



EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY SECRETARIAT

**14TH MEETING OF THE EAST AFRICAN QUALITY ASSURANCE
TECHNICAL SUB-COMMITTEE**

30th May to 1st June, 2011
NAURA SPRINGS HOTEL
ARUSHA, TANZANIA

REPORT OF THE MEETING

Ref No. EAC/TF/ /2011

EAC SECRETARIAT
Arusha, Tanzania
JUNE 2011

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**14TH MEETING OF THE EAC QUALITY ASSURANCE TECHNICAL
SUB-COMMITTEE (EAC QA TSC)**

**Naura Springs Hotel, Arusha, Tanzania
30th May-1st June, 2011**

REPORT OF THE MEETING

1.0 OPENING OF THE MEETING

1.1 Constitution of the Bureau

The Bureau was constituted by Willy Musinguzi of the East African Community secretariat in accordance with the EAC Procedures. Mr. Zacharie Mivuba from the Burundi Bureau of Standards (BBN) was nominated as the Chairperson while Mr. Ayeka Stephen from Kenya Bureau of Standards (KEBS) the Rapporteur.

The meeting was attended by delegates from the five Partner States namely Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda.

Mr. Tobias Diegrad, the PTB project coordinator and Mr. Martin Kellermann, the PTB consultant also attended.

The list of the delegates present is hereto attached in *Annex I*.

1.2 Remarks from the EAC Secretariat

Mr. Willy Musinguzi, the Principal Standards Officer at the East African Community Secretariat welcomed the delegates to the meeting. He informed them that the Sectoral Council was also taking place in Arusha and he was scheduled to present the regulations on designation of laboratories, product certification and enforcement of technical regulations.

1.3 Adoption of the Agenda

The Agenda and Programme of work were adopted and are hereby attached as **Annex II (a) & (b)**.

2.0 CONSIDERATION OF MATTERS ARISING FROM THE 13TH MEETING OF THE EASC TECHNICAL SUB-COMMITTEE ON QUALITY ASSURANCE

2.1 Survey Tool for the assessment of the status of conformity assessment activities within the EAC

It was reported that the questionnaire from Standards Sub-Committee was adapted by WG2 and circulated. Partner States were asked to carry out the surveys using the questionnaire and submit the data to PTB for analysis by an expert

2.2 Usage of the EAC web portal

The meeting tasked the QA TSC Secretary in consultation with the Chairperson to ensure that matters regarding the activities of the SC are posted on the EAC

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Web portal including reports of the 13th and 14th QA TSC meetings and draft regulations.

2.3 Consideration of the status of cross-border trade issues

The meeting of Experts in problematic sectors such as food to develop harmonized requirements and approaches towards a uniform conformity assessment regimes and approvals did not take place.

The Tanzanian delegate from Tanzania Food and Drugs Authority (TFDA) explained to the meeting the role and functions of TFDA. He informed the meeting that Tanzania was working on National Food Safety Policy. A national food safety coordinating committee has been formed consisting of all key stakeholders including TBS.

The meeting noted with appreciation the positive impact of the attendance of TFDA delegate in the QA TSC meeting which would facilitate the harmonization of the cross border issues. *The meeting also commended Tanzania for the effort of putting in place a food safety policy.*

Recommendations

- i) Partner States were urged to emulate Tanzania by putting in place national food safety policy in their respective countries***
- ii) WG2 was asked to identify product parameters in the EAC standards that are considered critical to health, safety and environment to guide the inspectors at the borders on essential parameters.***
- iii) Inspectors when in doubt of the safety of food (and other products), they should apply the precautionary principle where if they are to err, it should be on the side of caution. Tanzania was requested to circulate the text of the principle.***

It was noted that some of the legal requirements for some products may constitute TBTs/NTBs. An example is the Kenya Alcoholic Drinks Control Act 2010, Section 32, which prescribes warning messages and a requirement that these messages occupy "not less than 30 % of the total surface area of the package".

Recommendation

QA TSC recommend EASC to request the Sectoral Council to urge Kenya to review her Alcoholic Drinks Control Act 2010 in order to remove the NTBs/TBTs therein.

Meanwhile Kenya should be urged to stay the implementation of the particular clause in respect of alcoholic products from other Partner States.

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2.4 Considerations of the draft regulations

The meeting was informed that an extra ordinary meeting of the EASC held in November 2010 in Arusha considered, amended and approved for forwarding to the legal committee the EAC technical regulations on inspection.

2.5 Considerations of the mechanisms for adoption and implementation of standards

The regional workshop on adoption and implementation of Compulsory Standards did not take place.

2.6 EAC mark and marks of national standards bodies

The meeting was informed that an extra-ordinary meeting of the EASC was held in March 2011 to discuss the contentious issues regarding the national marks to be recognized. It was also reported that the meeting agreed on each member state notify secretariat the mark(s) to be recognized.

It emerged that Partner States were using different formats and contents in notification and hence the need for the Secretariat to harmonize the notifications format.

It was reported that all Partner States except Rwanda had notified the EAC Secretariat of their national marks.

Kenya requested for one year be given to manufacturers who were on diamond mark to comply with the directive.

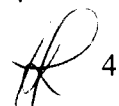
It was noted that there was need for the evaluation of the marks by an independent expert to determine their equivalence based on the outcome of the analysis of the questionnaire by the expert and the systems already outlined in product certification regulations

Recommendation

- (i) The Secretariat to harmonize and circulate the notifications format for the certification marks to all partner states.**
- (ii) The EACSC to consider Kenya's request to allow manufacturers who were on KEBS Diamond Mark one year to transition to the notified Mark.**
- (iii) An independent expert to evaluate the conformance of the notified marks to criteria specified in the EAC Product Certification Regulations.**

3.0 CONSIDERATION OF THE REPORTS OF THE WORKING GROUPS

The meeting received and considered the reports of the two Working Groups for the period June 2010 to May 2011.

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3.1 Report of the Working Group 1 on product certification

The following activities were carried out by WG1:

3.1.1 Peer Assessments

Peer assessments of product certification schemes were conducted for all five NSB's

Peer Assessment Procedure was finalized and sent to the PTB Consultant, Mr. Manfred Kindler for review and improvement.

On the issue of peer assessment for product certification schemes, it was reported that evaluation of the results of implementation of corrective actions for gaps identified during the peer assessments had not been carried out.

Recommendation

- (i) **Partner States which had not filled the questionnaire on efficacy of the marks were requested to do so and send the filled questionnaires to PTB for analysis by 15th June 2011.**
- (ii) **Partner States which had not submitted Self-Evaluation on Status of Corrective Actions forms were requested to do so by 15th June 2011.**
- (iii) **WG1 was requested to present the finalized draft peer assessment procedure for review by the QA TSC after receiving and incorporating the changes from expert.**

3.1.2 Training

Training on ISO/IEC Guide 65 took place for Rwanda Bureau of Standards while those for KEBS, UNBS, TBS and BBN were not done

3.2 Report of Working Group 2 (WG 2)

WG2 presented their report covering the following:

3.2.1 Meetings

WG2 held two meetings in Nairobi, Kenya from 24TH – to 25TH May 2010 and from 11th to 12th November 2010'. Both were opened by Mr. John Abon'gs, Director Quality Assurance Division of Kenya Bureau of Standards.

Partner States namely: Burundi, Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda and Rwanda were represented at the meetings. Tobias Diegrad of PTB and Manfred Kindler -PTB consultant, Mr. Willy Musinguzi and Dr. Kafumbi from EAC Secretariat attended the November meeting.

Recommendation

It was recommended that the scope of WG1 be expanded to include systems certification activities in order to:

- a) Address the problem of lack of recognition of the professional competency of assessors and auditors, through registration in conformity with ISO/IEC 17024 standard.***
- b) Bridge the credibility gap between the certificates issued by the certification bodies by using harmonized standards and procedures.***

3.2.2 Undertaking of Study Visits on Inspections Activities

A one week study visit was made to Germany in August 2010 attended by one delegate from each Partner State and one delegate from KENAS .The visit was sponsored by PTB and was organized and conducted by Mr. Kindler Manfred. A report prepared and discussed in the WG2 meeting held in Nairobi, Kenya

Recommendations

The meeting recommended that Partner States:

- i) Intensify consumer awareness campaigns and allow consumer organizations to be represented on the boards of the National Standards Bodies.***
- ii) Empower consumer organizations to carry out market surveillance.***
- iii) Regulatory authorities to concentrate more on supervision and technical consultancy.***
- iv) Encourage private firms to certify products and systems that impact on safety, health and environment***
- v) Establishing linkages with other regional or country organizations in particular German Organizations to tap their experience by having their experts visit Partner States to train and advice on such issues like vehicle inspection.***
- vi) WG2 country delegates to sensitize their management on the urgent need to decide on the type and scope of Inspection bodies.***

3.2.3 Evaluation of the Implementation of the corrective action for identified gaps

Partner states carried out self assessments of their inspection regimes, against ISO/IEC 17020. The most common identified gap was on competency of inspectors. Partner States were to identify corrective actions and implement them for improvement.

3.2.4 Development of an integrated web Based data base for inspection and certification

The 1st meeting on EAC Quality Information System (EAC QIS) Project was held in Kigali, Rwanda from 29th to 30th March 2011. All five Partner States namely: Burundi, Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda and Rwanda were represented. Mr. Kurt Baumann – the PTB expert and representatives of Trademark East Africa made

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presentations. The meeting was opened by the Director General of RBS, Dr. Mark Cyubahiro Bagabe.

The meeting considered information system that was to consist of four modules on import inspection, market surveillance, product certification and customers/consumers complaints.

Common parameters (fields) to be included in the system were identified during the meeting for the following:

- a) Common information for all modules
- b) Import Inspection
- c) Market Surveillance module including Rapid Alert System
- d) Product Certification module

During the above meeting, a workplan was prepared in which the following activities are to be carried out:

- a) Country consultations to define the system requirements,
- b) Harmonization of the system requirements, establishment of the cost of the project and finalization of Project Proposal by WG2
- c) Submission of Proposal to secure funding.
- d) Outsourcing of software development and hardware specifications
- e) Implementation and review the Project progress

It was expected that the system will be operational by May 2012

Recommendations

- i) Partner States should prioritize the development of the East African Community Quality Information System (EACQIS) with the support from Trade Mark for East Africa.***
- ii) Partner States to request PTB to continue facilitating the availability of a consultant/expert to support the development of EACQIS***
- iii) EAC and PTB to collaborate with Trademark East Africa in the development of East African Community Quality Information System (EACQIS)***
- iv) Partner States should commit funds in facilitating the EACQIS team to realise the development and operationalization of East African Community Quality Information System (EACQIS)***
- v) Partner States should use the harmonized East African Standards and procedures in all areas.***
- vi) NSBs in Partner States were urged to acquire the product certification data base from KEBS through ICT representatives in the project team.***
- vii) In addition, the ICT Project team is requested to provide communication solutions including; teleconferencing and web-based meetings and document sharing platforms.***

The committee noted that this being an EAC project, members should share their modules.



3.2.5 Training of Trainers to ISO/IEC 17020

13 trainers of trainers were trained on the six milestones for ISO/IEC 17020, by Manfred Kindler, in Nairobi Kenya on 12th November 2011.

3.2.6 Training of inspectors

43 inspectors (23 from Kenya and 20 from Burundi) were trained on the requirements of ISO/IEC 17020 standard.

3.2.7 Other trainings

It was reported that some of WG2 trainings did not take place due to PTB sponsorship being subject to decision by CEOs on strategy for implementation of the SQMT Act which has not been finalized yet and the high cost of bringing in trainers, these included:

- a) Risk based inspection and sampling
- b) Training in Documentation and implementation to ISO/IEC 17020
- c) Training of assessors to ISO/IEC 17020 standard
- d) Documentation to ISO/IEC 17020.

Recommendations

Partner States were urged to finalize the strategy to implement the EAC SQMT Act to provide the framework for PTB sponsorship of training and workshops.

3.2.8 Carrying out of pre-peer assessments of inspection systems

It was reported that pre-peer assessments of import inspection in RBS were done from 17th to 19th May 2011 while assessment of KEBS market surveillance took place from 23rd to 25th May 2011. The other NSB's assessments were to be carried out by December 2011.

EAS QA TSC took note and thanked PTB for sponsoring the pre-peer assessment exercise and training and urged PTB to continue supporting the carrying out of the pre-peer assessment and others activities in the EAC Partners States

3.2.9 Adoption of Pre-verification of Conformity (to standards) - PVoC

The meeting was informed that:

- KEBS PVoC was operational
- TBS was in the final stages of introducing PVoC for imported goods.
- UNBS rolled out their PVoC programme but was later put on hold pending review.
- BBN was in the process of establishing PVoC
- RBS had identified a list of products to be covered under PVoC and was working on the legal frame work for its implementation.

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4.0 CONSIDERATION OF THE DRAFT RULES AND PROCEDURES FOR QA TSC

The draft rules and procedures were not ready for discussion.

Recommendation

Kenya was asked to compile all procedural issues highlighted in previous discussions related to Development of Procedures for the Quality assurance technical Sub-Committee and circulate these to Partner States within 4 months. These will be discussed in the future meetings.

5.0 ISSUES REGARDING STANDARDS

It was noted that there are Standards with conflicting requirements that need to be realigned. An example given was that of EAC 38 on labelling of pre-packaged foods which in clause 5.7 exempts solid sugar from marking of dates while the EAC standard on sugar requires that dates be marked. Other affected products include confectionery products; chewing gum and iodated table salt which the meeting agreed should have date but are exempted from having dates in EAC 38 standard.

Recommendation

QA TSC requests the EAS Standards Technical Sub-Committee to review standards with conflicting requirements to resolve the inconsistencies.

The meeting discussed the requirements for used clothes and in particular the requirement that undergarments are not allowed. However it was noted that the present enforcement regimes based on national arrangements were not effective.

Recommendation

QA TSC recommends that the EAC standard on used clothes be converted into technical regulation

Iodated salt

It was noted that the EAC standard on edible salt specifies iodine levels of 200 ppm, which the SC deemed to be too high and a health hazard. Further it was observed that Partner States' national standards specify iodine levels of less than 100 ppm.

Recommendation

TSC recommends that EAC Standards Technical Sub-Committee reviews the requirement for iodine level of iodine in edible salt.

General observation on mistakes and errors in standards

It was noted that there were many mistakes in standards such the reference to TBS instead EAC in EAC standard number 447 on mosquito nets. The meeting observed that whereas it is to be expected that standards may not miss to have errors, it is critical that these errors are minimized as in some cases they could have serious consequences to trade and human health.

Recommendation

EAC standards sent for public review should also be sent to experts in NSBs for their input.

Members were asked to be vigilant on the standard requirements and to inform their country contact persons of any shortcomings of the specifications.

Food safety desk at the secretariat

Given the large volumes of trade in food products across the Partner States borders, their complexity, varieties, nature (exotic foods) and the numerous sources including imports,

And noting the heavy workload of the current Principal standards officer

There is need for an expert at EAC secretariat to speedily handle matter related to food products.

RECOMMENDATION

Given the sensitivity of food products, QA TSC recommends that the secretariat establishes a food safety desk operated by a competent desk officer.

6.0 REVIEW OF THE WORKPLAN

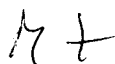
The workplan was reviewed and the new workplan for 2011/2012 is hereto attached as **Annex IV**

Recommendation

(i) Partner States and PTB were requested to sponsor delegates for quality Assurance Technical Sub-Committee, working group 1 and working group 2 meetings and other activities as per the workplan

7.0 ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

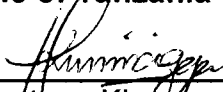
The report is hereby submitted to the EASC for consideration and adoption.



Signed on this 1st day of June 2011 by respective Heads of Delegations as below:



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Mr. Nzaire Philip
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Annex I

MEETING OF EASC TECHNICAL SUB-COMMITTEE ON







**QUALITY ASSURANCE
30TH MAY – 1ST JUNE 2011
ARUSHA-TANZANIA**

List of Participants

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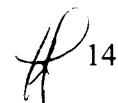
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Annex II

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EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY SECRETARIAT

14TH MEETING OF EAST AFRICAN SUB-COMMITTEE ON QUALITY ASSURANCE

**30th May – 1st June 2011
Naura Springs Hotel, Arusha, Tanzania**

AGENDA

- 1.0 Opening of the meeting
- 2.0 Consideration of Matters Arising from the Report of the 13th QA Sub Committee meeting and EASC committee meetings.
- 3.0 Consideration of reports from Working Groups
- 4.0 Consideration of draft rules and procedures for QA operations
- 5.0 Issues regarding standards
- 6.0 Review of QA TSC Annual work plan

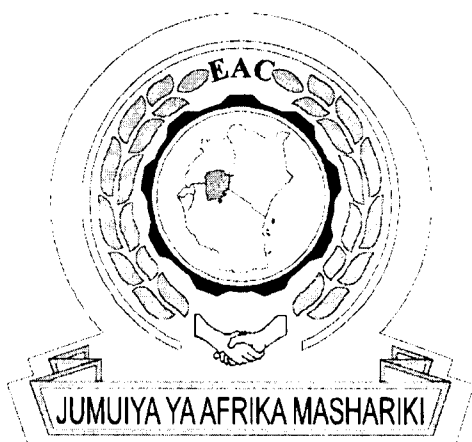
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EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY SECRETARIAT
14TH MEETING OF EAST AFRICAN SUB-COMMITTEE ON QUALITY ASSURANCE

30th May – 1st June 2011
Naura Springs Hotel, Arusha, Tanzania

PROGRAMME

Monday 30th May 2011	
08.30 - 09.00	Registration and receipt of Documents
09.30 -10.00	Opening of meeting
10.00 – 10.30	Health Break
10.30 – 13.00	Consideration of matter arising from the 13 th meeting of the EAC QA Technical Subcommittee and EASC meetings
13.00 -14.00	Lunch Break
14.00 - 15.30	Consideration of reports from WG1 and WG2
15.30 – 16.00	Health Break
16.00 – 17.00	Consideration of reports from WG1 and WG2
Tuesday 31st May, 2011	
9.00 – 10.00	Consideration of draft rules and procedures for QA operations
10.00 -10.30	Health Break
10.30 – 13.00	Issues regarding standards
13.00 -14.00	Lunch Break
14.00 - 15.30	Review of QA TSC Annual work plan
15.30 - 1600	Health Break
1600 – 17.00	Review of QA TSC Annual work plan
Wednesday 1st June , 2011	
9.00 – 10.00	Report Writing
10.00 -10.30	Health Break
10.30 – 13.00	Report Writing
13.00 -14.00	Lunch Break
14.00 - 15.30	Consideration and adoption of the report

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ANNEX III

14TH MEETING OF EAST AFRICAN SUB-COMMITTEE ON QUALITY ASSURANCE (EAC QATSC)
 30th May – June 1st 2011
 Naura Springs Hotel, Arusha, Tanzania

EAC QUALITY ASSURANCE (QA) TECHNICAL SUB-COMMITTEE
 PLAN OF OPERATIONS – June 2011 to May 2012

Priority Area 1:	Implementation of Entebbe Recommendations on Product Certification (PC) Schemes	Current Planning Period:	May 2011 – May 2012		Established	10-May-2006
			Revised	12-May-2010		
Objectives:	Mutual recognition and equivalence of Product Certification schemes and acceptance of certified products	Indicators:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8 Peer Assessments for Product certification and Inspection • 3 key areas (surveillance, peer assessments, inspection) procedures defined • 20 personnel from EAC National Standards bodies trained on ISO /IEC Guide 65 - Product Certification • 40 personnel for EAC trained and aware of Inspections to ISO 17020 and the harmonized PC and Inspection procedures • Reduction in cross-border related complaints on Certified Products in at least two sectors • Effective execution of corrective actions • Operational web based system 			
Activities		Responsibility	Timeframe	PTB Contribution	Country/Counterpart Contribution	
1. Updating of the EAC Web portal		Chair & secretary	continuous	-	Logistics and facilitation	

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Priority Area 1:	Implementation of Entebbe Recommendations on Product Certification (PC) Schemes	Current Planning Period:	May 2011 – May 2012		Established	10-May-2006
			Revised	12-May-2010		
Objectives:	Mutual recognition and equivalence of Product Certification schemes and acceptance of certified products	Indicators:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8 Peer Assessments for Product certification and Inspection • 3 key areas (surveillance, peer assessments, inspection) procedures defined • 20 personnel from EAC National Standards bodies trained on ISO /IEC Guide 65 - Product Certification • 40 personnel for EAC trained and aware of Inspections to ISO 17020 and the harmonized PC and Inspection procedures • Reduction in cross-border related complaints on Certified Products in at least two sectors • Effective execution of corrective actions • Operational web based system 			
Activities		Responsibility	Timeframe	PTB Contribution	Country/Counterpart Contribution	
2. TBS, UNBS and BBN to Submit the questionnaire for analysis to determine the equivalence of notified marks		WG1	By 15 th June 2011		Logistics and facilitation	
3. Implement Experts comments in draft peer assessment procedure and submit final draft for approval by EASC thru QA TSC		WG1	July 2011	Avail expert Funding	Logistics and facilitation	
4. Evaluation of the Implementation of the corrective action for identified gaps		WG 2	July 2011	-	Funding, Facilitation and logistics	
5. Development of an integrated web Based data base to capture product information for inspection and certification		WG1 & WG 2	By May 2012	Avail expert funding	Funding for equipment	
6. Carry out Peer assessment for product		WG1	By April	Funding	Financing, Facilitation and	

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Priority Area 1:	Implementation of Entebbe Recommendations on Product Certification (PC) Schemes	Current Planning Period:	May 2011 – May 2012		Established	10-May-2006
			Revised	12-May-2010		
Objectives:	Mutual recognition and equivalence of Product Certification schemes and acceptance of certified products	Indicators:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8 Peer Assessments for Product certification and Inspection • 3 key areas (surveillance, peer assessments, inspection) procedures defined • 20 personnel from EAC National Standards bodies trained on ISO /IEC Guide 65 - Product Certification • 40 personnel for EAC trained and aware of Inspections to ISO 17020 and the harmonized PC and Inspection procedures • Reduction in cross-border related complaints on Certified Products in at least two sectors • Effective execution of corrective actions • Operational web based system 			
Activities		Responsibility	Timeframe	PTB Contribution	Country/Counterpart Contribution	
certification schemes for TBS , KEBS UNBS , RBS& BBN			2012		logistics	
7. Training of inspectors on ISO/ IEC 17020		WG 2	continuous	Co financing	Co Financing, Facilitation and logistics	
8. Training on ISO/IEC Guide 65 for BBN, KEBS, TBS, RBS and UNBS		WG1	Aug. 2011	Avail expert	Financing, Facilitation and logistics	
9. Workshop for process drafting EAC compulsory standards (technical regulations)		WG2	Jan 2012	Avail expert funding	Facilitation and logistics	

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Priority Area 1:	Implementation of Entebbe Recommendations on Product Certification (PC) Schemes	Current Planning Period:	May 2011 – May 2012	Established	10-May-2006
				Revised	12-May-2010
Objectives:	Mutual recognition and equivalence of Product Certification schemes and acceptance of certified products	Indicators:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8 Peer Assessments for Product certification and Inspection • 3 key areas (surveillance, peer assessments, inspection) procedures defined • 20 personnel from EAC National Standards bodies trained on ISO /IEC Guide 65 - Product Certification • 40 personnel for EAC trained and aware of Inspections to ISO 17020 and the harmonized PC and Inspection procedures • Reduction in cross-border related complaints on Certified Products in at least two sectors • Effective execution of corrective actions • Operational web based system 		
Activities		Responsibility	Timeframe	PTB Contribution	Country/Counterpart Contribution
10. Initial Evaluation of Partner State's import inspection schemes by an External expert.		WG 2	PTB to decide	Avail Expert funding	Facilitation and logistics
11. Carry out pre-peer assessments of Inspections procedures for TBS, UNBS and BBN		WG 2	April 2012	'	Funding Facilitation and logistics
12. workshop of experts for harmonization and consistency between regulations and procedures		WG 2	Oct. 2011	Avail expert funding	Facilitation and logistics
13. Harmonization of procedures in ISO/IEC 17020		WG 2	March 2012	Avail expert Funding	Facilitation and logistics

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Activities	Responsibility	Timeframe	PTB Contribution	Country/Counterpart Contribution
14. Conduct training of inspection management staff for Partner States on documentation and implementation based on ISO/IEC 17020	WG 2	January 2012	-	
15. Training of assessors to ISO/IEC 17020	WG2	Nov 2011	Avail expert Funding	
16. QA TSC meetings to review progress of activities and approve WG reports	QA TSC	Nov 2011 May 2012		Funding ,Facilitation and logistics
17. WG1 meetings <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review of expert report on of equivalence of Marks against the requirements set in the regulations Evaluation of peer assessment results 	WG1	15 July 2011 March 2012	Avail expert Funding -	- Funding ,Facilitation and logistics
18. WG2 meetings <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evaluation of peer assessment results Review the web-based Quality Information system General meeting 	WG2	November 2011 February 2012 April 2012	Avail expert Funding -	Funding ,Facilitation and logistics

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QA TSC ANNUAL REPORT MAY 2010 – APRIL 2011

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE SUB-COMMITTEE ON QUALITY ASSURANCE OF THE EAST AFRICA STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Activities	Status	Remarks/ RECOMMENDATIONS
1. Meetings	-1 QATSC -3 for WG2 - 2 for WG1	
2. Training	-13 trainers trained by Manfred Kindler on the six milestones for ISO/IEC 17020 -43 inspectors trained on LSO/IEC 17020 -training on guide 65 took place in RBS	Trainers to be used in training inspectors in partner states training on guide 65 to be done in KEBS and BBN training on documentation and implementation of ISO/IEC 17020, assessors and risk based inspection not done due to financial constraints
3. Peer Assesments	Pre=peer assessments carried out for RBS import inspection sand KEBS market surveillance Peer assessments carried out in all Partner states for product certification systems	

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Activities	Status	Remarks/ RECOMMENDATIONS
4. procedres	Peer assessment procedure snt to expert for review	
5. Evaluation of the Implementation of the corrective action for identified gaps	<p>-The report of the self assessment of the inspection regimes, against ISO/IEC 17020, submitted by the partner states</p> <p>-The most identified gap was the inadequate competency of inspectors.</p> <p>-Partner States were to identify corrective actions and implement them</p>	
6.		
7. Development of an integrated web Based data base for inspection and certification	<p>-Meeting held in Kigali</p> <p>-4 modules identified</p> <p>-Fields identified</p> <p>-Work plan for development of web-based information system for certification and inspection prepared</p>	Expect to be operational in May 2011
8. Designing appropriate database for capture of key information on products for ease of product traceability	As above	
9. Undertake Study Visit on Inspections Activities	Visit made to Germany	
10. Workshop for adoption and implementation of EAC compulsory standards		PTB financing subject to the finalization of the strategy

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Activities	Status	Remarks/ RECOMMENDATIONS
11. Initial Evaluation of partner state's inspection schemes by an External expert.		PTB financing subject to the finalization of the strategy
12. workshop of experts for harmonization and consistency between regulations and procedures		EAC secretariat to report
13. Harmonization of procedures in ISO/IEC 17020		Awaiting consultant
14. Questinnares	-The questionnaire from Standards sub-committee was adapted and circulated. -KEBS carried out the survey and submitted the data to PTB for analysis by an expert	
15. PVoC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • . KEBS PVoC was operational • TBS was in the final stages of introducing PVoC for imported goods. • UNBS rolled out their PVoC programme but was later put on hold pending review. • BBN was in the process of establishing PVoC • RBS had identified a list of products to be covered under PVoC and was working on the legal frame work for its implementation. 	

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