

## **SADCSTAN BROCHURE**

### **What is SADCSTAN?**

The Southern African Development Community (SADC) is comprised of fourteen member states, which together make up a population of nearly 200 million people. An essential prerequisite for greater economic integration of the region is the harmonization of member countries' standards and technical regulations. This is the responsibility of SADC Cooperation in Standardization (SADCSTAN).

SADCSTAN, together with

- . SADC Cooperation in Legal Metrology (SADCMEL)
- . SADC Cooperation in Measurement Traceability (SADCMET),
- . Standardization, Quality Assurance, Accreditation and Metrology (SQAM), and
- . SADC Cooperation in Accreditation (SADCA),

form the basic building blocks for cooperation in standards and quality. The SADC body responsible for coordinating regional SQAM activities is the SADC SQAM Expert Group (SQAMEG). SQAMEG coordinates regional SQAM activities in terms of a Memorandum of Understanding signed by the Ministers of Trade and Industry of all SADC member states.

### **Membership**

SADCSTAN Membership is open to National Standards Bodies (NSBs) of member states or, where an NSB has not yet been established by a member state, any other institution designated by its Minister responsible for industry and trade.

### **Objectives**

The objectives of SADCSTAN are to promote the coordination of standardization activities and services in the region, with the purpose of achieving harmonization of standards and technical regulations (with the exception of legal metrology regulations, handled by SADCMEL), in support of the objectives of the SADC trade protocol.

### **Aims of SADCSTAN**

The aims of SADCSTAN are to:

- Promote regional cooperation in the development of harmonized standards and technical regulations
- Facilitate the exchange of information on existing standards, draft standards and technical regulations among members, and
- Facilitate the adoption of regional standards by member states.

### **Functions of SADCSTAN**

The functions of SADCSTAN are to:

- Develop and adopt mechanisms for the harmonization of standards in the region
- Examine the need for regional product standards and to develop them
- Develop mechanisms to facilitate the adoption of regional standards as national standards
- Develop standards in support of harmonized technical regulations
- Develop regional bridging standards to make international standards more accessible to SADC members
- Develop conformity assessment and accreditation standards

- Facilitate access to the current databases of national standards bodies for standards, draft standards and technical regulations
- Develop regional mechanisms for complying with the WTO Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade
- Work together with SADCA and consult with industry in the development of management systems standards such as ISO 9001 and ISO 14001 and their supporting certification and accreditation standards and any other conformity assessment standards
- Provide technical assistance and training in the management and planning of standards development, as well as standards information services, and
- Coordinate inputs to and liaise with ISO, IEC, ARSO and similar regional and international standards organizations.

### **Why standards and technical regulations should be harmonized within SADC**

Harmonization of standards and technical regulations within SADC will:

- Eradicate Technical Barriers to Trade (TBTs) and encourage a freer flow of goods and services within SADC
- Boost trade between SADC member states, and
- Keep products not complying with SADC standards out of the region.

### **Current standardization projects for harmonization**

#### **Harmonized SADC Standards**

A list of harmonized regional standards is available on the SADCSTAN Website ([www.sadcstan.com](http://www.sadcstan.com))

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