

SAZ External Training Section Grows in Leaps and Bounce

SAZ has been offering standards-based training programmes since June 2000. The section was established to help promote an understanding of standards requirements in order to encourage their implementation. The External Training section falls under the Marketing and Public Relations department.

Very experienced presenters from within SAZ and other relevant organizations conduct SAZ training programmes. Whilst most SAZ courses are held at the SAZ head office in Borrowdale, Harare in-house or closed courses can be arranged to suit customer requirements. During 2005 the section ran a record 34 courses, two of which were run in DRC and Zambia, respectively.

Due to demand, several new courses are introduced each year with the current number of courses now being over 20 different courses. However, it is important to note that courses are only introduced after carrying out a thorough research to establish the demand for the programme, as every precaution is taken to avoid developing unwanted programmes.

In 2005, the section introduced several exciting courses, which are already available as open or in-house (closed) courses. The courses include Pollution Management, Product Mark Certification, SAZS ISO 9001:2000 QMS and 14001:2004 EMS Lead Auditing courses, SAZS 14001:2004 EMS Implementation, Non Destructive Testing (NDT) course, ISO/IEC 17020 General criteria for the operation of various types of bodies performing inspection and ISO/IEC 17025 Laboratory Quality Management System Internal Auditing.

Participants for the courses are drawn from within SAZ, government, the private sector, academic institutions and other national standards bodies within the region. To date the section has run courses in Malawi, DRC and Zambia.

This year the External Training section aims to run at least one course weekly and plans to continue organizing more courses within the region as it pursues its goal of becoming a centre for excellence in standards-based training, both locally and regionally.