workshop and follow-on activities regarding referencing standards within technical regulations</p> <p>This activity will promote the practice of referencing standards, as opposed to the direct copying of standards, within technical regulations.</p>	Zambia, Malawi, Lesotho	SATH	July 2014

GOAL 4: Established relationships between US SDOs, certification and accreditation groups and SADC regional/national groups

ACTIVITY	PROPOSED COUNTERPART	LEAD IMPLEMENTER	EST. DATE
<p>10. Code of Good Practice Training/Exchange</p> <p>This activity will provide an opportunity for US-based SDOs to share best practices with respect to standards planning and development, while also introducing their scope of work to SADC countries and exploring the possibility for future cooperation. This activity will have a sectoral focus, e.g., infrastructure-related industries as water and electrical.</p>	South Africa	ANSI	September 2014