



STANDARDS ASSOCIATION OF ZIMBABWE

PRESS RELEASE

FIRST MEETING OF ISO TECHNICAL MANAGEMENT BOARD'S (TMB) TECHNICAL ADVISORY GROUP (TAG) ON SECOND HAND GOODS

The first meeting of the ISO TMB TAG on Second Hand Goods was held on 22 May 2006 in conjunction with the ISO Policy Committee for Consumer Affairs (COPOLCO) workshops and plenary meeting in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The meeting was attended by 27 participants from thirteen countries. Participants included representatives of ISO member bodies, regulators and consumer representatives from various countries, Consumer International (CI) European Association for the Coordination of Consumers Representation in Standardization (ANEC), COPOLCO Secretariat and ISO Public Relations. Zimbabwe was represented at the meeting by Mrs Maureen P Mutasa – Director General of the Standards Association of Zimbabwe (SAZ) who was also attending the ISO COPOLCO workshops and meetings in her capacity as Chairman of ISO Policy for developing countries (DEVCO). Mrs Mutasa's attendance to COPOLCO 2006 meetings was sponsored by the British Standards Institution (BSI). A lot of progress was made at the first meeting in particular the following:

- Defined the two deliverables on second hand goods namely:
 - **Deliverable 1 - A guide** to provide guidance for technical committees to consider issues related with second hand goods in the standards development process.
 - **Deliverable 2 - New Work Item Proposal (NWIP)** for a standard, which sets minimum criteria for second hand goods that are offered for sale, donated or exchanged in order to protect consumers' health and safety and the environment.
- Agreed on the definition for second hand goods i.e. “**goods that have been in service and re-entering the market for sale or use**”. It was noted that refurbished goods would be considered as second hand goods.
- Identified the key issues to be addressed in the deliverables i.e. health, safety, environment and performance. It was also noted that the second deliverable should be used by all parties including the supplier and the recipient. Following the

presentation by the Japanese representative, it was further noted that trade/exchange of second hand goods is not limited to cross border trade/exchange but could be local i.e. within a country developed or developing. The TAG also identified the priority second hand goods as vehicles, clothing, domestic appliances, tyres and footwear.

- Agreed to ask ISO to request the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) to take an active part in the work of the ISO TMB TAG on second hand goods.
- Defined the scopes of the two deliverables and targeted users as follows:

Deliverable 1

The guide would provide guidance for technical committees to consider issues related with second hand goods in the standard development process.

It will provide a checklist that will include sector specific examples. It is proposed that the checklist would be used by those participating in the development of standards. Use of the checklist would enable full consideration to be given to all matters related to the sale, distribution, disposal and recycling of second hand goods.

The guide would apply to all goods whether sold, donated or given as charity.

Deliverable 2

The standard to be developed would set minimum criteria for second hand goods that are being offered for sale, donated or exchanged in order to protect consumers' health and safety and the environment.

As a way forward, task groups were established to refine the scope of the guide and the wording for the NWIP. These would be circulated to TAG members for consideration and finalization in time to present them to the last meeting of the year of the ISO TMB.

The meeting further noted the need to raise awareness on the activities of ISO TMB TAG on second hand goods and to solicit for increased participation in the TAG from ISO members especially developing countries who are importers/recipients of such products and also to lobby TMB and ISO members ahead of the launch of the NWIP. Opportunities to do so were identified at the upcoming ISO COPOLCO/DEVCO regional training workshops and at the DEVCO annual meeting to be held in September 2006 in Ottawa, Canada. For the latter, the COPOLCO Chair in her report to DEVCO would highlight the activities of the TAG. The meeting further noted the need to compile a list of available national/regional standards and legislation and international conventions that make reference to second hand goods.

The work of the ISO TMB TAG, which was established in 2005, is very relevant to developing countries who are importers or recipients of second hand goods through

donor aid and Zimbabwe is no exception. With the Standards Association of Zimbabwe's (SAZ) intention to be involved in import quality control, these standards would form the basis of import certification of second hand goods especially vehicles, tyres, domestic appliances, clothing etc. all of which have been prioritized by the ISO TMB TAG. Although SAZ is now a 'P' member of COPOLCO, SAZ needs to immediately request for membership in ISO TMB TAG on second hand goods. ISO TMB TAG membership can be requested through Mr Mike Smith – Director, Standards and Secretary of the TMB. Other countries in SADC who have established import certification schemes or intent to set up such schemes should also be encouraged to vote favourably for the NWIP when it is launched and to actively participate in ISO TMB TAG.

The next meeting of ISO TMB TAG is scheduled for August/September 2006 possibly in conjunction with the ISO DEVCO/COPOLCO workshop to be held in Gaborone, Botswana at the prestigious new Headquarters of the Botswana Bureau of Standards (BOBS).

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