THE UNBS PRODUCT CERTIFICATION SCHEME

The Process & requirements
What is certification, justification & benefits;
Certification requirements;
Certification process.
WHAT IS CERTIFICATION?

- procedure by which a third party gives written assurance that a product, process or service conforms to the specified requirements (standard).

- UNBS is carrying out two certification Schemes:
  - Product Certification;
    - Q-Mark scheme;
  - Management Systems Certification.
Under this Scheme, Uganda National Bureau of Standards, as a Third Party, assesses an industry/organisation so as to grant a permit or contract to the manufacturer to use the Uganda Standard Certification Mark (the Quality Mark ("Q") on the Product. This mark is an assurance to the customer and/or community that the product conforms to National Standards.
JUSTIFICATION FOR PRODUCT CERTIFICATION

The need for Product Certification arose due to:

- Mandatory Standards;
- Customer Protection;
- Protection of Manufacturers from unfair competition from Substandard imports and locally manufactured products;
- National and Regional/International Recognition of locally manufactured products.
BENEFITS OF PRODUCT CERTIFICATION

- Winning Consumer confidence thus:
  - Increased market share;
  - Consumers identify the products that conform to standards;
- Better image of product in local & foreign markets thus:
  - Mutual recognition schemes where countries recognise each others products;
  - Easy acceptance & promotion of new products in the markets;
  - Acceptance of the products by local distributors especially supermarkets;
  - Safeguarding the image and reputation of the manufacturer;
BENEFITS (Cont’d)

- Protection against unfair competition from inferior products on the market through:
  - Easy Identification of a quality product since it carries the Quality Mark
- Government and International Bodies & NGOs rely on Certified products for their purchases/procurements. E.g., UNICEF, RUWASA/DANIDA, etc:
  - Government is increasingly demanding that local purchases be of certified products by UNBS
- The Certification Scheme provides technical audit of product quality and process control procedures
  - i.e. the Manufacturer gets technical advisory services and information at little or no cost, that would otherwise be obtained from consultants
CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

- Product and standard identification;
- Requirements for initial testing & assessment;
- Facility organisation;
- Quality system and assessment (quality control) staff;
- Materials, components and services
CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS CONT’D

- Processes and controls;
- Maintenance;
- Monitoring and measuring equipment;
- Records and documentation.
CERTIFICATION PROCESS

- Inquiry;
- Application;
- Application adequacy review;
- Pre-assessment visit;
- Preparation for full assessment;
PROCESS CONTINUED

- Evaluation for certification;
- The review & certification decision;
- Surveillance activities;
- Extension of certification scope;
- Time scale for certification process;
- Re-assessment;
- Records.
UNBS Certification marks
Management systems certification

- Below are the management systems standards being handled at UNBS:
  - HACCP – Hazard Analysis Critical Control Points;
  - GMP/GHPs – Good Manufacturing/Hygiene Practices;
  - ISO14000 – Environmental Management Systems;
  - ISO18000 - Occupational Health and Safety.
Thank you For Listening.

Any Questions?