

SAZ Runs QMS Lead Auditor Training in Zambia

SAZ held its first ever five-day ISO 9001:2000 Quality Management System (QMS) Lead Auditor training from 12 - 16 September 2005 at Chrismar Hotel in Lusaka, Zambia.

The course was organized in conjunction with the Zambia Bureau of Standards (ZABS) in line with the commitments made in the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed by the two organizations in July 2005. Mr Rueben Mupudzi of Nebuer Management Systems facilitated the course on behalf of the SAZ.

A total of 21 participants attended the course. Eight of the participants were from ZABS with the rest coming from different local organizations as follows:

- Ndola Lime company Limited (five participants)
- Food and Drugs Control Laboratory (one participant)
- Trade Kings Limited (three participants)
- Zambian Breweries (two participants)
- Natural Valley Manzi (one participant)
- Interchem Limited (one participant)

Judging from the feedback received both during and after the course, all participants expressed satisfaction with the way the whole programme was run with most participants expressing interest in attending other SAZ courses. However, only 12 out of the 21 participants passed the examination.

Addressing the participants at a reception to mark the end of the training programme, in a speech read on his behalf by the finance manager, Mr Christopher Mambwe, the ZABS executive director, Mr Mataa Mukelebai highlighted to the participants how the course came about. He pointed out that the course resulted from the MoU signed between the two organizations, which entails exchange of knowledge and information in many areas. Mr Mukelebai added that the course will not only assist ZABS but the Zambian nation at large through QMS certification as the course was attended by participants from several other Zambian organizations. 'For this reason we would like to thank our colleagues from the SAZ for conducting this course', he said.

The ZABS executive director went on to say that currently many industries have to seek certification from outside the country because of lack of national capacity in certification. He however expressed hope that as a result of the training, the ZABS scheme will soon be in place. Mr Mukelebai added that it was important to note that all those that pass the examination will form a national pool of auditors, which is an asset the country lacked for a long time. 'Not only will it be cheaper for Zambian companies, but it will also be faster for organization to be certified', he said.

Before this training programme and in line with its thrust of offering its services in the regional, the SAZ had run a Product Mark Certification and a QMS Internal Auditing course in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Blantyre in Malawi, respectively.

Furthermore, besides the above mentioned countries the SAZ is looking at the possibilities of running several courses in Botswana during 2006.