

Compulsory Standards News



"With Your Safety in Mind"

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An official publication of the Zambia Compulsory Standards Agency (ZCSA)



Nalumango commends ZCSA

THE Vice President of the Republic of Zambia, Her Honour, Mrs W.K Mutale Nalumango, has commended the Zambia Compulsory Standards Agency (ZCSA) for effectively monitoring imported products.

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Lobito Corridor:
ZCSA, Others to
Train SMEs

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EDITORIAL CORNER...

BRIAN HATYOKA
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WELCOME to the Zambia Compulsory Standards Agency (ZCSA) newsletter covering activities for the year 2024.

In this Edition, there are many exciting and educative articles, including the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Ministry of Commerce, Trade and Industry and the National Quality Institutions (NQIs).

The MoU is for training of more than 40 targeted agricultural sector Cooperatives and Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) in Quality Assurance and Product Standardisation under the Lobito Corridor Trade Facilitation Project in North-Western Province.

In today's dynamic and highly competitive business environment, business entities are under pressure to deliver products and services exceeding customer expectations.

The importance of quality assurance and standardization cannot be emphasized enough, as it plays a crucial role in ensuring that businesses can meet these demands and achieve success.

Quality assurance is a systematic and proactive approach implemented by organisations to ensure that their products, services, or processes consistently meet and/or exceed established standards and requirements.

It involves a set of processes, techniques, and activities that are designed to prevent, detect, and correct defects, errors, or inconsistencies to ensure optimal performance and reliability.

On the other hand, product standardization is a process and strategy of manufacturing and selling products or services consistently.

It involves making sure that a product upholds certain standards for item quality, service delivery or appearance in every market.

Standardized processes ensure consistency in the delivery of products or services and reduce variability, minimizing risks of errors or defects.

The MoU is for training of more than 40 targeted agricultural sector Cooperatives and Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) in Quality Assurance and Product Standardisation..."

The training will, undoubtedly, foster effective participation of SMEs in value chains and other business opportunities, which will arise under the Lobito Corridor."

In this regard, the signing of the MoU to train more than 40 targeted agricultural sector Cooperatives and Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) in Quality Assurance and Product Standardisation along the Lobito Corridor is a positive development.

This is also in line with ZCSA's 2022–2026 Strategic Plan which, among others, focuses on improving SMEs compliance capacity to Compulsory Standards..

The training will, undoubtedly, foster effective participation of SMEs in value chains and other business opportunities, which will arise under the Lobito Corridor.

Like the Permanent Secretary for Trade and Commerce at the Ministry of Commerce, Trade and Industry, Mrs. Lillian Bwalya, put it, most of the agricultural sector Cooperatives and SMEs are not able to access the local, regional and foreign markets because their products are not certified by the Quality Institutions.

It is undeniable that most SMEs face challenges, including lack of capacity, to enhance Quality Assurance and Standardisation for their products.

Therefore, this training will result in improved product quality and standardization for SMEs in North-Western Province.

It will also increase the chances of success for SMEs through enhanced compliance with regulatory requirements and increase their market access domestically and internationally.

The Lobito Corridor offers a shorter route to a seaport for Mining products and other goods produced on the Copperbelt and North-Western provinces in Zambia.

Further, the Lobito Corridor is highly populated, as such, it offers a big market for businesses in Zambia.

To agricultural sector Cooperatives and SMEs, take advantage of this training so that you benefit from the many opportunities that will be available in the market.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S CORNER...



COMPLIMENTS of the season to everyone. In this edition of the newsletter, I will discuss the Zambia Compulsory Standards Agency (ZCSA)'s mandate as it relates to environmental protection. I must admit that this is an important aspect of our mandate as we mainly focus on consumer protection.

As you are aware, the Zambia Compulsory Standards Agency (ZCSA) is a statutory body under the Ministry of Commerce, Trade and Industry (MCTI). ZCSA was established by the Compulsory Standards Act No. 3 of 2017 to administer, maintain and enforce compulsory standards for the purpose of public safety and health, consumer and environmental protection.

The Agency protects the environment by enforcing minimum standards for products by ensuring that products are manufactured, imported, distributed and sold in a manner that does not harm the environment.

ZCSA conducts the following activities as part of protecting the environment:

(a) Enforcement of a compulsory standard for used motor vehicles

ZS 560: Road Vehicles - Inspection and Testing of Used Motor Vehicles for Road Worthiness

This compulsory standard promulgated in 2006 provides for among other parameters the minimum levels of noise and concentration of and level of contamination of exhaust gas.

(b) Enforcement of compulsory standards in the Petroleum Sector

Some of the compulsory standards cover the petroleum sector to protect the environment and include ZS 371: Road Tank Vehicles for Petroleum-Based Flammable Liquids.

(c) Energy Conservation

The Agency collaborates with other State institutions in enforcing The Control of Goods Act (Local Manufacturing and Importation of Incandescent Bulbs and Energy Inefficient Lighting Devices) (Prohibition) Regulation 2016 or Statutory Instrument No. 74 of 2016. This aims to support the Government's policy objectives on energy security and sustainability. The Agency has drafted more standards in the energy sector to enhance energy security and sustainability.

(d) Development of new Compulsory Standards

Environmental protection is a key consideration when drafting and proposing new compulsory standards. The Agency develops compulsory standards for products to ensure they do not harm the environment.

(e) Disposal of non-compliant products

This is done in a way that minimizes environmental harm, such as through recycling, reprocessing or use of safe disposal methods such as the use of a kiln to dispose waste in an eco-friendly manner, involving incineration at high temperatures that reduces waste, thereby ensuring sustainable practices that guarantee environmental protection.

(f) Monitoring and Compliance

The Agency conducts regular inspections and compliance checks to ensure that companies follow the permitted methods in manufacturing of products covered by compulsory standards. The Agency ensures that environment friendly additives and packaging are used in the manufacturing process.

(g) Public Education

As part of the public education mandate, the Agency conducts education programs to inform market players and the public about the importance of adhering to compulsory standards, thereby enhancing environmental protection

In conclusion, I wish to indicate here that ZCSA is ready to work with different stakeholders to examine, refine and enhance existing regulations to protect the environment. As I indicated during the 2024 International Lead Poisoning Prevention Week (ILPPW) hosted by the Children Environmental Health Foundation (CEHF), the duty of protecting the environment from unsafe products requires concerted efforts from different stakeholders.

GERALD CHIZINGA
Executive Director

I wish to indicate here that ZCSA is ready to work with different stakeholders to examine, refine and enhance existing regulations to protect the environment."



PS for Trade and Commerce Lillian Bwalya (middle) signs an MoU with Chief Executive Officers in Lusaka.

Lobito Corridor: ZCSA, Others to Train Over 40 SMEs

THE Zambia Compulsory Standards Agency (ZCSA), working with other institutions under MCTI will train more than 40 targeted agriculture sector Cooperatives and Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) in Quality Assurance and Product Standardisation under the Lobito Corridor in 2025.

Other institutions are the Zambia Bureau of Standards (ZABS), the Zambia Metrology Agency (ZMA) and the Competition and Consumer Protection Commission (CCPC).

This is part of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed with the Ministry of Commerce, Trade and Industry (MCTI) in October 2024.

The value of the support is US\$65,000, which is equivalent to K1,735,500.

Permanent Secretary for Trade and Commerce at the Ministry of Commerce, Trade and Industry, Lillian Bwalya, signed the MoU on behalf of the Ministry while ZCSA Executive Director Gerald Chizinga, ZMA Executive Director Humphrey Nkoben, ZABS Executive Director Nathan Sing'ambwa and CCPC Executive Director Brian Lingela signed on behalf of their respective institutions.

Mrs. Bwalya said the training would be conducted in Solwezi, Mwinilunga and Kabompo Districts of the North-Western Province.

The Ministry of Commerce, Trade and Industry is currently implementing the Lobito Corridor Trade Facilitation Project with support from the African Development Bank valued at US\$8.1 million.

Mrs. Bwalya said the main aim of the Project was to enhance domestic and cross border trade among the Lobito Corridor States i.e. Angola, Democratic Republic of Congo and Zambia.

This will be achieved through the implementation of harmonized trade facilitation instruments, strengthening coordination of joint corridor development activities, and fostering effective participation of SMEs in value chains.

She said one of the key deliverables of the Project was capacity building for SMEs in the agriculture, mining and construction value chains.

"It has been observed that most of the agriculture sector Cooperatives and SMEs are not able to access the local, regional and foreign markets because their products are not certified by the Quality Institutions. In this regard, the Project undertakes to train Cooperatives and SMEs in Quality Assurance and Product Standardisation so that they can benefit from the ensuing market access opportunities in the Lobito Corridor and beyond," she said.



PS for Trade and Commerce Lillian Bwalya (left) and ZCSA Executive Director Gerald Chizinga display the signed MoU.

The Lobito Corridor offers a shorter route to a seaport for Mining products and other goods produced on the Copperbelt and North Western Provinces in Zambia.

Further, the Lobito Corridor is highly populated as such offers a big market for businesses in Zambia.

Currently, Angola imports most of its agriculture products/food from Brazil in South America.

Once the Corridor is fully developed, the mining and agriculture businesses in Zambia will benefit from the opportunities that will be available in the market.

Mrs. Bwalya said Government was currently finalizing the Agreement for the construction of a railway line from Chingola on the Copperbelt Province through the North Western Province to Luacano in Angola.

This railway line will link to the existing Benguela Railway Line that ends up at the Port of Lobito on the Atlantic Ocean.

In addition, Mrs Bwalya said the Government was planning to construct an all-weather road from Mwinilunga to the Jimbe Border Post (border with Angola) and a One Stop Border Post at Jimbe Border Post.

The Transport and Trade Infrastructure once developed will enhance trade as well as regional integration among the three Corridor States.

Some of the achievements the Lobito Corridor Trade Facilitation Project has recorded since its inception in June 2018 are:

- The Project facilitated the signing of the Lobito Corridor Transit Transport Facilitation Agency Agreement in January 2023 in Lobito, Angola.
- The Project has supported capacity building of the National Quality Institutions, Zambia Revenue Authority, Solwezi Trades Training Institute and the Business Regulatory Review Agency.
- Furthermore, the Project facilitated the capacity building of Small and Medium Enterprises in the agriculture, construction and mining value chains in business skills, relevant technical skills and basic quality assurance.

Mrs. Bwalya expressed his gratitude to the NQIs for their commitment to training SMEs in Quality Assurance and Product Standardisation.

Speaking on behalf NQIs, Mr Nkoben said the statutory bodies were ready to support SMEs through appropriate training.

He said NQIs were grateful for the support they received under the Lobito Corridor Trade Facilitation Project.



The value of the support is US\$65,000, which is equivalent to K1,735,500.



ZCSA Executive Director Gerald Chizinga (right) with members of staff during the Africa Public Service Day exhibition in Lusaka.

Vice President Nalumango Commends ZCSA

THE Vice President of the Republic of Zambia, Her Honour, Mrs W.K Mutale Nalumango, has commended the Zambia Compulsory Standards Agency (ZCSA) for effectively monitoring imported products.

Mrs. Nalumango said the country would not be importing products of high quality in the absence of the Agency in Border posts.

She was speaking in Lusaka in June 2024 when she visited the ZCSA stand at the Africa Public Service Day exhibition.

The theme for the 2024 Africa Public Service Day was "Empowering Citizen - Centric Public Service for an Inclusive and Thriving 21st Century Africa: A Journey of Lifelong Learning and Technological Transformation".

During the year 2024, more than 300 people visited the ZCSA stands in Lusaka, Ndola, Kitwe and Chipata to get information on the mandate of the Agency.

This is compared to about 200 people who visited different ZCSA stands mounted in Lusaka, Ndola and Kitwe in 2023.

Majority of the people visited the ZCSA stand during the 2024 Zambia International Trade Fair (ZITF) in Ndola, followed by those who visited the Agency's stand during the Agriculture and Commercial Show in Lusaka.

The Copperbelt - Agricultural - Mining - Industrial - Networking - Enterprise (CAMINEX) show in Kitwe ranked third followed by the Nc'wala Traditional Ceremony in Chipata.

Others were the Chipata roadshow on unregulated potable spirits and used undergarments as well as the World Consumer Rights Day, Africa Public Service Day, Zambia China High Quality Development Forum, Local Content and Metrology day exhibitions held in Lusaka.

In all these exhibitions, the public got information on Import Quality Monitoring (IQM), Domestic Quality Monitoring (DQM) and Roadworthiness inspections for used motor vehicles.

Most people who visited the ZCSA stands appreciated the mandate of the Agency and compulsory standards.

Others commended the Agency for its quick intervention to mitigate the problem of high levels of aflatoxins in mealie meal.

ZCSA Acting Manager - Communications and Public Relations, Brian Hatyoka, said the public also wanted more standards to be declared as Compulsory Standards in a bid to enhance consumer and environmental protection.

Mr. Hatyoka also said Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) were asking the Agency to expedite the process of introducing SME fees structure to support small businesses in the country.

"Some called for enhanced monitoring of products under compulsory standards in Zambia while others wanted ZCSA to increase on public sensitization among manufacturers, retailers, importers and other stakeholders," he said.

He further said some stakeholders wanted ZCSA to come up with

more punitive measures to deter culprits beyond seizing and destruction of unsafe products.

Mr Hatyoka said the Agency would participate in more exhibitions in 2025 in a quest to educate the public on ZCSA's mandate and compulsory standards.

Under Section 5 of the Compulsory Standards Act No. 3 of 2017, the specific functions of ZCSA are to:

- Administer, maintain and ensure compliance with compulsory standards;
- Give premarket approval of high-risk commodities falling within the scope of compulsory standards;
- Conduct market surveillance for products falling within the scope of compulsory standards in order to monitor post market compliance of commodities with compulsory standards;
- Educate the public on compulsory standards and provide public information for the protection of the consumers on products and services which do not comply with the Act;
- Cooperate with Ministries and other State institutions and international organisations in enforcing compulsory standards; and
- Do all such things related to, or incidental to the functions of the Agency under the Act.

During the year 2024, more than 300 people visited the ZCSA stands in Lusaka, Ndola, Kitwe and Chipata to get information on the mandate of the Agency.



Vice President WK Mutale Nalumango appreciating the regulated products at the ZCSA stand during the Africa Public Service Day exhibition.



ZCSA Public Relations Officer Onishias Maamba (right) speaking to the public at the 2024 Nc'wala Traditional Ceremony in Chipata.

East PS Calls for Sensitization on Compulsory Standards

EASTERN Province Permanent Secretary (PS) Paul Thole has called for more public awareness of compulsory standards in the region.

Mr. Thole said the region had seen an increase in cooperatives that were engaging in food processing under the World Bank sponsorship, hence quality ought to be introduced to them.

He was speaking in February 2024 when a delegation from the Zambia Compulsory Standards Agency (ZCSA) paid a courtesy call on him at his office in Chipata.

The ZCSA delegation, which was in Chipata to attend to the 2024 Nc'wala Traditional Ceremony, later hosted a roadshow at Saturday Market to educate the public on unregulated potable spirits and banned undergarments.

Mr. Thole, who expressed delight that the ZCSA was enforcing what needed to be followed by everybody, appealed to the Agency not to be so punitive on entities that were setting up.

"I am delighted that you have come to set standards which are supposed to be observed by everybody. We are having an increase in value addition in terms of agro products throughout the province. The World Bank has just been sponsoring women-driven agro-cooperatives through a programme called You Feel. We have production centres in about four districts in the province and hence quality ought to be introduced," he said.

He urged ZCSA not to be punitive, but to guide and teach producers on how to attain standards which were acceptable.

Mr. Thole disclosed that some cooperatives had started producing stockfeed locally using raw materials from maize stock and groundnuts. He said this had resulted in the province not importing feed from Lusaka as was the case in the past.

He said his office was in full support of the ZCSA's mandate such as the regulating of potable spirits.

The PS acknowledged some that some locally manufactured alcoholic drinks were harmful to consumers.

"We agree with what you are advocating for especially when it comes to the safety of our people in terms of goods and foodstuffs which they consume and the alcohol content of the locally produced beer for example 'Kachasu.' But I feel for inspectors because it is a challenge for them to go and regulate the 'Kachasu' brewing," he said.

Mr. Thole expressed concern that some people were suffering from strange diseases due to wearing second hand undergarments.

He said although there was resistance by some to embrace the Agency's stance on used undergarments, there was need to find ways of amicably resolving the problem.

Mr. Thole assured that his office was ready to support ZCSA staff based in Eastern province in carrying out their duties.

Earlier, ZCSA acting Manager - Communications and Public Relations Brian Hatyoka took time to explain to the PS the mandate of the Agency.

Mr. Hatyoka, who was in the company of ZCSA Public Relations Officer Onishias Maamba and ZCSA Eastern Province inspector, Zikhalo Mtine, later handed over branded ZCSA materials to the PS.



Members of the public visit the ZCSA Standard at the 2024 Nc'wala Traditional Ceremony in Chipata.



ZCSA acting Manager - Communications and PR Brian Hatyoka (second from right) shakes hands with Eastern Province Permanent Secretary Paul Thole after paying a courtesy at his office in Chipata.



ZCSA Executive Director Gerald Chizinga (right) and Board Chairperson Ian Besa Mupeta (second right) with members of staff when ZCSA Board members conducted a familiarisation tour at Ndola Office.



ZCSA Board Chairperson Ian Besa Mupeta (left) and Copperbelt Province Permanent Secretary (PS) Augustine Kasongo share a light moment when ZCSA Board members paid a courtesy call on the PS. This was after Mr Mupeta presented a gift to Mr Kasongo.

Only Safe Products Permitted on Market – ZCSA

THE Zambia Compulsory Standards Agency (ZCSA) will continue ensuring that only safe products are supplied to consumers.

ZCSA Board Chairperson, Ian Besa Mupeta, said the Agency would seize, withdraw and destroy non-compliant products to protect consumers and the environment.

Mr. Mupeta was speaking in Ndola in 2024 when the ZCSA Board of Directors paid a courtesy call on Copperbelt Province Permanent Secretary Augustine Kasongo.

This was part of the Board's familiarisation tour across Zambia, aimed at gathering first-hand information from all ZCSA offices and meeting stakeholders in a bid to inform effective policy direction for the Agency.

Mr. Mupeta said the Agency would continue conducting routine factory inspections aimed at ensuring that products are tested before they are supplied on the market.

He said ZCSA would also continue conducting market surveillance inspections countrywide for continued compliance to protect the health and safety of consumers.

Further, ZCSA would continue educating the public on compulsory standards and provide public information for the protection of consumers from unsafe products on the market in line with the Compulsory Standards Act No. 3 of 2017.

Mr. Mupeta said all the mealie meal brands currently being supplied on the market in the Copperbelt and Zambia at large were safe for human consumption.

He advised consumers that all mealie meal brands on the market had been certified safe, including brands that had the affected batches withdrawn from the

market and destroyed.

"Citizens and trading outlets here on the Copperbelt, Northern region and entire Zambia should not panic over recent public concerns regarding the safety of mealie meal as there are effective food safety and quality control systems being implemented by the agency to protect consumers," he said.

He said ZCSA had enhanced the scope of testing and inspections to cover aflatoxins on a continuous basis for both raw materials and finished products.

Furthermore, millers are now required to have a standing monitoring program for aflatoxins internally on both raw materials and finished products. Records for this activity should be provided on request.

During a courtesy call on the provincial administration for North-Western Province, Mr. Mupeta appealed to the business community in the area to engage the ZCSA office in Solwezi early so that their entities were properly guided and equipped with the necessary knowledge on good manufacturing practices for specific

products.

"This will result in improved product safety, increase the chances of success through compliance with regulatory requirements, as well as increase market access for manufacturers domestically and internationally," Mr Mupeta said.

In response, Mr Kasongo urged ZCSA regional staff to always engage the provincial administration for support when required.

He further urged the Agency to increase the number of radio programmes in a bid to protect consumers from unsafe products on the market.

...the Agency would seize, withdraw and destroy non-compliant products to protect consumers and the environment."



North-Western Deputy Permanent Secretary Tradeson Mulofwa (right) and ZCSA Board Chairperson Ian Besa Mupeta exchanging notes during the courtesy call in Solwezi.



Delegates after attending a consultative meeting with scientists, public health experts and academicians on the prevention of lead poisoning.

ZCSA, CEHF to Partner on Environmental Protection

ZAMBIA Compulsory Standards Agency (ZCSA), Executive Director, Gerald Chizinga, says his Agency is ready to work with the Children Environmental Health Foundation (CEHF) and other stakeholders to examine, refine and enhance regulations aimed at protecting the health of citizens and the environment.

Mr. Chizinga said the duty of protecting consumers and the environment from unsafe products requires concerted efforts from different stakeholders such as CEHF.

He was speaking in October 2024 in Lusaka at Grand Palace Hotel during a consultative meeting with scientists, public health experts and academicians on the prevention of lead poisoning in paint.

The meeting, which was hosted by CEHF and also attended by ZCSA officials led by the Agency's Quality Assurance Manager, Francis Mwelwa, was part of the 2024 International Lead Poisoning Prevention Week (ILPPW).

In 2024, ILPPW celebrated 12 years of concerted action to eliminate lead in paint.

The aims of ILPPW were to:

1. Raise awareness about the health effects of lead exposure;
2. Highlight the efforts of countries and partners to prevent lead exposure, particularly in children; and
3. Urge the completion of action to eliminate lead paint through regulatory action at country level.

Mr. Chizinga said ZCSA currently regulates 61 products which are covered by compulsory standards, which include High Gloss Synthetic Enamel Paint (ZS 295) and Emulsion Paints for Interior and External use – specification (ZS 201).

He added, "It is my hope that you (delegates) will use the meeting to determine whether or not the current compulsory standards for paints are adequate to protect the consumer and the environment. ZCSA is ready to receive your recommendations on which other standards need to be declared



CEHF Executive Director Michael Musenga addressing delegates during a consultative meeting with scientists, public health experts and academicians on the prevention of lead poisoning.

compulsory to enhance consumer and environmental protection. We enforce all standards once declared mandatory in a bid to safeguard the consumer and the environment."

Mr. Chizinga said the lead safe paint standard sets the maximum allowable, total lead content of a paint at 90 parts per million (PPM) dry weight.

This is the standard used in mandatory regulation in many countries, and it is the strictest standard in the world.

Speaking at the same event, CEHF Executive Director Michael Musenga said citizens must be concerned on the presence of lead in paint as it has particles that are capable of contaminating the environment.

Mr. Musenga, who is also National Lead Elimination Advisor, said children are more vulnerable to Lead poisoning in terms of having long lasting effects in their lives.

According to health experts, lead is a well-recognized toxicant that has wide-ranging health impacts, in particular affecting the neurological, cardiovascular, renal, gastrointestinal and haematological systems.

Young children are particularly vulnerable as they have unique pathways that can lead to higher exposure than adults.

In addition, lead can lead to irreversible damage to the developing brain that may result in health outcomes that last a lifetime, such as reduced intellectual ability.

Despite widespread recognition of the harmful effects of lead and actions in many countries, exposure to lead, particularly during childhood, remains a key concern for health care providers and public health officials worldwide.

Sources of lead exposure include environmental contamination from mining, smelting, manufacturing and recycling activities, and the use of lead in a wide-range of consumer products.



ZCSA Executive Director Gerald Chizinga addressing delegates during a consultative meeting with scientists, public health experts and academicians on the prevention of lead poisoning.



ZCSA Quality Assurance Manager Francis Mwelwa (middle), ZANIS Director Loyce Saili (second from right) and other ZANIS members of staff in Lusaka.

ZCSA, ZANIS Partner to Educate on Product Safety

THE Zambia Compulsory Standards Agency (ZCSA) and the Zambia News and Information Services (ZANIS) have agreed to work together to educate the public on the safety of products traded on the Zambian market.

Under the agreement, ZCSA provincial inspectors and ZANIS Provincial Information Officers based in all 10 provincial centres of Zambia will work closely to educate the public on product safety.

The two institutions will sensitise the public on unsafe products.

This came to light in June 2024 when ZCSA Quality Assurance Manager, Francis Mwelwa paid a courtesy call on ZANIS Director, Loyce Saili.

Mr. Mwelwa, accompanied by ZCSA Acting Manager – Communications and Public Relations Brian Hatyoka, also toured ZANIS facilities at the Head Office in Lusaka.

ZCSA and ZANIS identified areas of collaboration, especially since the two Government institutions have offices in all 10 provinces of Zambia.

During the courtesy call, Mr. Mwelwa said ZCSA officers in Lusaka and other provincial centres of the country will work closely with ZANIS headquarters in Lusaka and its provincial offices across the country to educate the public on compulsory standards and product safety.

“As ZCSA, we usually conduct factory and market surveillance inspections to check on compliance of regulated products. During these inspections, some products are usually seized and destroyed. ZANIS officers will be invited to cover some of these enforcement activities in Lusaka and other provinces of Zambia,” he said.

Mr. Mwelwa also said ZANIS officers should alert ZCSA officers in all



ZCSA Quality Assurance Manager Francis Mwelwa (right) hands over ZCSA literature to ZANIS Director Loyce Saili in Lusaka.

provinces on expired, banned, unregulated or illegal production of products that are posing a danger to the health of the public.

He said ZANIS could assist in educating the public on unregulated products such as traditional beer which killed some people in Pemba.

In May 2024, a joint team of officers from the Zambia Police Service and ZCSA seized 25 bottles of suspected counterfeit methylated spirit and other ingredients allegedly used to make homemade beer which resulted in the death of residents.

Speaking at the event meeting, Mrs. Saili outlined several media platforms and services that ZANIS offers, adding that the institution is ready to partner with ZCSA to educate the public.

“ZANIS is the only mainstream media organisation in Zambia providing the widest possible professional news coverage through a well-trained cadre of Journalists stationed at the headquarters in Lusaka, regional offices in provinces and districts. Let us work together,” she said.

ZANIS’s mandate is to interpret Government policies and provide accurate and comprehensive information to the public to solicit their support and participation in national development.

This mandate is executed through ZANIS’s Editorial, Technical Services, Research and Information Units.

Mrs Saili was accompanied by the Editor-in-Chief Rosaria Lubumbashi, Assistant Director – Technical Services Chisha Mutale, and Senior Marketing Officer, Soneni Kafwamba.

ZANIS Production Manager Henry Himoonde (left) explaining the operations of ZANIS to the ZCSA Quality Assurance Manager Francis Mwelwa (middle), as ZANIS Director Loyce Saili looks on.





Team Trendsetters Representative Michael Mulenga (right) leads the team during the handover ceremony.

ZCSA Trendsetters Team Wins Roland Msiska Award



The team won a Gold Award for Best Presentation of a project dubbed 'Reducing Lead Time for Final Dispatch of Results' in the Public Sector.

ZAMBIA Compulsory Standards Agency (ZCSA)'s Trendsetters Team has won the Roland Msiska Award during the 2024 National KAIZEN Conference held in Lusaka at Mulungushi International Conference Centre.

The Gold Award is for Best Presentation of a project dubbed 'Reducing Lead Time for Final Dispatch of Results' in the Public Sector Category.

Zambia Compulsory Standards Agency (ZCSA) Executive Director, Gerald Chizinga, commended the staff for winning the Roland Msiska's Award.

Mr. Chizinga was speaking in Lusaka in March 2024 at the ZCSA Head Office

when he received a trophy and a certificate from ZCSA's Trendsetters Team.

He urged members of staff to keep improving their service delivery in a quest to meet the expectations of different stakeholders.

Mr. Chizinga said ZCSA employees must enhance operational effectiveness and efficiency in line with the Agency's Strategic Plan.

He said the principles of KAIZEN should help the Agency to improve service delivery especially that the Award was named after the late Secretary to Cabinet Roland Msiska who was very passionate about improving service delivery in the public sector.

"It is good we have won the Gold Award but the real benefits should be seen in the project we identified. Over the past few years, ZCSA has done very well at the National KAIZEN Conference. We must keep improving for us to meet the expectations of stakeholders," Mr Chizinga said.

ZCSA Acting Inspections Manager for Import Quality Monitoring (IQM) Department, Kasuba Kasengele, thanked Mr Chizinga for extending resources to different teams which participated in the KAIZEN National Conference.

Mr Kasengele said there is need to ensure winning Teams in Lusaka extend their support to members of staff in other stations.

ZCSA Quality Assurance Manager, Francis Mwelwa, thanked Mr Chizinga for supporting members of staff in their work.

Team Trendsetters Representative, Michael Mulenga, said the group put up an excellent presentation during the conference.

"The Roland Msiska Award will encourage us to continue working hard. We are a role model in the public sector," Mr Mulenga said.

Kaizen is a Japanese term which means "good change", "change for the better", or "improvement."

As a philosophy, kaizen promotes a mindset where small incremental changes create an impact over time.

As a methodology, kaizen enhances specific areas in a company by involving top management and rank-and-file employees to initiate everyday changes, knowing that many tiny improvements can yield big results.

“It is good we have won the Gold Award but the real benefits should be seen in the project we identified...”



ZCSA Trendsetters Team handover the Roland Msiska trophy and certificate to ZCSA Executive Director Gerald Chizinga (second left) in Lusaka.



Proper drying and storage is key to control aflatoxins in maize.

Quality Parameters for Maize Meal/ Mealie Meal

ACCORDING to the Zambia Standard (ZS 189:2014) for Maize Meal, the following quality parameters are specified:

1. **Moisture content:** Should be 14% Maximum (Breakfast) and 14.5% Maximum (Roller and whole Maize Meal) to prevent mould growth and spoilage.
2. **Protein content:** Should be 5% Minimum for nutrition.
3. **Crude Fiber content:** Should be 1.5% Maximum (Breakfast), 2.5% Maximum (Roller) and 3.5% Maximum (Whole Maize Meal).
4. **Crude Oil content:** Should be 3.0% Maximum (Breakfast), 4.5% Maximum (Roller) and 5.0% Maximum (Whole Maize Meal) to prevent rancidity.
5. **Free fatty acid (as Oleic Acid):** Should be 5% Maximum.
6. **Total Ash content:** Should be 1.0% Maximum (Breakfast), 2.0% Maximum (Roller) and 2.5% Maximum (Whole Maize Meal) to indicate low mineral content.
7. **Acid Insoluble ash:** Should be 0.2% Maximum.
8. **Alcoholic acidity (As H₂SO₄):** Should be 0.1% Maximum.
9. **Colour grade (depends on the colour of maize used):** 5.5 Maximum (Breakfast) and 10.0 Maximum (Roller and Whole Maize Meal)
10. **Granularity, through 32 Wire (750µm):** should be 90% Maximum (Breakfast and Roller) and 95% Maximum (Whole Maize).
11. **Aflatoxin content:** Total Aflatoxins should be 10 ppb (parts per billion) Maximum and for Aflatoxins B1 5ppb (parts per billion) Maximum to ensure safety

Regular testing and monitoring of these parameters ensure the quality and safety of maize meal.

What Are Aflatoxins?

Aflatoxins are toxic compounds produced by certain mould species, particularly *Aspergillus flavus* and *Aspergillus parasiticus*. They are carcinogenic, mutagenic, and teratogenic, meaning they can cause cancer, genetic mutations, and birth defects, if exposure is prolonged.

Aflatoxins are commonly found in:

1. Grains: maize, wheat, rice, and sorghum.
2. Nuts: peanuts, almonds, walnuts, and pistachios.
3. Seeds: sunflower, cottonseed, and soybeans.
4. Spices: chilli peppers, black pepper, and paprika.
5. Dried fruits: dates, apricots, and prunes.

There are four main types of aflatoxins:

1. Aflatoxin B1 (AFB1): most toxic and carcinogenic
2. Aflatoxin B2 (AFB2)
3. Aflatoxin G1 (AFG1)
4. Aflatoxin G2 (AFG2)

Aflatoxins can contaminate crops through:

1. Pre-harvest: mould growth on crops in the field.
2. Post-harvest: improper drying, storage, or handling.

Exposure to aflatoxins can occur through:

1. Ingestion of contaminated food
2. Inhalation of mold spores

3. Skin contact with contaminated materials.

Prolonged exposure to aflatoxins can cause:

1. Liver damage and cancer
2. Immune system suppression
3. Birth defects and developmental issues
4. Nutritional deficiencies

Prevention and control measures include:

1. Good agricultural practices
2. Proper drying and storage
3. Regular testing and monitoring
4. Use of aflatoxin-binding agents (common in animal feed production)
5. Public health awareness and education

Critical Control Points for Aflatoxins in a Maize Milling Plant

Critical Control Points (CCPs) for aflatoxins in a maize milling plant are steps in the process where control measures can be applied to prevent, eliminate, or reduce aflatoxin contamination. Here are some CCPs:

1. Raw Material Receiving:
 - Inspect maize for visible mould, insect damage, or moisture.
 - Test for aflatoxin levels.
2. Cleaning and Sorting:
 - Remove impurities, dust, and debris.
 - Sort maize by quality and moisture content.
3. Drying:
 - Dry maize to a moisture level below 15% to prevent mould growth.
 - Monitor temperature and humidity.
4. Storage:
 - Store maize in a clean, dry, and well-ventilated area.
 - Use pest control measures.



Groundnuts are also supposed to be tested and monitored regularly to prevent high aflatoxins in peanut butter.

5. Milling:
 - Use proper milling techniques to minimize damage to kernels.
 - Monitor temperature and humidity.
 6. Sifting and Sorting:
 - Remove fines and broken kernels.
 - Sort Maize Flour by quality and moisture content.
 7. Packing and Storage:
 - Pack flour in clean, dry containers.
 - Store Maize Flour in a cool, dry place.
- Control measures at these CCPs may include:
- Regular testing for aflatoxins
 - Moisture control
 - Temperature control
 - Pest control
 - Good housekeeping
 - Proper equipment maintenance
 - Training for personnel

By identifying and controlling these CCPs, maize milling plants can reduce the risk of aflatoxin contamination and ensure the production of safe and healthy products.



ZCSA inaugural award winners with the Agency Board Chairperson Ian Mupeta (third left back) and Executive Director Gerald Chizinga (third right back).

ZCSA Hosts Inaugural Media Awards

THE Zambia Compulsory Standards Agency (ZCSA) appreciates the important role journalists play in educating the public on product safety.

One of the functions of ZCSA is to educate the public on products falling within the scope of compulsory standards and provide public information for the protection of the consumers on products and services which do not comply with the Compulsory Standards Act No. 3 of 2017.

The Agency has recognised the media as key partners in facilitating for a platform to educate the public on the Agency's mandate of protecting consumers and the environment through enforcement of compulsory standards.

On March 7, 2024, ZCSA hosted the inaugural Media Awards aimed at celebrating journalists who excelled in disseminating compelling information to the public on matters relating to compulsory standards and product safety in general.

Best evaluated stories specifically met the criteria of being compelling, original, multi-sourced, relevant, unique, simplified, grammatically sound and clear understanding of the Agency's mandate, among other attributes.

The winners were:

- 1st Prize - Best Print Media Award /Newspapers (Ketra Kalunga, Times of Zambia, Lusaka).
- 2nd Best Print Media Award /Newspapers (Abigail Chifusa, Zambia Daily Mail, Lusaka).
- 1st Prize - Best Radio Award (Ennety Munshya, Power FM Radio, Kabwe).
- 2nd Best Radio Award (Cecilia Chiluba, Money FM Radio, Lusaka).
- 1st Prize- Best Television (TV) Award (Fortune Malata, Zambia National Broadcasting Corporation, Lusaka).
- 2nd Best TV Award (Mwiya Mukumbuta, Muvi TV Livingstone).
- 1st Prize - Best Digital Media Award (Michael Kaluba, Radio Phoenix, Kitwe).

I am glad to be part of the Zambian Journalists who are doing the most to raise public awareness on compulsory standards..."

- 2nd Best Digital Media Award (Francis Maingaila, Zambia24.com).
- 1st Prize- Most Consistent Award (Francis Maingaila, Zambia24.com).
- 2nd Most Consistent Award (Lillian Chipeso, Mafken Radio, Mufulira).
- Overall Winner (Ennety Munshya, Power FM Radio, Kabwe).

In separate interviews, award winners said there was a need for journalists to write more compelling stories aimed at ensuring product safety in the country.

Ms Kalunga said the awards encouraged her to continue educating the public on the importance of adhering to food safety standards.

According to Ms Kalunga, unsafe food products are detrimental to both consumers and the environment.

Another winner, Ms Chiluba, was happy that ZCSA recognised and appreciated her work of educating the public on the dangers of embracing second-hand undergarments.

She said the award motivated her to continue raising public awareness of unsafe products such as used undergarments which could cause skin rash, and fungal infections and carry sexually transmitted infections to end users.

"I am glad to be part of the Zambian Journalists who are doing the most to raise public awareness on compulsory standards, especially on why it is important to buy products that are safe for human consumption," she said.

Another winner, Mr Maingaila, says the award not only validates the efforts put into writing stories, but also underscores the impact of such articles.

He said the recognition serves as a powerful motivator and inspired him to delve deeper into topics aimed at protecting consumers and the environment.

"This award fuels my passion for storytelling and reinforces my commitment to making a meaningful contribution through my writing," Mr Maingaila said.

Speaking during the award ceremony, ZCSA Board Chairperson Ian Besa Mupeta said the media serves as a vital conduit for information that empowers consumers, inspires innovation, and fosters a culture of excellence in the nation's businesses.

Mr Mupeta said more than 322 articles were published and aired on various media platforms on subjects related to compulsory standards during the year 2023.

ZCSA Executive Director Gerald Chizinga said the Agency would continue cooperating with Government Ministries, other State institutions and international organizations in enforcing compulsory standards as mandated by the Act.

Mr Chizinga said the Agency remains committed to ensuring that only safe products are supplied on the Zambian market.

ZCSA Media Awards Adjudication Committee Chairperson, Enock Ngoma congratulated the Agency for coming up with the idea of Media Awards.

Mr Ngoma, a veteran journalist and former Editor at the Times of Zambia newspaper, said adjudicators encountered stiff competition in most of the categories as it was difficult to come up with a winner.

He urged journalists to take a keen interest in reporting various issues pertaining to compulsory standards and consumer protection in a quest to play a role in protecting public safety, health, consumers and the environment.

In a vote of thanks, overall winner Ennety Munshya appealed to journalists to continue creating quality stories that would create a positive impact in the lives of their audiences.

Currently, ZCSA is preparing to host the 2nd Media Awards during the first quarter of 2025.



ZCSA Board Chairperson Ian Mupeta presenting a certificate to ZCSA media awards overall winner Ennety Munshya.

ZCSA Starts Educating Public Using Local Languages



ZCSA Executive Director Gerald Chizinga officially opened the training for local language journalists.



ZCSA Acting Manager - Communications and Public Relations Brian Hatyoka discussing aflatoxin contamination in Tonga in an interview on ZNBC Radio 1.

THE Zambia Compulsory Standards Agency (ZCSA) has started rolling out public education interventions on its mandate using local languages in a quest to enhance consumer protection in both rural and urban areas.

ZCSA Executive Director, Gerald Chizinga, said the Agency was currently educating producers, importers, exporters, traders, consumers and other stakeholders across in both local languages and English.

Mr Chizinga said ZCSA would further translate its brochures and adverts into local languages in a bid to ensure that more people were reached in both urban and rural areas.

He was speaking in Lusaka in 2024 during the official opening of the Media Engagement workshop for journalists who broadcast in local languages from 10 provinces of Zambia.

The workshop was aimed at enhancing journalists' knowledge and understanding of the implementation of compulsory standards to raise public awareness in local languages on product safety.

Under Section 5 of the Compulsory Standards Act No. 3 of 2017, one of the specific functions of ZCSA is to educate the public on compulsory standards and provide public information for the protection of the consumers on products and services which do not comply with the Act.

Mr Chizinga urged journalists to familiarise themselves with compulsory standards to help promote product safety and protection of consumers.

He said journalists must set a public agenda on compulsory standards to contribute to public education efforts by the Agency.

Mr Chizinga said ZCSA recognises the important role the media plays in educating the masses on different subjects including product standards.

The ZCSA Executive Director said ZCSA ensures that products covered by compulsory standards meet specific criteria before they can be supplied on the market as required by the Compulsory Standards Act.

He said the criteria specified in compulsory standards include performance, composition, contents, methods of manufacturing or processing, design, packaging and labelling, among others, in a quest to prevent the risk of injury or harm to consumers and the environment.

Mr Chizinga reminded producers and traders that it is illegal to supply products covered by compulsory standards on the market without authority from the Agency.

He said ZCSA will not hesitate to withdraw products which do not comply with compulsory standards from the market.

Zambia National Broadcasting Corporation (ZNBC) Lunda Section producer, Miriam Nyamwana, thanked ZCSA for considering local language journalists as key stakeholders in educating the public on compulsory standards.

Media Workshop facilitator, Hebert Macha, urged journalists to investigate the dangers of consuming non-compliant products in a bid to contribute to consumer protection and public education by the Agency.

“...ZCSA would further translate its brochures and adverts into local languages...”



Delegates after making their submissions on the proposed new compulsory standards during the Regulatory Impact Assessment (RIA) meeting in Lusaka.

BRRR Approves RIA Report on New Compulsory Standards

On June 2024, the Business Regulatory Review Agency (BRRR) approved Zambia Compulsory Standards Agency (ZCSA)'s proposal to declare more than 40 Zambian Standards as new Compulsory Standards.

Currently, ZCSA regulates 61 products covered by compulsory standards covering food, beverages, chemicals, electricals and similar appliances, fertilizer, fuel, cement and used textile products, among others.

The approval by BRRR followed the finalization of consideration of the Regulatory Impact Assessment (RIA) Reports submitted by ZCSA on the proposed declaration of compulsory standards for packaging materials, solar products, fertilizers, fish feed, food products, lubricants and fuels, beverages and some construction materials.

BRRR noted that the process of declaration of the proposed compulsory standards followed by ZCSA is in line with Sections 4, 5 and 6 of the Business Regulatory Act No. 3 of 2014.

Further, BRRR noted that the proposed compulsory standards were aimed at promoting product safety thereby protecting consumers.

By having more compulsory standards, ZCSA will widen the scope of its regulatory intervention and enhance the protection of consumers and the environment.

In March 2024, ZCSA consulted various stakeholders on the proposed declaration of more than 40 new Zambian Standards as Compulsory Standards as required by the Business Regulatory Act.

This followed the successful completion of the drafting process of 41 proposed standards aimed at enhancing consumer and environmental protection.

During consultations with stakeholders, ZCSA provided an overview of the draft Compulsory Standards and their potential impact and also received input through constructive discussions where stakeholders shared comments, concerns and suggestions with the aim of refining the proposed regulations.

Bernard Sikunyongana, the president of the Zambia Fruit and Vegetables Association (Zfva), said the proposed standards were timely and appropriate.

Mr. Sikunyongana said Zambia had remained behind in terms of protecting consumers compared to its surrounding nations.

He explained that some of his members were being supplied with sub-standard products, adding that the time had come for Zambia to position itself strategically in the region.

Zambian Standard (ZS) 750: 2012 Galvanized Plain and Corrugated Steel Sheets – Specification is among the proposed Standards to be declared Compulsory.

It specifies requirements for galvanized plain and corrugated steel sheets for roofing, cladding, fence, fabrication and general use.

Others are Zambian Standard (ZS) 007 Pre-cast concrete and sand cement blocks and Zambian Standard (ZS) 433: 2006 Carbon Steel Bars for the Reinforcement of Concrete Specification.

The development has received praise among players in the roofing sub-sector including ClassEcon Roofing and Steel Limited Company Business Development Manager Samson Kalima.

Mr. Kalima said once the new standard for the roofing sub-sector was implemented, the move was going to see immense benefits for both producers and consumers.

He said a lack of standards in the roofing sub-sector had resulted in people who were building compromised structures.

To ensure the safety of oil for various operations, the Agency has proposed to declare as Compulsory Standard (ZS 451: 2004) Engine Oil for Light Duty and Heavy Duty Internal Combustion Engines – Specification.

The Standard provides specific requirements for engine oils for light-duty and heavy-duty internal combustion engines used under a variety of operating conditions in turbo-charge and naturally aspirated diesel and gasoline engines.

Southern Cross Motors Service Manager Elijah Mtawali expressed happiness that the Agency was engaging stakeholders and wanted the scope increased to include other oils.

To protect the farmers' interest, the Agency has proposed to declare as compulsory standards seven more Standards for Fertilizer Sub-sector.

Among the standards include Zambia Standard (ZS) 609: 2004 Fertilizers – Sulphate of Potash – Specification, (ZS) 610: 2004, Fertilizers – Potassium chloride – Specification, Zambian Standard (ZS) 612: 2004 Fertilizers – Magnesium Nitrate – Specification, Zambian Standard (ZS) 613: 2004 and Zambian Standard (ZS) 666: 2008 Code of Practice – Handling and Storage of Bagged and Bulk Fertilizers to mention just a few.

Compulsory Standards protect the local manufacturers because imported products of similar nature also have to conform to local compulsory standards, thereby protecting the industry against substandard and cheaper products entering the market.

Compulsory Standards further entail that locally manufactured products can compete favourably with imported products as they are subjected to the same minimum requirements.

The approval by BRRR followed the finalization of... Reports submitted by ZCSA on the proposed declaration of compulsory standards for packaging materials, solar products, fertilizers, fish feed, food products, lubricants and fuels, beverages and some construction materials.



Used undergarments being destroyed in Mongu following the disposal order from the Mongu Magistrate's Court.

Over 1,400 Used Undergarments Destroyed in Mongu

MORE than 1,400 pieces of used undergarments including underwear and bras have been seized and destroyed in Mongu District of Western Province.

In May 2024, a joint team of officers from the Zambia Compulsory Standards Agency (ZCSA) and Mongu Municipal Council seized 1,420 pieces of used undergarments from traders in Mongu valued at K15,670.

This happened during a joint market surveillance inspection conducted at Kashumba Market and Town Centre of Mongu District.

Afterwards, the Mongu Magistrate Court issued a disposal order and the products were destroyed accordingly.

ZCSA and Mongu Municipal Council warned traders to refrain from selling used undergarments as this practice may put the health of consumers at risk.

Offenders may face sanctions such as seizure and destruction of non-conforming products as well as prosecution through the courts of law.

Consumers are urged to buy only new undergarments which are available on the market, to safeguard their health.

Further, the two entities educated the public on the need to adhere to the ban on the importation and sale of used undergarments in Zambia.

In 2006, the Zambian Government declared the Zambian standard for used textile products compulsory through Statutory Instrument (SI) No. 120 of 2006.

This compulsory standard prohibits the importation and sale of used textile products containing undergarments such as pyjamas, nightgowns, underwear, bras, camisoles, and vests.

The Compulsory Standard ZS 559: Inspection and Acceptance Criteria for Used Textile Products prohibits the importation and sale of used textile products containing undergarments and nightwear.

This standard was declared compulsory to protect the safety of consumers because used textile products that are worn in very close contact with the skin may cause ailments such as skin rash, fungal infections and sexually transmitted diseases.

Further, due to associated poor personal hygiene practices, such as inadequate washing or sharing, used undergarments increase the risk of transmitting pathogens (germs) from first-hand users to second-hand users.

In certain cases, wearing of used undergarments that have not been properly cleaned, might cause allergic reactions or irritate the skin, particularly for individuals with sensitive skin or pre-existing skin conditions.

Additionally, irritation and itching that results, can lead to discomfort and, in some cases, secondary infections due to skin scratching.



"Consumers must only buy new undergarments, which are available on the market, to safeguard their health"



ZCSA Provincial Inspector Egan Chimboma (left) with Mongu Municipal Council inspectors destroying used undergarments in Mongu.



An assortment of products seized in Kabwe for being labelled in a foreign language only, which is contrary to the Laws of Zambia.

ZCSA, CCPC Seize Poorly Labelled Products in Kabwe

A JOINT team of officers from the Zambia Compulsory Standards Agency (ZCSA) and Competition and Consumer Protection Commission (CCPC) has seized an assortment of products in Kabwe labelled in a foreign language only which is contrary to the Laws of Zambia.

The products, which were seized during the first quarter of 2024 at a value of K58,578.00, include fruit-flavoured drinks, noodles, alcoholic beverages, snacks, and other unknown foodstuffs.

Prior to this enforcement, CCPC and ZCSA conducted a joint inspection of the Central Business District in Kabwe.

The primary objective of the inspection was to ensure that traders were following the product labelling standards in line with the Competition and Consumer Protection Act, No. 24 of 2010 as amended; and the Compulsory Standards Act No.3 of 2017.

It was discovered during the inspection that products being sold at some premises were labelled in a foreign language only. Consequently, the products were seized.

The inspection team later conducted a sensitization exercise to raise awareness and enhance compliance levels.

Traders are cautioned against selling products that do not comply with the packaging and labelling requirements of the Laws of Zambia and failure to

comply may result in severe penalties as prescribed by the law.

Follow-up inspections will continuously be carried out across the country to ensure that traders are operating in conformity with various applicable laws.

This seizure should send a strong message to traders on the importance we attach to protecting consumers and upholding the integrity of the marketplace.

The Zambia Standard - ZS 033: Labelling of pre-packaged foods (Part 1 and 2) provides general guidelines for labelling and packaging for all products sold in the Zambian market.

This standard states that the language on the products must be in English and that other languages must be in addition to English.

Further, Section 50(1) of the Competition and Consumer Protection Act states that "A product that is sold in Zambia shall have a label in the official language to clearly indicate the product description, the ingredients used in the product, the date of manufacture and expiry of the product, the manufacturer's name, the physical location of the manufacturer, the telephone number

and any other contact details of the manufacturer."

Section 50(2) of the Act further states that "A person or an enterprise shall not sell any goods to consumers unless the goods conform to the mandatory consumer product information standard for the class of goods set by the Zambia Compulsory Standards Agency or other relevant competent body."

...Labelling of pre-packaged foods... provides general guidelines for labelling and packaging for all products sold in the Zambian market.



Some of the seized products include drinks, noodles and snacks.



ZCSA Executive Director Gerald Chizinga (fourth right) after he made a submission to the Parliamentary Committee on Agriculture, Lands and Natural Resources on the National Assembly Bill No. 20 of 2024, which was chaired by Chama North MP Yotam Mtyachalo (fourth left). This was in November. Mr Chizinga was accompanied by representatives of ZCSA Management and staff.

ZCSA Ready to Provide Expertise to Stakeholders

THE Zambia Compulsory Standards Agency (ZCSA) says it is ready to provide expertise to stakeholders on the safety of products traded on the market.

ZCSA Executive Director, Gerald Chizinga, said the Agency was ready to work with stakeholders to provide expertise on different products traded on the market.

Mr. Chizinga said the Agency was willing to raise awareness among parliamentarians on its important mandate of regulating imported and locally manufactured products in a bid to protect consumers and the environment from unsafe products on the market.

He was speaking in Lusaka in July 2024 when a delegation comprising ZCSA Management appeared before the Parliamentary Committee on Energy, Water Development and Tourism.

The Committee is chaired by Sesheke Constituency Member of Parliament, Hon. Romeo Kango'mbe.

Other Members of the Committee are Hon. Micheal Katambo (Masaiti), Davies Chisopa (Mkushi South), Hon. Lameck Hamwaata (Pemba), Hon.

Chanda Katotobwe (Luapula), and Hon. Raphael Samukoma Mabenga (Mulobezi).

Mr. Chizinga thanked the Committee for allowing the Agency to make a presentation to lawmakers.

Earlier, Mr Kang'ombe thanked ZCSA for responding to the invitation by Parliament to make a presentation on Energy and other matters.

Mr. Kang'ombe said his committee would continue engaging ZCSA to share expertise on energy and other regulated products.

ZCSA, a statutory body under the Ministry of Commerce, Trade and Industry, was established by Compulsory Standards Act No. 3 of 2017 to administer, maintain and enforce compliance with Compulsory Standards for the purpose of public safety and health, consumer and environmental protection.

Currently, ZCSA regulates 61 imported and locally manufactured products subject to

Compulsory Standards covering food products, beverages, chemical products, household electrical and similar appliances, fertilizers, cement and used textile products, among others.

ZCSA is willing to raise awareness among parliamentarians on its important mandate of regulating imported and locally manufactured products.



Parliamentary Committee on Energy, Water Development and Tourism Chairperson Hon. Romeo Kango'mbe (fourth from right) with ZCSA Executive Director, Gerald Chizinga (third from right) after Mr Chizinga made a presentation to the Committee on matters of Energy.

ZCSA regulates 61 imported and locally manufactured products subject to Compulsory Standards covering food products, beverages, chemical products, household electrical and similar appliances, and fertilizers, among others.



ZCSA members of staff with ACC Assistant Director - Corruption Prevention, Kelvin Siwale (second right, seated), during the five-day Induction on the work of the Integrity Committee in Lusaka, in November.

ZCSA Employees Told to Uphold Integrity

ZAMBIA Compulsory Standards Agency (ZCSA) Executive Director, Gerald Chizinga has urged members of staff to uphold high levels of integrity in the discharge of their duties.

Mr. Chizinga said this was important because there were certain expectations of public service workers by citizens in the discharge of their duties.

Mr. Chizinga said this recently when the Agency's Integrity Committee hosted an Integrity Induction for members of staff aimed at raising awareness on issues around Ethics, Corruption and Integrity among members of staff.

"By working for the public sector, there are certain expectations from you. If you are behaving in a way that is not in line with expectations, then you are not only denting your personal image, but the image of this institution and the image of the country at large. That is how serious matters of integrity are," he said.

Mr. Chizinga said the induction program that was organized by the Agency Integrity Committee was an important undertaking as it sought to align with the Government's call on public workers to maintain ethical conduct.

He implored the participants to attach value to the training so that it serves as a reminder of the need for employees to adhere to the code of conduct.

"The integrity committee programme is a very important government programme. That is why it is a requirement that each one of us who is working for this institution sign a code of ethics. By signing the code of ethics, you are pledging that you are going to work in line with that code of ethics."

"My expectations are that we should take this meeting seriously and make sure that we understand and engage so that tomorrow someone has to be held accountable. No one should come and say I was not told, I did not know that it was a requirement for me in case I encounter such a situation," he said.

Mr. Chizinga said for the institution to have a good name, there was a need for members of staff to strive to be good people as well as have a good image.

This, he said, required all ZCSA employees to do their best to protect the image of the institution by being good people and being honest at all times, beginning at an individual level.

ZCSA Integrity Committee Chairperson Elias Kansembe said integrity conversations would continue in the institution and urged participants to continue engaging with his committee on integrity matters using the available channels.

"Our hope as integrity committee is that we can have these conversations here and elsewhere on a continuous basis. We have suggestion boxes where you can drop your concerns. We are here to help both the Agency and the employees so that we can do things right according to the expectations of the republic. Everything that we do has been given to us in public trust," Mr Kansembe said.

During the workshop, the Integrity Committee led participants into understanding the Agency documents which included, the Gift Policy, Anti-Corruption Policy, Complaints Handling Procedure and Conflict of Interest Policy.

Other appropriate policies are the Code of Ethics, Whistle Blower Policy, Secondary Employment Policy and the ZCSA Service Charter.

At the close of the workshop, the Committee administered the ZCSA Integrity Pledge and the Code of Ethics for the Public Service to the participants as an affirmation to adhering to the dictates of the documents.



ZCSA Compliance Officer Kajiba Kuzanga receiving a letter of Commendation from the Anti-Corruption Commission Acting Director General Monica Chipanta Mwansa (middle) for his exemplary demonstration of Integrity and Ethical conduct in the discharge of his duties.

"If you are behaving in a way that is not in line with expectations, then you are not only denting your personal image, but the image of this institution and the image of the country at large..."



ZCSA members of staff taking part in a march past at the Lusaka Show Grounds during the 2024 International Women's Day celebrations.

ZCSA Seeks to Increase Women's Representation

THE Zambia Compulsory Standards Agency (ZCSA) has pledged to increase the number of women taking up positions at various levels within the institution.

This is in a bid to increase the current women representation in the institution which stands at 31 percent against 69 percent of males.

Speaking when he interacted with the Agency's female employees on International Women's Day (IWD), ZCSA Executive Director, Gerald Chizinga, said the 31 percent women representation was not bad but that he hoped there would be an improvement to the figure by having more women representation in the institution.

Mr. Chizinga said management would implement deliberate actions to ensure that women were given an opportunity to take up positions at any level.

"At ZCSA, we are standing at 31 percent and the expectation is that we should improve on that figure and have more women representation in the institution," he said.

Mr. Chizinga urged the Corporate Services Department to ensure that it shortlisted more women when conducting job interviews as a means of actualizing affirmative action.

He said his management had resolved to sustain the current rating of women representation and that he would be happier if it moved up to 35 percent in 2025.

"For us as management, my message today is that we appreciate the role women play to the institution," he said.

And Mr. Chizinga called on female employees to support each other as this was a catalyst for changing the current narrative of under representation.

He reaffirmed that ZCSA's commitment was to ensure inclusivity was demonstrated in everything starting from recruitment to nomination for training opportunities because he believed that there was nothing that ladies could not do.

He said the International Women's Day provided an opportunity for ZCSA to reflect on the role played by women in the institution, the country and the world at large.

Daniella Mushibwe, an Inspector under Import Quality Monitoring based at



Vice President WK Mutale Nalumango (left) interacting with ZCSA Quality Assurance Officer Julie Munsaka during the 2024 International Women's Day.

the Kazungula Border Office, commended ZCSA Management for appreciating the role that women play in the institution.

"This event has resonated a lot with the theme for this year's Women's Day. We recognize as an institution that you recognize our value, even your presence here as management is a clear testimony of this. The fact we also have ladies in Management demonstrates that ZCSA acknowledges us as women," she said.

This year's IWD was held under the theme "Investing in Women and Girls to make progress."



ZCSA Executive Director Gerald Chizinga (standing, middle) with ZCSA staff at the 2024 International Women's Day meeting in Lusaka.

ZCSA, CCPC to Partner in Schools

THE Zambia Compulsory Standards Agency (ZCSA) and the Competition and Consumer Protection Commission (CCPC) are set to undertake a joint pilot project in 2025 aimed at enhancing Consumer Protection and Product Safety among pupils in schools.

This partnership seeks to introduce key aspects of product safety education and consumer protection within the school clubs, with a focus on highlighting CCPC and ZCSA's respective mandates.

The two institutions will jointly plan and coordinate activities that integrate both mandates into the school club framework.

ZCSA Executive Director, Gerald Chizinga and CCPC Executive Director, Brian Lingela, endorsed the partnership between the two institutions.

At present, CCPC has established approximately 90 school clubs in Lusaka Province and around 360 clubs nationwide.

During the pilot phase, ZCSA will collaborate with the Commission by working with 20 of the 90 CCPC school clubs in Lusaka Province.

ZCSA plans to expand this collaboration to include CCPC school clubs outside Lusaka Province during the second term of the 2025 academic

calendar.

CCPC already has a school club initiative across Zambia and so ZCSA will ride on the Commission's existing initiative to roll out its mandate in schools.

Both the Commission and ZCSA will engage the learners in a range of activities, including participation in World Consumer Rights Day commemorations, debates, puzzle-solving, essay writing, and more.

The Commission and ZCSA will jointly allocate funds necessary for the successful implementation of the CCPC school club initiative. Each institution will contribute a predefined percentage of the overall budget, as agreed prior to the commencement of activities.

Mr. Chizinga said ZCSA expects pupils to gain more understanding of its mandate and product safety at a tender age.

"Ultimately, pupils will grow up as well informed and responsible citizens of the country. This will contribute to having more people who are enlightened on product safety which will in turn assist to enhance consumer and environmental protection," he said.

The CCPC and ZCSA will engage the learners in a range of activities... commemorations, inspections, debates, puzzle-solving, essay writing, and more.



ZCSA inspector Benny Sichuunda (right) interacting with pupils from Roan Antelope Secondary School (RASS) of Luanshya at the 2024 Zambia International Trade Fair in Ndola.

ZCSA Awards 13 Staff, CEO Calls for Extra Hardwork

THE Zambia Compulsory Standards Agency (ZCSA) has awarded 13 members of staff to mark the 2024 International Labour Day. Those awarded are:

1. Ms. Memory Shipanuka – Team Player – Lusaka.
2. Ms. Jessica Mwanza – Most Consistent – Lusaka.
3. Mr. Andrew Kabwita – Most Dedicated and Consistent – Solwezi.
4. Mr. Kelvin Mukuka – Most Hardworking and Dedicated – Ndola.
5. Ms. Peggy Mweemba – Most Disciplined – Lusaka.
6. Ms. Rhoida Gulube – Most Dedicated – Lusaka.
7. Mr. Benny Sichuunda – Most Hardworking – Ndola.
8. Mr. Zikhalo Mtine – Most Disciplined – Chipata.
9. Mr. Henry Chiyaba – Most Consistent – Solwezi.
10. Mr. Collins Mumba – Most Dependable – Lusaka.
11. Mr. Thomas Sameta – Best Client Centric – Nakonde.
12. Ms. Wendy Chisala – Most Hardworking – Ndola.
13. Chama Mulenga – Most Hard Working.

ZCSA Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Gerald Chizinga has urged members of staff to continue working hard to implement the strategic objectives of the Agency.

Speaking when he addressed members of staff who participated during the 2024 Labour Day Celebrations in Lusaka under the theme “Building Resilience: Workers at the Heart of Zambia’s Economic Recovery,” Mr. Chizinga said Labour Day always provided a great opportunity for ZCSA to recognize the role that was played by employees in contributing to the greater development of the country.

“There is no limit to how much you can work hard. You can always do better than you did the other time. Labour Day is always a great opportunity for us to recognize the role that is played by employees in the institution but also to recognize your individual roles in contributing to the greater development of this country. This day is also an opportunity for us to recognize a few individuals,” he said.

Mr. Chizinga urged ZCSA staff to always remember they had an important role to contribute to the nation’s economic agenda.

“So today we are talking about resilience, but in talking about resilience, we

are also recognizing the role played by employees because we are saying that employees are at the heart of economic recovery. So, the question now is how do we contribute as individuals to the economic agenda of the country? My word of encouragement as we talk about resilience is, let’s always remember that we have a responsibility as individual employees first and what should determine our knocking off is the amount of work that we have done not the time,” he said.

He further called on the Agency staff to continue working in harmony by avoiding creating unnecessary divisions.

“The other issue I want to mention is for us to continue working in harmony. Sometimes we work in silos which is totally unnecessary and eventually creates divisions which results in employees feeling unappreciated because of the department they belong to. We should always look at ourselves as different parts of one body which is ZCSA. So let us continue working hard,” Mr. Chizinga said.

And ZCSA acting Manager Human Resource and Administration Boniface Zulu called for resilience among workers.

Mr. Zulu urged ZCSA employees to execute their duties diligently irrespective of challenges they were faced with.

He called upon ZCSA staff members to be ambassadors of good will for the Agency and ensure that they played their roles in achieving its strategic objectives set out in the 2022 to 2026 strategic plan.

Mr. Zulu also commended Management for increasing the number of award recipients to 13 from 12 in 2023.

Speaking on behalf of the award recipients, ZCSA Compliance Officer Chama Mulenga said the gesture demonstrated how the Agency valued individual workers’ contributions.

Mr. Mulenga, who received the Most Hardworking award, pledged that all the award recipients and the other members staff would continue working hard and maintain high levels of discipline.

“As Award recipients, we pledge to continue working hard and being team players. We will continue being client centric as well as being dedicated and disciplined in our individual capacities,” he said.

Apart from Lusaka, the Agency also took part in the 2024 Labour Day Celebrations in Kazungula, Ndola, Nakonde, Chirundu, Ndola and Chipata.



ZCSA Executive Director Gerald Chizinga (fourth from left), Legal Counsel Mutumu Nzala Mwape (middle) and Acting Manager - Human Resource and Administration Boniface Zulu Jr. (third from right) with recipients of the 2024 Labour Day awards in Lusaka.



Chongwe Municipal Council staff destroying non-compliant fertilizer that was seized by a joint team of ZCSA and Chongwe Municipal Council inspectors in Chongwe.

Beware of Sub-Standard Fertilizer – Farmers Cautioned

FERTILIZER, whether artificial or natural, is key in increasing crop productivity thereby assuring the country of food security. This is in addition to helping the soil increase its fertility thereby promoting growth for crops.

With the help of fertilizers, crops and plants become resilient against harmful pathogens, pests, and weeds.

Further, fertilizer provides the soil with the necessary nutrients and microbes for the growth of the crops and plants.

The important role fertilizer plays in economic growth and food security makes it imperative for this product to be regulated.

The mandated Institution for the regulation of fertilizer is the Zambia Compulsory Standards Agency (ZCSA).

ZCSA, a statutory body under the Ministry of Commerce, Trade and Industry, regulates fertilizers by administering the following compulsory standards:

- ZS 327: Blended (physical mixture) Fertilizers
- ZS 431: Compound Fertilizers
- ZS 605: Fertilizers – Urea
- ZS 606: Fertilizers – Ammonia Nitrate
- ZS 607: Fertilizers- Calcium Ammonia Nitrate
- ZS 608: Fertilizers- Ammonia Sulphate

Fertilizer is only supposed to be supplied to the market if it conforms to the said relevant Zambia Compulsory Standards.

It is mandatory for all manufacturers and importers of fertilizer to obtain authority from the Agency to supply the product legally on the market.

Further, all fertilizer retail traders shall also be required to be registered administratively with the Agency.

Non-compliant fertilizer will be seized and withdrawn from the market to protect consumers and environment.

On March 1, 2024, however, a joint team of officers from ZCSA and Chongwe Municipal Council disposed of 36x 50 kilogram (kg) bags of non-compliant urea fertilizer valued at K32,400.

This followed a Court Order issued on December 15, 2023 by Chongwe Magistrate's Court.

The disposal was done in collaboration with the Zambia Environmental Management Agency (ZEMA) to ensure compliance with the Environmental Management Act and avoid any adverse environmental impact, as required by the Compulsory Standards Act No.3 of 2017.

The urea fertilizer was seized for contravening Section 16 of the Compulsory Standards Act and the Zambian Standard ZS 605: Fertilizers- Urea Specification. Further, the substandard fertilizer contravened the Public Health Act Cap 295 of the laws of Zambia.

ZCSA and Chongwe Municipal Council warned of stern action against companies which are manufacturing and supplying products on the market in contravention of applicable laws.

This is because the safety of such products cannot be guaranteed and may pose a risk to public safety, health and the environment.

ZCSA and Chongwe Municipal Council pledged to continue conducting joint enforcement activities in a bid to ensure that only safe products are allowed on the market.

Farmers were urged to buy products from reputable sources and report any suspicious product to the nearest Agency office.

Further, farmers should buy fertilizer brands that they are familiar with or brands that are traceable to the registered Manufacturer or importer.

Sub-standard fertilizer can impact negatively on consumers, the economy and the environment, among others.

More importantly, poor quality fertilizer can also lead to reduced crop yield.

To consumers, report to ZCSA suspicious activities like the illegal mixing of

fertilizer with other materials or chemicals.

Report any strange fertilizer brand that does not comply with the requirements on packaging, labeling and other parameters to any ZCSA office.

The regulation and inspection of the fertilizer ensures that farmers get safe and quality fertilizer in a bid for them to get the desired results for their crops.

"To the farming community and other fertilizer users, ZCSA is urging you to be quality conscious and ensure that you understand the product that you are buying or using. This will help you avoiding buying unsafe or inappropriate fertilizer that may result in poor yields of your crops," ZCSA stated in a statement.

The Agency intends to publish advisories periodically on fertilizer Brands and retail outlets that will be duly registered to ensure that consumers are fully aware of authorized suppliers.



"Farmers should buy fertilizer brands they are familiar with or brands that are traceable to the registered manufacturer or importer"



A joint team of officers from ZCSA and Chongwe Municipal Council destroying non-compliant fertilizer in Chongwe.



Consumers must buy electrical appliances from reputable sources and report any suspicious products to the nearest ZCSA office.

Electrical Compliance Key to Enhance Public Safety...

Electrical appliances can potentially expose users to various risks caused by a number of factors such as loose plugs, lack of proper insulation, damaged plugs and lack cord grip among others.

These dangers may lead to personal injury, electric shock, fire, damage to property and death in extreme cases.

To avert this, the Zambia Compulsory Standard Agency (ZCSA) enforces Zambia Standard (ZS) 106-1 Safety of Household and Similar Electrical Appliances-Specification.

This international standard, which has been adopted as a Zambian Standard, is a product-family standard dealing with the safety of household and similar electrical appliances and takes precedence over horizontal and generic standards covering the same subject.

It recognizes the internationally accepted level of protection against hazards such as; Electrical, mechanical, thermal, fire and radiation of appliances when operated in normal use taking into account the manufacturer's instructions. Additionally, it also covers abnormal situations that can be expected in practice.

This standard ensures the safety of electrical appliances used in homes or for similar purposes and covers voltages up to 250 volts for single-phase and 480 volts for other types.

The appliances may include motors, heating elements, or both. It also includes appliances not strictly for household use but still potentially hazardous to the public, like those used in shops, light industry, or on farms used by non-experts.

When it comes to safety, Electrical Appliances are generally classified in to four classes. Electrical classes also referred to Appliance class or Electrical Appliance Class is defined by the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC), the world's leading publisher of standards for electrical, electronic and related technologies.

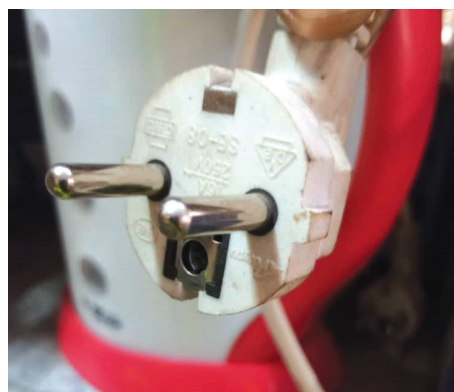
These classes have been arrived at based on how they safeguard users from electrical shock.

Class I Electrical appliances require earth protection. Usually these appliances are made of metal as the Earth wire is connected to the casing for example Fridges, Washing Machines, Tumble Dryers, Pressing Irons and Stoves among others.

The Cable plugged into the mains is three core which includes Brown wire (Live), Blue (Neutral) and Green/ Yellow which is the Earth cable.

Class II Electrical Appliances do not require earth protection as these are protected by two layers of insulation (Double Insulated). This makes this class of appliance safer and not require an earth like Hair Blowers.

In Class III Electrical Appliances, protection against electric shock relies on supply at safety extra-low voltage and in which voltages higher than those of safety extra-low voltage are not generated. It is a requirement that all electrical appliances be marked with rated voltage or rated voltage range in volts; symbol for nature of supply, rated power input in watts or kilowatts or rated current in amperes; Name, trade mark or identification mark



An Incompatible plug in Zambia.



A compatible plug in Zambia.

of the manufacturer or responsible vendor and Model or type among other markings.

These are important as they provide vital information on potential electrical hazards, safe usage instruction and precautions to take when the handling electrical equipment. By providing this information, electrical safety labels help users avoid accidents, injury and damage to property.

Additionally, appliances having different rated values and which have to be adjusted for use at a particular value by the user or installer shall be marked with the different values separated by an oblique stroke. This requirement is also applicable to appliances with provision for connection to both single-phase and multi-phase supplies.

Switches on appliances, if they could be dangerous when used, need to be clearly marked or positioned to show users what part of the appliance they control. These markings should be easy to understand without needing

to know a specific language or standard.

Further, the different positions of switches on stationary appliances and the different positions of controls on all appliances shall be indicated by figures, letters or other visual means. This requirement also applies to switches which are part of a control.

This standard ensures the safety of electrical appliances used in homes or for similar purposes and covers voltages up to 250 volts for single-phase and 480 volts for other types.



Workers from E-Tech Recycling company sorting out non-compliant electrical appliances in readiness for destruction in Lusaka.

...as ZCSA Destroys Non-Compliant Electrical Products



ZCSA seized electric cables, adaptors and household electrical appliances such as kettles, plate cookers and toasters, among others, in May 2024.

Electrical appliances must be constructed and enclosed so that there is adequate protection against accidental contact with live parts. Live parts of built-in appliances, fixed appliances and appliances delivered in separate units, shall be protected at least by basic insulation before installation or assembly.

From the foregoing, it is evident that electrical appliances must be constructed so that in normal use, they function safely so as to cause no danger to persons or surroundings, even in the event of carelessness that may occur in normal use.

While electrical compliance is always crucial for safety, it is perhaps more pronounced in commercial spaces than anywhere else.

A lack of electrical compliance could lead to injury, deaths and other undesirable outcomes.

Regular inspections of electrical equipment in homes, industries and other commercial settings are crucial to ensure the safety of patrons, occupants and employees and compliance with regulators.

Qualified electricians are necessary to conduct these tests as they have the expertise and knowledge to identify potential hazards and ensure that electrical systems are in compliance with industry standards.

The stipulated requirements in ZS 106 are the most basic requirements that should be followed to protect the safety of people and property.

When standards are followed, they foster trust among users. Standards further ensure consistency, quality and safety.

Meanwhile, ZCSA destroyed non-compliant electrical products in Lusaka valued at K42,090 during the month of October 2024.

In May 2024, ZCSA seized electric cables, adaptors and household electrical appliances such as kettles, plate cookers and toasters, among others.

The items were withdrawn from Kamwala Trading area, Oasis, Westgate and Levy Malls in Lusaka for not complying with relevant compulsory standards.

56 plugs, sockets and adaptors did not comply with the required color coding while 1, 442 plugs, sockets and adaptors were not compliant with the Zambian Standard 558: Plugs and Socket Outlets, Adaptors and Connection Units.

The products were seized and withdrawn from the market by ZCSA during an enforcement exercise for posing a risk to public safety.

The potential risks the products posed include personal injury, electric shock, fire and damage to property, among others.

ZCSA warns of stern action against traders who are illegally supplying non-compliant products on the Zambian market. This is because such products pose a risk to public safety.

ZCSA will continue conducting enforcement activities in a bid to ensure that only safe products are allowed on the market.

Consumers must buy products from reputable sources and report any suspicious products to the nearest ZCSA office.

ZCSA regulates the manufacture, importation and sale of electrical products covered by the following compulsory standards:

- ZS 106: Safety of Household and similar Electrical Appliances-Specification
- ZS 558: Plugs and Socket Outlets, Adaptors and Connection Units
- ZS 688: Electric Cables with Extruded Solid Dielectric Insulation for Fixed Installations (300/500 Volts to 1900/3300 V) Specification.

The Zambian Standards cover specifications and testing methods of the respective products for household, commercial and light industrial use.



Non-compliant electrical products being sorted out in readiness for destruction.

News in Pictures...



Commerce, Trade and Industry Minister, Hon. Chipoka Mulenga, MP (second from left) interacting with ZCSA Executive Director Gerald Chizinga (second from right) and other ZCSA officials during the 2024 Agriculture and Commercial Show in Lusaka.



ZCSA Acting Manager for South under Domestic Monitoring Quality (DQM) Department, Elias Kansembe (right) explaining ZCSA's mandate as Investment and Industrialisation PS at the Ministry of Commerce, Trade and Industry, Crusivia Hichikumba (left) looks on at the Agriculture Show.



ZCSA Provincial Inspector for Muchinga Jerome Kambole (left) educating pupils on the importance of embracing regulated products under compulsory standards in Chinsali.



Some representatives of major chain stores and retail outlets in Lusaka after interacting with ZCSA officials in November in a quest to enhance the Agency's regulation and collaboration with stakeholders.



ZCSA Inspectors Benny Sichuunda (left) and Henry Salimu showing Zambia Revenue Authority Board Chairperson Dr Caleb Fundanga (right) samples of regulated products during the 2024 Zambia International Trade Fair in Ndola.



ZCSA staff participating in a tree planting exercise at Mumana Primary School in Lusaka as part of celebrating Zambia's 60th Independence anniversary.

News in Pictures...

ZCSA members of staff in Lusaka and Ndola celebrating Zambia's 60th independence in style by wearing school uniforms, traditional outfits and 80s attires.





"With Your Safety in Mind"

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