

# Compulsory Standards



"With Your Safety in Mind"

# News

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



## ZCSA Hosts 2nd Media Awards

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# EDITORIAL CORNER...

**W**E welcome readers to our 2025 edition of the newsletter.

Take time to read different articles as well as check the pictures and captions on key highlights of activities in 2025 in our quest to enforce compulsory standards.

One of the important initiatives undertaken in 2025 was the launch of a joint project aimed at promoting product safety and consumer protection among pupils in schools.

The project, which is being implemented by the Zambia Compulsory Standards Agency (ZCSA) and Competition and Consumer Protection Commission (CCPC), was officially launched by ZCSA Executive Director, Gerald Chizinga, CCPC Executive, Eunice Hamahvwa, and Lusaka Provincial Education Officer, Terry Changwe.

Following this colourful launch, the project was rolled out in different Schools in Lusaka as well as Muchinga and Southern Provinces.

More schools in other provinces will be reached out in 2026 and beyond.

Pupils are an important group of consumers as they use a variety of products such as food products daily.

In this regard, educating them early about consumer rights and responsibilities helps build a culture of safety awareness. ZCSA believes that young people can make informed choices and influence their peers and families.

Pupils, especially the learners who understand product safety, can help prevent harmful or poor-quality products from spreading in their communities.

Educating pupils about product safety and consumer protection is essential in preparing them to become responsible and informed members of society.

In today's world, young people are constantly exposed to a wide range of goods and services, both physically and online.

Without proper knowledge, they are vulnerable to unsafe products, misleading advertising, and unfair business practices. By introducing product safety and consumer protection in schools, the following can be achieved:

- **Safeguarding Health and Well Being:**

Pupils learn how to identify safe products, understand warning labels, and avoid harmful items that could endanger their health.

- **Building Critical Awareness:** They develop the ability to question marketing claims, recognize counterfeit goods, and make informed purchasing decisions.

- **Digital Consumer Skills:** With the rise of e commerce, pupils gain vital skills to protect themselves from online scams, unsafe digital products, and misuse of personal data.

- **Promoting Rights and Responsibilities:** Teaching consumer rights empowers pupils to demand fairness, while instilling responsibility in how they use and dispose of products.

- **Encouraging Sustainable Choices:** Pupils learn the impact of consumption on the environment, fostering habits that support sustainability and ethical consumerism.

Ultimately, embedding product safety and consumer protection education in schools equips young people with lifelong skills to protect themselves, their families, and communities.

It nurtures a generation that is not only conscious of their rights but also committed to making safe, fair, and sustainable choices in the marketplace.

Whether in the shop or at home, pupils are encouraged to get into the habit of reading labels.

In Zambia, English is the official Language. Labelling must be done in English even if foreign language has been used on the label.

Here's what consumers should look for:

- English labeling (Zambia's official language)
- Manufacturer name and address
- Country of origin (especially for imports)
- Ingredients (for food products)
- Expiry or "best before" dates
- Storage instructions and directions for use
- Unbroken seals

Products that are expired on the market are not supposed to be consumed as their safety cannot be guaranteed.

***If you come across such products, report them to ZCSA for appropriate action. For questions and comments, send to the Editor using this email address: [brian.hatyoka@zcsa.org.zm](mailto:brian.hatyoka@zcsa.org.zm).***



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## BOARD CHAIRPERSON'S CORNER...



**S**easonal Greetings to you our dear readers, clients and stakeholders!

I wish to take this opportunity to sincerely thank you all for supporting the Zambia Compulsory Standards Agency (ZCSA) during the year 2025.

Further, I wish to thank the Minister of Commerce, Trade and Industry, Hon. Chipoka Mulenga, MP, for the valuable guidance and support to ZCSA Board, Management and Staff during the year.

In 2025, the Honourable Minister declared new compulsory standards. We sincerely thank the Honourable Minister for this positive development which is aimed at enhancing consumer protection.

The Board, working with management and staff, is already exploring the possibility of

recommending more national standards to the Minister to be declared as compulsory standards in 2026 and beyond.

ZCSA is committed to supporting the efforts of Government, as mandated by the Ministry of Commerce, Trade and Industry, in protecting the Health and Safety of citizens through enforcement of compulsory standards.

This is being done by regulating locally manufactured and imported products covered by compulsory standards.

The ZCSA looks forward to your continued support in 2026 and beyond. Happy New Year.

**IAN BESA MUPETA**  
Board Chairperson

“The Board, working with management and staff, is already exploring the possibility of recommending more national standards to the Minister to be declared as compulsory standards in 2026 and beyond.”



Commerce, Trade and Industry Minister, Chipoka Mulenga (right) and ZCSA Board Chairperson, Ian Besa Mupeta (left) hand over an award plaque to Patrick Mupeta, from Radio Ichengelo for winning the First Prize (Radio) during the second Media Awards in Lusaka.

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S CORNER...

**C**ompliments of the Season to all!

As we come to the close of this year, I wish to sincerely thank the Board, Management and Staff for the work we have accomplished together at the Zambia Compulsory Standards Agency (ZCSA) in 2025.

Some of the key highlights of what we achieved together this year have been published in this newsletter.

One of the key highlights during the year took place in May 2025 when the Minister of Commerce, Trade and Industry issued a Statutory Instrument (SI) to declare 41 Zambian standards as compulsory standards.

These cover a wide range of sectors and include, solar products, food products, table wines, energy drinks, tomato products, packaging materials, fertilizer, fish and fish feed, among other products.

This important milestone was followed by the official launch of Services on the Government Service Bus on May 23, 2025 by the Ministers of Commerce, Trade and Industry as well as Finance and National Planning.

From 2018 to early in 2025, the Agency was only regulating 61 products, which was very low compared to the number and complexity of products that are available on the market. As a result of this challenge that has been

there, Management and the board have been making frantic efforts to increase the number of products covered by compulsory standards. This is aimed at enhancing our regulatory intervention.

Our responsibility as an institution is to protect the health and safety of our citizens, and this is done through our regulatory interventions, that is, the implementation of compulsory standards.

ZCSA exists to enforce compulsory standards for products and services that directly affect the lives of our people. Every inspection, every enforcement action, and every awareness campaign we undertake is driven by this responsibility.

We will move forward with renewed commitment, knowing that the work we do today lays the foundation for a safer, healthier, and more sustainable Zambia. I thank each one of you for your dedication, your partnership, and your belief in the mission of ZCSA.

Together, we will continue to uphold standards that protect consumers and the environment.

Thank you.

**GERALD CHIZINGA**  
Executive Director



“One of the key highlights during the year took place in May 2025 when the Minister of Commerce, Trade and Industry issued a Statutory Instrument (SI) to declare 41 Zambian standards as compulsory standards.”



ZCSA Executive Director, Gerald Chizinga (second from left) interacts with Commerce, Trade and Industry Minister, Chipoka Mulenga (second from right) as ZCSA Finance Manager, Martin Musonda (left) and Ministry of Commerce, Trade and Industry Director – Technical Regulations, Brian Moonga look on. This was when Mr Chizinga and his delegation paid a courtesy call on the Minister.

## ZCSA Launches 41 New Compulsory Standards

**C**OMPULSORY Standards are vital to economic and industrial growth as they ensure that products meet minimum requirements before they are traded on the market.

The Zambia Compulsory Standards Agency (ZCSA) strives towards having more products covered by Compulsory Standards in order to enhance consumer and environmental protection.

It is worthy to note that the Agency has made momentous progress evidenced by the Launch of new Compulsory Standards on October 10, 2025.

Through Statutory Instrument (SI) No 20 of 2025, Minister of Commerce, Trade and Industry, Chipoka Mulenga, declared additional 41 Compulsory Standards in May 2025 as provided for by section 11 of the Compulsory Standards Act No.3 of 2017.

The new compulsory standards cover solar products, food products, packaging materials, Carbon Steel Bars, fish and fish products, energy drinks, milk and milk products, fresh fruits and vegetables, table wines and tomato products, among other products. The number of regulated products now stands at 102 products, from 61.

Mr Mulenga praised ZCSA's commitment to promote quality and safety especially amidst the power challenges Zambian citizens were facing.

He expressed concern on the number of unsafe solar products on the Zambian market.

"We need value for our money. We need the right products that are safe, that are healthy. We need safe and quality solar products that don't pose serious risks to be installed in our households," Mr Mulenga emphasized during the launch of the New Compulsory Standards.

ZCSA's Board Chairperson, Ian Besa Mupeta, reaffirmed the Agency's unwavering dedication to strengthening the regulatory framework.

Mr Mupeta said the new compulsory standards marked a significant stride in improving consumer welfare.

He added, "We will work with industry players, consumers, and stakeholders to promote compliance."

ZCSA Executive Director, Gerald Chizinga, said the Agency would train its members of staff and journalists to equip them on new compulsory standards.

Mr Chizinga said enforcement and public education interventions by the Agency were essential in enhancing



Commerce, Trade and Industry Minister, Chipoka Mulenga (second from right) and ZCSA Board Chairperson, Ian Besa Mupeta (third from left) cut a ribbon during the launch of 41 new compulsory standards.

compliance among market players and protecting consumers.

"We have also translated key messages into local languages to ensure that no one is left behind," he said.

Battery King, an industry player that imports Solar Batteries and deals with solar back up systems, expressed their appreciation of the new compulsory standards on solar products.

Through the company's Finance and Administrative Assistant, Takudzwa Ngoma, the entity highlighted indicated that it would be easy to follow the requirements needed for a good battery that would have a long life span in Zambia.

"The new compulsory standards will help us assess where we are as a company with the products that we are selling. We would like to know if our products are giving consumers a good life span and they are of good quality," she said during a stakeholder engagement activity.

Beyond the newly declared 41 new Compulsory Standards, ZCSA is hopeful that an additional 40 Zambian Standards would be declared compulsory in different sectors in products such as energy and petroleum, more on agriculture and food products, health and hygiene and tobacco products.



Mr Mulenga.



Commerce, Trade and Industry Minister, Chipoka Mulenga (second from right) displaying a copy of the 41 new compulsory standards, as ZCSA Board Chairperson, Ian Besa Mupeta (second from left), ZCSA Executive Director, Gerald Chizinga (right) and ZABS Executive Director, Nathan Sing'ambwa look on.



Lusaka Province Education Officer, Terry Changwe (second from left) and ZCSA Executive Director, Gerald Chizinga (third from left) cut a ribbon as CCPC Executive Director, Eunice Phiri Hamahwva (third from right) and others look on during the launch of CCPC-ZCSA joint School Clubs initiative.

## ZCSA, CCPC Launch Joint Initiative to Educate Pupils

**T**HE Zambia Compulsory Standards Agency (ZCSA) and the Competition and Consumer Protection Commission (CCPC) have launched a joint school clubs' initiative aimed at educating pupils on product safety and consumer protection in schools.

ZCSA and CCPC, which are statutory bodies under the Ministry of Commerce, Trade and Industry, launched the project in recognition of the fact that education is a major component in driving long term change among consumers, especially pupils.

The two institutions decided to embark on a partnership in 2024 which would introduce key aspects of product safety and consumer protection to pupils.

The overarching goal is to build a generation of informed consumers who understand their rights and the importance of

compulsory standards.

Speaking during the launch of the project, Lusaka Provincial Education Officer, Terry Changwe, applauded ZCSA and CCPC for engaging the education sector and seeking to empower pupils with knowledge that would enable them make wise and informed decisions.

"I would like to Commend ZCSA and CCPC for engaging the education sector in such a meaningful and forward looking manner. Your collaboration with schools reflects a growing appreciation of the role that education plays in national development, not merely as a conveyer of knowledge but as a platform for shaping informed, responsible citizens," Mr Changwe said.

ZCSA Executive Director, Gerald Chizinga, said the partnership between the two institutions had introduced important concepts of consumer rights, safe products, and informed decision-making into school clubs.

Mr Chizinga said through this initiative, CCPC and ZCSA were engaging learners in fun and educational activities such as:

- Commemorations of Consumer rights days;
- Debates, articles, and essay writing;
- Puzzles and quizzes; and
- Simplified product safety education.

He said School Clubs would help pupils grow into safety-conscious, informed consumers and peer educators in their schools and communities.

CCPC Executive Director Eunice Hamahwva said the project would produce ambassadors beyond Zambia's borders who would identify unsafe products and unfair trade practices that threaten the state's economy.

"We want to equip learners with knowledge to identify anti-competitive conduct, non-compliant goods and unfair trade practices that threaten not only individual welfare but the state of our economy."

Meanwhile, ZCSA and CCPC implemented the project in different schools of Lusaka, Muchinga and Southern provinces of Zambia.

Faith Siansagu, a Grade 10 pupil at Munali Girls Secondary School in Lusaka, reiterated the importance of the joint school club initiative.

"This initiative is important in schools because it educates us about the dangers of expired goods and to blow the whistle against suspicious goods," she said.

In 2026, ZCSA and CCPC will roll out the next phase of activities in other provinces in a bid to empower pupils with information on product safety and consumer protection.



Pupils follow deliberations during the launch of the ZCSA-CCPC Joint School Clubs initiative.

## ZCSA Engages Over 400 Stakeholders in 2025



ZCSA Manager - Communications and Public Relations, Brian Hatyoka educating an attendee (left) on compulsory standards at the Zambia International Trade Fair (ZITF) in Ndola.

**T**HE Zambia Compulsory Standards Agency (ZCSA) interacted with more than 400 stakeholders including regulators, manufacturers, importers, exporters, trading outlets, pupils and journalists among others, across the country in 2025 on the Agency's mandate of enforcing compulsory standards in a bid to protect consumers and the environment.

This is compared to about 300 stakeholders which the Agency engaged in different parts of Zambia in 2024.

Stakeholders were engaged in 10 provinces of Zambia namely Lusaka, Copperbelt, Muchinga, North-Western, Central, Western, Southern, Luapula, Eastern and Northern provinces.

Major events during 2025 where ZCSA engaged stakeholders were: Zambia International Trade Fair (ZITF) in Ndola, Copperbelt Agricultural, Mining, Industrial and Networking Exposition (CAMINEX) in Kitwe, Agricultural and Commercial Show in Lusaka, Kuomboka Traditional Ceremony and a Roadshow in Mongu, Nc'wala Traditional Ceremony in Chipata, Muchinga Province Investment and Trade Exposition (EXPO) in Chinsali, Southern EXPO and a Roadshow in Livingstone, World Consumer Rights Day/ Exhibition in Lusaka and Africa Public

Service Day/Exhibition in Lusaka.

Other events during the year included exhibitions, courtesy calls and workshops in different provinces where ZCSA engaged manufacturers, importers, exporters, journalists, trading outlets, Government officials and pupils in schools and, among others.

ZCSA engaged and registered more stakeholders during the ZITF in Ndola (about 160) followed by the Agriculture and Commercial Show in Lusaka (about 60) while the least number of people were engaged during the Africa Public Service Day (about 20).

In all these engagements, stakeholders mainly recommended that ZCSA must do more public education interventions including roadshows across Zambia and undertake more enforcement activities to ensure potentially unsafe products are not allowed on the market.

Some stakeholders recommended that ZCSA must regulate more products to protect consumers and the environment.

By and large, many stakeholders were impressed with the information they received from ZCSA on 102 products covered by compulsory standards and described the information as informative and educative.

There were also cases where stakeholders reported cases of suspected non-compliance for the Agency to investigate.

ZCSA Manager – Communications and Public Relations, Brian Hatyoka, who led different delegations from the Agency during most of these stakeholder engagement meetings, said the Agency had allocated more funding to enhance public education and enforcement activities in 2026 and beyond to protect consumers and the environment.

Mr Hatyoka said ZCSA will continue engaging the public through radio stations, television, newspapers, digital media and distribute literature in English and seven major local languages, among other interventions, in a bid to reach out to people both in rural and urban areas on product safety.

"As part of our public education intervention, we have translated our key messages into seven local languages of Zambia. We will distribute these flyers to different stakeholders in all provinces in 2026 so that we reach out to people in rural and urban areas," Mr Hatyoka said.

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 pre-market 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.



ZCSA Inspector – Domestic Quality Monitoring (Ndola Office), Tina Kanonka (left), educating Show attendees on the Agency's mandate at the Zambia International Trade Fair in Ndola.



ZCSA Public Relations Officer, Onishias Maamba (left) educating attendees on ZCSA's mandate of regulating household electrical and similar appliances at the Nc'wala Ceremony in Chipata.



An artiste sensitizing residents on the dangers of illicit potable spirits and used underwear during a roadshow at Kashumba Market in Mongu.

## ZCSA Hosts Roadshows in Mongu, Livingstone

**A** PUBLIC awareness campaign is defined as a strategic effort to educate the public about an issue, cause or product to increase visibility and influence knowledge, attitude or behaviours.

To this end, ZCSA has embarked on a series of public awareness campaigns to raise awareness on the work of the Agency and to change consumer's perception and attitudes towards certain regulated products such as used undergarments and potable spirits, among others.

This is further reinforced under section 5 of the Compulsory Standards Act No. 3 of 2017, where one of the 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.

One of the methods, which the Agency has adopted in these public campaigns, is the hosting of roadshows which employs the use of drama and art to convey the Agency's key messages in both local languages and English.

On the sidelines of the Kuomboka traditional ceremony in Mongu, the Agency partnered with the Mongu Municipal Council (MMC) and a Mongu based Drama Group to stage a roadshow at Kashumba Market as part of its efforts to promote protection of public health and safety.

During the event, ZCSA educated the traders and consumers on the **Zambian Standard ZS 559: Inspection and Acceptance Criteria for Used Textile Products (Salaula)**, which prohibits the importation and sale of used textile products containing undergarments such as pyjamas, night gowns, underwear, bras, camisoles and vests.

ZCSA Communication and Public Relations Manager, Brian Hatyoka, who led the delegation from the Agency, said the ZS 559 standard was declared compulsory to protect the safety of consumers,

This is 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, among others.

Mr Hatyoka cautioned importers and traders to desist from importing and selling prohibited products on the Zambian market.

"Traders and consumers must refrain from selling and buying prohibited products. To importers, we are warning them that

punitive actions will follow them. We are making follow ups to establish who the real importers are," he said.

Mr Hatyoka also said the Agency was concerned that some entities were illegally producing and supplying potable spirits and other beverages on the market.

He noted that some potable spirits, especially those produced and supplied on the market illegally, contained alcohol content which was above the safe threshold for human consumption, thereby endangering the health of consumers.

Mr Hatyoka highlighted that death, loss of sight and deafness were among the risks posed to individuals who consumed unregulated potable spirits and other beverages.

At the same Roadshow, ZCSA Western Province Inspector Egan Chimboma urged consumers to be product safety conscious and only buy products from traceable sources.

Mr Chimboma emphasized that manufacturers or suppliers of products covered by Compulsory Standards were not allowed to supply their products on the market without authority from the Agency.

Mongu Municipal Council Public Health Inspector, Shumo'el Mbolongwe, called for high levels of hygiene when preparing food for public consumption.

Further, Kashumba Market Committee Chairperson, Mathias Bisenga, said his Committee was ready to continue sensitizing marketeers and traders on the importance of embracing safe products on the market.

Similarly, the Agency in October, 2025 hosted a roadshow at Livingstone's Maramba market. The event was hosted in partnership with the Livingstone City Council (LCC) and the Livingstone Press Club (LPC).

Mr Hatyoka implored potential producers of products covered by compulsory standards in Southern province and Livingstone in particular to work closely with the ZCSA provincial office in Choma.

He said the Agency stood ready to support producers in the region to comply with the required standards for them to not only access local markets but also penetrate the markets beyond our borders.

ZCSA Southern Province Inspector, Levert Nkulanga, cautioned the public against embracing used undergarments and illicit potable spirits.

At both events, ZCSA mounted exhibition stands to educate the public on its mandate while displaying compliant and non-compliant products.

**"Traders and consumers must refrain from selling and buying prohibited products... We are making follow ups to establish who the real importers are."**

## 2025 World Food Safety Focuses on Science

**F**OOD safety means ensuring that food is clean and safe for human consumption, preventing it from making consumers sick.

This involves handling, cooking, storing, and preparing food properly to prevent germs and bacteria from causing illness.

Food safety starts from the source of raw materials or the food product, to how the material food is stored, processed, packaged and labelled to help prevent foodborne illness.

Foodborne diseases are illnesses that are caused by eating food that is contaminated with germs or chemicals that can cause sickness.

In 2025, the Ministry of Health hosted multi-stakeholder engagements in celebrating the World Food Safety Day, under the theme "Food Safety: Science in Action".

The theme highlighted the important role of scientific knowledge and evidence in confirming the safety of food from the farm to table.

Food safety requires worldwide accepted standards, best practices, and risk assessment that all have a scientific backing.

Researchers and food safety experts use science to understand how food becomes contaminated, identify dangers, and provide guidance to leaders or policy makers, business houses, and customers or consumers.

The theme also is a reminder that science is the foundation of food safety and underscores the importance of preventing foodborne illnesses through safer food production methods.

Everyone involved in the food supply chain – from farm to table – relies on the universal application of good practices, agreed processes and standards to keep food safe.

Food product regulators, including representatives from the Zambia Compulsory Standards Agency (ZCSA), Government ministries, farmers, processors, academia, scientific institutions, trading outlets and consumers, among others, participated in different aspects of celebrating this year's event.

The World Food Safety Day, which is jointly facilitated by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the World Health Organization (WHO), was designated in

2018.

Below are some of the activities undertaken as part of celebrating the 2025 World Food Safety Day:

- Radio, TV and Social media programmes to create awareness on food safety among Food Business Operators, Regulators and Consumers;
- Printing of food safety advocacy material (T-shirts, banners, pop ups, tear drops and brochures);
- Panel discussion live on the role of science in ensuring safe food and market access for the agribusiness sector in Zambia;
- Ministerial launch on ZNBC TV;
- Food Safety Science Symposium;
- Exhibitions from various institutions, Academia, Government and Private sector; and,
- A Food Safety Walk.

### ZCSA's Role in Ensuring Food Safety

ZCSA regulates food products and beverages, among other products covered by compulsory standards, to protect consumers and the environment from unsafe food products and beverages.

This is done through inspections of factories, inspection of imported food products, and continuous market surveillance inspections.

Some of the food products regulated by ZCSA include groundnuts, peanut butter, jams, biscuits, mealie meal, refined edible vegetable oil, wheat flour, crude edible vegetable oils, white sugar, tomato products, milk products, fish products, fruits and vegetables, processed meat and poultry products, among others.

Regulated beverages include opaque beer, clear beer, potable spirits, Table wines, energy drinks, fruit flavoured drinks and packaged drinking water, etc.

ZCSA enforces compulsory standards to ensure regulated food products and beverages meet strict safety requirements.

Beyond health, mandatory standards assist to boost consumer confidence and help businesses to thrive and remain competitive in the local, regional and international markets.



ZCSA Manager – Domestic Quality Monitoring (South), Elias Kansembe (middle) participating in a panel discussion during the 2025 World Food Safety Science Symposium in Lusaka.



ZCSA Inspectors, Neria Kavula (right) and Sarmantha Phiri (middle) with an intern Theresa Mwiinga following deliberations during the 2025 World Food Safety Science Symposium in Lusaka.

### Speeches During 2025 Food Safety Symposium

Minister of Health, Elijah Muchima, said Zambia was making headways in creating infrastructure including laboratories to enhance food safety.

FAO National Coordinator, Rhoda Mofya, stressed the need for investment in food safety research, infrastructure, data collection, surveillance systems, and laboratory networks.

She also appealed for greater public education, collaboration and stakeholder engagements on food safety matters.

Zambia Agribusiness and Trade Project II (ZATP II) Project Manager, Golden Makayi, noted that failure to ensure food safety would undermine trade, entrepreneurship, innovation, investment, sustainability and food security.

Mr Makayi called for practical standard support with access to laboratories to support entrepreneurs in the food safety value chain.

ZCSA Regional Manager (South) – Domestic Quality Monitoring (DQM) Department, Elias Kansembe, said the Agency was regularly conducting food factory inspections starting with raw materials, packaging materials and production processes up until the processed food was packaged and labelled.

In panel discussion during the Food Safety Symposium, Mr Kansembe said ZCSA inspects and tests food products and beverages covered by compulsory standards to protect consumers.



ZCSA Manager – Communications and Public Relations, Brian Hatyoka (left) being interviewed by Radio Christian Voice journalist, Margaret Mwanza on the World Food Safety Day.



Nitrogen Chemicals of Zambia (NCZ) workers during the launch of a joint fertilizer inspection exercise by officials from the Ministry of Commerce, Trade and Industry, ZCSA, ZMA, ZARI and CCPC.

## 2025 Joint Fertilizer Inspections Undertaken

**F**ERTILIZER, 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.

In a country like Zambia, where agriculture serves as a pillar for economic growth, a primary source of employment of over 70 percent of the population and the foundation for national food security, fertilizer plays an immense role in bolstering the nation's food security.

Despite the critical role fertilizers plays, some unscrupulous people have devised unconventional means of illegally supplying non-compliant fertilizer on the market.

Sadly, some traders have a habit of illegally repackaging and mixing of chemical fertilizer with unknown substances with a view of deceiving consumers.

Fertilizer is only supposed to be supplied to the market if it conforms to the relevant mandatory standards.

Non-compliant 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.

Non-Compliant fertilizer can also lead to health risks because unknown chemicals added during adulteration once inhaled, have contact with the skin or ingested through contaminated hands may be dangerous to health.

Further, non-compliant fertilizer also leads to Soil degradation and Environmental pollution.

To protect farmers from falling prey to non-compliant fertilizer, the Ministry of Commerce, Trade and Industry in September 2025 flagged-off the joint inspection of farming inputs under Farmer Input Support Programme (FISP) in readiness for the 2025/2026 farming season.

Permanent Secretary for Commerce and Trade at the Ministry of Commerce, Trade and Industry, Lillian Bwalya, urged private sector players to comply with regulations and standards.

Ms Bwalya reaffirmed the Ministry's commitment to protecting consumers, promoting fair play and upholding quality standards in the agriculture sector for the benefit of millions of people.

She said this in a speech read for her by Acting Permanent Secretary Angelina Mukuka at Nitrogen Chemicals of Zambia (NCZ) during the flagging-off exercise.

The joint inspection was conducted by officers from the Zambia Compulsory Standards Agency (ZCSA), Zambia Metrology Agency (ZMA), Zambia Agricultural Research Institute (ZARI) and Competition and Consumer Protection Commission (CCPC).

"Together, let us ensure that the Zambian farmer – who is at the very heart of the economy – receives nothing less than inputs which are safe, legal and of the highest quality," Mrs Bwalya said.

ZMA Executive Director, Humphrey Nkobeni said, the joint inspection initiative reflects Government's unwavering commitment, by acting through mandates of the statutory bodies under the Ministry of Commerce, Trade and Industry and other ministries, to ensure that farming inputs supplied to farmers are compliant, authentic, safe, and of the right quality and quantity.

Mr Nkobeni, who spoke on behalf of the statutory institutions that constitute the national task force on joint inspections of farming inputs, said different institutions had come together to form a single, harmonized inspection force instead of operating in silos.

"By combining mandates and resources, we are reducing regulatory fatigue, improving efficiency, and ensuring greater accountability in the monitoring of farming inputs," he said.

NCZ Chief Executive Officer, Chanda Mongo, announced that his entity was going to commission its brand-new blending and granulating plants, a state-of-the-art facility with a combined annual capacity of 432,000 metric tonnes.

Mr Mongo said the plant had been designed for enhanced efficiency to meet the diverse needs of farmers and to strengthen our national drive for food security.

"This is the new era we are embarking on because we realised that our farmers have different needs for their crops, and soils differ from one region to the other, so we are responding to this need as NCZ," he said.

In a vote of thanks, ZCSA Executive Director, Gerald Chizinga, appealed to farmers and consumers, to buy fertilizer and other inputs from recognized, regulated and reputable outlets or distributors for them to be assured of a good crop yield.

Mr Chizinga urged farmers to buy fertilizer and other product brands that they are familiar with or brands that are traceable to the registered manufacturer or importer.

"If you come across suspicious products, you should report to your nearest office for ZCSA for enforcement actions to be undertaken," he said.

## Over 70 SMEs Trained Under Lobito Corridor Project



ZMA Executive Director, Humphrey Nkoben (middle) speaking to attendees of the Lobito Trade Facilitation Project training as ZCSA Executive Director, Gerald Chizinga (left) and ZABS Executive Director, Nathan Sing'ambwa follow through.

**M**ORE than 70 Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) and Cooperatives in North-Western Province have been trained in product Standardisation, Quality Assurance, Competition and Metrology under the Lobito Corridor Facilitation Project.

This training was aimed at enhancing the capacity of cooperatives and SMEs to compete in domestic, regional and international markets.

This followed the development of 13 modules by the Ministry of Commerce, Trade and Industry alongside statutory bodies namely the Zambia Compulsory Standards Agency (ZCSA), Competition and Consumer Protection Commission (CCPC), the Zambia Bureau of Standards (ZABS), and the Zambia Metrology Agency (ZMA) aimed at training targeted agriculture sector

Cooperatives as well as SMEs in North-Western Province.

The modules are in the areas of Honey Production, Principles of Food Hygiene, Packaging and Labelling, Aquaculture, Legumes and Pulses, SME Competition, Cassava Production, Good Agriculture Practices, Milk Production, Stock Feed, Cereal Processing, Confectionary Products, Timber and Wood Processing.

In October 2025, training sessions were focusing on compliance with standards, certification readiness and improved business operations.

Officers from ZCSA, ZABS, ZMA and CCPC conducted these training sessions using a cluster-based approach to enhance reach and participation.

These clusters were:

1. Solwezi Cluster, which covered areas such as Solwezi, Mushindamo, Kasempa and it had 22 SMEs who were trained;
2. Kabompo Cluster, which covered areas such as Mufumbwe, Zambezi, Chavuma, Manyinga and had 31 SME's trained; and
3. Mwinilunga Cluster, which covered areas such as Mwinilunga, Ikelengi, Kalumbila and Jimbe and had 21 SME's trained.

At a later phase of the module implementation plan, the four Statutory Bodies will carry out monitoring and evaluation to ascertain whether the SME's will need more support to improve their quality of goods.

The four institutions, working with the Ministry of Commerce, Trade and Industry, recognize that SME's are key in fostering economic development but undoubtedly face many challenges.

These challenges include lack of competences, limited resources, poor access to markets, appropriate technology and equipment as well as inadequate information which results in failure to comply with technical regulations. The interventions under the Lobito Corridor Trade Facilitation Project will help to alleviate these challenges thereby fostering effective participation of Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) in value chains.



Ministry of Commerce, Trade and Industry Permanent Secretary for Industrialization and Investment, Crusivia Hichikumba (seated, third from the right) with officials from his Ministry, representatives of statutory bodies, North-Western provincial administration, representatives of Cooperatives and SMEs during a training under Lobito Corridor Trade Facilitation Project at Solwezi Trades Training Institute.

## Why Stakeholder Engagement is Key to Compliance?

**S**TAKEHOLDER engagement is a fundamental pillar in the successful regulation of products that fall under the scope of compulsory standards.

As Zambia Compulsory Standards Agency (ZCSA), meaningful collaboration with clients - manufacturers, importers, distributors, suppliers, and retailers, among other stakeholders, ensures not only compliance, but shared responsibility in ensuring public safety, health, consumer and environmental protection.

Engagement helps ZCSA build trust, enhance transparency, and create an open channel for information sharing.

When clients understand the requirements, processes, and expectations associated with compulsory standards, compliance becomes smoother and enforcement is more efficient.

Engagement further allows ZCSA to gain insights into industry challenges, emerging risks, and innovation trends. These insights support evidence-based decision-making and improve the design and implementation of regulatory interventions which are key to Zambia's growing economy.

Engagement creates clarity and confidence. It reveals regulatory processes in inspections and compliance monitoring critical to issuance and maintenance of permit to supply and compliance with requirements.

By maintaining open communication with ZCSA, clients are better equipped to meet mandatory requirements, reduce delays at the point of entry or on the market, avoid penalties, and strengthen the integrity of their products. Stakeholder engagement also gives market players an opportunity to provide feedback, influence policy direction, and ultimately contribute to fostering a more predictable and enabling business environment.

In the context of compulsory standards, strong engagement ensures that products supplied on the Zambian market are safe, reliable, and fit for purpose.

When ZCSA and its clients work collaboratively, they enhance consumer protection, promote fair trade, and support national development goals.

For ZCSA, stakeholder engagement is not just a procedural requirement, but rather a strategic alliance that drives national health and safety.

When ZCSA and its clients remain connected, informed, and collaborative, we create a shared pathway to a stronger economy embedded on compliance, market trust and products that every Zambian can rely on with confidence.

Stakeholder engagement is a critical function of the Board, Management and staff of the ZCSA in line with guidelines in the Agency's Communications and Social Media Policy.

According to the Policy, which was approved in 2025 by the ZCSA Board, the Agency through the Corporate Communications Unit working in collaboration with the Directorate of Legal and Compliance shall from time to time identify the information needs of the respective stakeholders and shall endeavour to segment messages according to the information needs of the respective stakeholders.

ZCSA recognizes the growing diversity in stakeholder complexion and therefore stakeholder identification, mapping, engagement and management is the primary responsibility of



Above is ZCSA Manager – Domestic Quality Monitoring (South), Elias Kansembe (left) making a submission during a stakeholder engagement meeting with suppliers of electrical products in Lusaka as ZCSA acting Manager – Import Quality Monitoring, Kasuba Kasengele (right) looks on.

Below is ZCSA Legal Counsel, Mutumu Nzala Mwape.

Board, Senior Management and staff.

The criteria for stakeholder mapping shall be determined by:

- Contribution - value to ZCSA;
- Legitimacy of claims for engagement;
- Willingness to engage;
- Level of influence; and
- Necessity of involvement.

The Agency, through the Corporate Communications Unit, shall make every effort to track media indicators, web, and social media metrics, and the impact of major outreach events and products.



Solwezi Municipal Council Town Clerk, Stanley Mbewe (second from left) and ZCSA Executive Director, Gerald Chizinga (third from left) interacting after a courtesy call on the Town Clerk in Solwezi.

## Understanding ZCSA's Permit to Supply

**F**OR many emerging businesses, especially Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise (MSMEs), it can be surprising to learn that certain products of their interest on the market are covered by compulsory standards.

In this regard, manufacturing or supplying these products on the market without a Permit to Supply from the Zambia Compulsory Standards Agency (ZCSA) is illegal.

Yet this requirement is not only a legal obligation, but an essential step toward ensuring consumer safety, fair competition, and environmental protection.

Under the Compulsory Standards Act No. 3 of 2017, products listed under compulsory standards must not be supplied to the market without prior approval from the Agency.

As an adage goes, ignorance is no defense which means a person cannot escape liability for violating a law simply because they were not aware of it.

To support suppliers, ZCSA has made it easy to access information on all compulsory products through the Agency's official website, as well as through the Head Office in Lusaka, provincial centers, and border control offices located across Zambia.

Often, businesses perceive ZCSA inspectors as appearing only during enforcement actions.

To the contrary, ZCSA's mandate is to protect consumers, uphold public safety, and ensure a healthy trading environment.

The Agency's work is guided by the principle of enhancing product safety and quality, not stifling enterprise.

So, what exactly does the Agency's work entail? Beyond enforcement, ZCSA plays a critical developmental role. ZCSA inspectors ensure that manufacturers produce goods in a safe, controlled, and compliant manner from the initial stages of production through to final distribution.

By guiding businesses to meet acceptable standards, ZCSA helps them build stronger brands, reduce risks, and ultimately bring world-class products to the market. This partnership-focused approach not only protects consumers but also enables manufacturers to operate efficiently and profitably.

ZCSA inspectors are seasoned professionals with extensive experience in factory assessments and quality management. They are trained to provide sound, practical, and professional guidance, ensuring that every compliant business has the support it needs to thrive.

Further, the Agency educates the public on compulsory standards and provides public information for the protection of the consumers on products and services which do not comply with the Compulsory Standards Act.

For MSMEs looking to grow sustainably, securing a Permit to Supply is not just a legal requirement, but a strategic investment in product safety, quality, market trust, and long-term business success.

### Permit Conditions

#### 1. LOCATION

- Away from environmentally polluted areas, areas prone to flooding.

#### 2. PREMISES AND ROOMS

- Design and layout fit for the purpose
- Made of durable materials
- Proper finishing

#### 3. EQUIPMENT

- Suitable and adequate for the purpose
- Restricted accessibility
- No toxic effect

#### 4. FACILITIES

- Potable water, sanitary facilities, lighting and ventilation, etc

#### 5. PERSONNEL

- Competency, training, health

#### 6. CONTROL OF OPERATIONS

- Ingredients, materials and product control

#### 7. PROCESS CONTROL

- Production process, critical control points and monitoring activities

#### 8. PACKAGING, HANDLING, STORAGE AND DELIVERY

#### 9. DOCUMENTATION AND RECORDS

#### 10. MAINTENANCE, CLEANING AND SANITATION

#### 11. PEST CONTROL

#### 12. WASTE MANAGEMENT

#### 13. PERSONAL HYGIENE

#### 14. END PRODUCT

### Procedure For Acquiring A Permit To Supply and/ or Certification

1. Application for permit to supply – Client completes application process and submits to the Agency;
2. Receives quotation for inspection and makes payment;
3. Inspection is scheduled by Agency and Notice for inspection is given to client;
4. Inspection is conducted;
5. Product submitted to the laboratory for testing;
6. Generation of report after receipt of laboratory results; and,
7. If the establishment and product complies with the compulsory standard, the annual permit is granted.



ZCSA Board Chairperson, Ian Besa Mupeta (left), Commerce Trade and Industry Minister Chipoka Mulenga (second from left), Ministry of Commerce, Trade and Industry Permanent Secretary for Industrialization and Investment, Crusivia Hichikumba (third from left) and Secretary to the Treasury, Felix Nkulukusa (third from right), Smart Zambia Institute National Coordinator, Percy Chinyama, and ZCSA Executive Director, Gerald Chizinga display a dummy cheque during the launch of ZCSA services on the Government Service Bus.

## ZCSA Services Launched on Gov't Service Bus

**T**HE Government Service Bus (GSB) has continued to be at the heart of Zambia's digital public service infrastructure.

This digital platform allows Government Ministries, Departments, and Agencies to integrate, simplify, automate, and standardize service delivery.

The GSB platform, which is managed by the Smart Zambia Institute, allows the private sector and citizens to transact and access business information in real time in the comfort of their homes, offices and other localities across the country.

Individuals and businesses enjoy faster, more transparent, and more convenient access to Government services, through the GSB.

This digital integration has assisted to reduce paperwork, eliminate unnecessary delays, and ultimately enhanced accountability in the delivery of regulatory services.

As part of this new way of service provision, ZCSA has enlisted the following services on the GSB:

- Application for Annual Import Quality Certificate;
- Application for Pre-Import Clearance;
- Clearance of Used Motor Vehicles;
- Foreign Road Tank Vehicle Inspection;
- Local Road Tank Vehicle Inspection;
- Issuance of Batch Certificate; and
- Permit to Supply.

Finance and National Planning Minister, Situmbeko Musokotwane, officially launched ZCSA services on the GSB in Lusaka.

### Speeches During Launch

In a speech read for him by Secretary to the Treasury,

Felix Nkulukusa, Dr Musokotwane congratulated ZCSA for successfully implementing its services on the GSB online platform.

He said consolidating services on a single, unified platform, the GSB eliminates duplication, reduces operational costs, and speeds up the delivery of services to both citizens and businesses.

"It is gratifying to note that the Zambia Compulsory Standards Agency has increased its non-tax revenue to **K522,209,088** in 2024 against the year's target of **K411,011,232**. This has been attributed to the utilisation of digital platforms for payments, among other interventions implemented by the current board and management. For this you deserve a round of applause," Dr Musokotwane said.

He said the Government of the Republic of Zambia, under the leadership of President Hakainde Hichilema, was fully committed to fostering a digital economy, and this includes facilitating the growth and adoption of online platforms such as the GSB.

Dr Musokotwane said as Zambia rolls out more services on the GSB, there was need to continue building an inclusive digital economy that will drive growth, create jobs, and enhance the prosperity of the nation.

He added, "As Ministry of Finance and National Planning, we are working hand-in-hand with stakeholders to ensure that our payment infrastructure is secure, inclusive, and user-friendly."

Commerce, Trade and Industry Minister, Chipoka Mulenga, said on boarding of ZCSA services on the GSB would undoubtedly empower individuals, entrepreneurs, and organizations to focus on growing their businesses.

Mr Mulenga urged all citizens, partners and businesses, especially the Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) to make full use of ZCSA services available on the GSB.

He said ZCSA played a critical role in protecting consumers, ensuring public safety, and enhancing the competitiveness of industries.

“By digitizing and integrating these services into the GSB, we are reducing bureaucracy, shortening processing times, enhancing transparency, building trust, increasing access to the Agency’s services and creating a business-friendly environment that supports economic growth,” Mr Mulenga said.

ZCSA Board Chairperson, Ian Besa Mupeta, said the launch of the Agency services on GSB was in line with the 2022 – 2026 strategic objective of enhancing digitalisation of operational processes.

Mr Mupeta said the GSB had greatly made it easy for the public to access ZCSA services online as opposed to physically visiting the Agency to access various services.

ZCSA Executive Director, Gerald Chizinga, reiterated the Agency’s commitment in ensuring compliance with compulsory standards in a bid to protect the health and safety of citizens.

Smart Zambia Institute National Coordinator, Percy Chinyama, said the launch of ZCSA services on GSB demonstrated Government’s unwavering commitment to building a smarter, more efficient, and citizen centric public service.

“...GSB had greatly made it easy for the public to access ZCSA services online as opposed to physically...”

### HOW TO ACCESS ZCSA SERVICES VIA THE ZAMPOTAL

1. Search for **www.zampotal.gov.zm**
2. If you have no account, click on new user and fill in the details required.
3. If you have an account or after creating an account, Log in by using your NRC Number without slashes in the Username field and the password created.
4. Search for Zambia Compulsory Standards Agency (ZCSA).
5. In the left column, click on operator assisted.
6. Click on apply filters.
7. Click on service required e.g. Clearance of used motor vehicle, and then click on apply for services.
8. Fill in details as prompted, attach required documents and e-sign.

### USEFUL INFORMATION

1. If applying for someone, use that person’s NRC number.
2. If applying for a company, indicate the company’s registration number.
3. When applying for e.g. RWI, ensure that you have the following documents which should be attached/ uploaded in PDF:
  - Invoice for the motor vehicle
  - Copy of NRC, Contact and TPIN of the Importer
  - CE 20 form
4. When applying for Pre-Import/Annual certificate, the following forms should be attached/ uploaded in PDF:
  - Commercial invoice from the supplier.
  - Laboratory Report.
5. If you are paying via mobile money account on the platform, ensure that the account has sufficient funds. If you are paying via bank which is not listed on the platform, contact our finance department for guidance.



Commerce Trade and Industry Minister Chipoka Mulenga (left) and Secretary to the Treasury Felix Nkulukusa (right) during the launch of ZCSA services on the Government Service Bus (GSB).

## Western Province Minister Pledges to Support ZCSA

**T**HE Provincial Administration in Western Province has pledged to support the Zambia Compulsory Standard Agency (ZCSA) in educating the public on the importance of producing and consuming safe products.

Western Province Minister Province Minister, Kapelwa Astley Mbangweta, said the Provincial Administration would support the Agency's regional office based in Mongu in ensuring that that different stakeholders were sensitized on the importance of producing and consuming safe products.

Mr Mbangweta said the ZCSA regional office would be invited to make a presentation to councils during provincial meetings so that potential producers of products covered by compulsory standards were properly guided and equipped with appropriate information.

The Minister said this when a ZCSA delegation comprising Manager -Communications and Public Relations, Brian Hatyoka, Public Relations Officer Onishias Maamba and ZCSA Western Province Inspector, Egan Chimboma, paid a courtesy call on him on the sidelines of the 2025 Kuomboka Traditional Ceremony.

"We are grateful for the brief, at least we are now more knowledgeable, next time when we have a meeting with the councils, we can invite him to come and make a presentation to all of the officers from our councils and then from there we can find a way of making a structure through the provincial local government officer," he said.

Mr Mbangweta also praised ZCSA for successfully sensitizing marketeers, market committee members and traders at Kashumba Market in Mongu on the dangers of buying used undergarments and illicit alcoholic beverages.

Western Province Permanent Secretary (PS) Simomo Akapelwa commended the Agency for registering five new establishments in the region in 2024.

Mr Akapelwa added that the move signified an increase in industrial activity and improved adherence to producing quality products in the province.

"There are these five new enterprises that have come up which you are including on your scheme. Whether a firm is employing five people or two people, it is creating employment and that is very significant to us," he said.

The new five entities brought the total number of regulated entities in Western Province to 17 and they included Luena Ice Cubes and Water Limited, Mupal Enterprise, L.I Enpact Investments, Yende Milling Limited and God Grace Dairy Limited.

Mr Akapelwa expressed happiness that registered and certified local manufactures created more employment opportunities for the local people.

Western Province Deputy Permanent Secretary (DPS), Richard Mulwanda, called on consumers to be vigilant and ensure that they only buy properly packaged and labelled products.

Mr Mulwanda said ZCSA's role of protecting the safety of consumers could not be over emphasized especially that some suppliers cheat by manipulating the information on labels of



ZCSA Manager - Communications and Public Relations, Brian Hatyoka (middle) hands over a gift to Western Province Minister, Kapelwa Astley Mbangweta (left) as ZCSA Provincial Inspector - Western Province, Egan Chimboma looks on. This was on the sidelines of the Kuomboka Ceremony.

products such as expiry dates.

Earlier, ZCSA Manager - Communications and Public Relations, Brian Hatyoka, said the Agency in 2024 withdrew non-compliant products in Western Province namely potable spirits, peanut butter, biscuits, shoe polish and fruit flavoured drinks valued at K8, 428.

Mr Hatyoka revealed that the compliance rate of the inspection conducted in Western Province in 2024 stood at 96 per cent in three districts namely Senanga, Sioma and Shangombo.

Products regulated in Western Province under factory establishments included Mealie Meal, packaged drinking water, cooking oil and peanut butter, among others.

Meanwhile, in March 2025, ZCSA also exhibited at the 2025 Nc'wala Traditional Ceremony of the Ngoni people of Eastern Province.

The Agency also supported the 'Chisemwa Cha Lunda' traditional ceremony of North-Western Province, 'Winamwanga Mutomolo' traditional Ceremony of Muchinga Province and the inaugural ZCSA National Tennis Championship hosted in the Copperbelt Province as part of the Agency's Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR).



From left: ZCSA Provincial Inspector (Western), Egan Chimboma, Western Province Deputy Permanent Secretary, Richard Mulwanda, Western Province Minister, Kapelwa Astley Mbangweta, ZCSA Manager - Communications and Public Relations, Brian Hatyoka, and Western Province Permanent Secretary, Simomo Akapelwa, during a courtesy call in April 2025 on the sidelines of Kuomboka Ceremony and a roadshow at Kashumba Market in Mongu.



Luapula Province Deputy Permanent Secretary Evans Sikabbubba (forth from left) with ZCSA board members when the board paid a courtesy call on him.

## ZCSA Board Visits Muchinga, Northern, Luapula

**T**HE Zambia Compulsory Standards Agency (ZCSA) Board has concluded its familiarisation tours in 10 provinces of Zambia.

The tours were aimed at gathering first-hand information from all ZCSA provincial and border offices as well as meeting stakeholders from the public and private sectors in a bid to inform effective policy direction for the Agency.

ZCSA Board members visited Northern, Muchinga and Luapula Provinces of Zambia.

During a courtesy call on Northern Province Minister, Leonard Mbao, in Kasama, ZCSA Board Chairperson, Ian Besa Mupeta, said common products regulated in the area include mineral water, maize meal, household sugar, peanut butter, number plates, cooking oil, animal feed, washing soap and opaque beer.

Mr Mupeta said with the introduction of new mandatory standards, more products including concrete blocks and tomato products, among others, would be covered too.

The number of manufacturing companies registered in Northern Province currently stand at 23 from 13 recorded in the past years.

Mr Mupeta said most companies which came board were involved in the processing of peanut butter as well as those producing mineral water and maize meal.

"Here in Northern Province, ZCSA plans to increase surveillance inspections and testing of fertilizers in order to protect the public from unscrupulous traders," he said.

During a courtesy call on Luapula Province Deputy Permanent Secretary Evans Sikabbubba in Mansa, Mr Mupeta said common products regulated in the area include maize meal, sugar, vegetable edible oil, reflective vehicle number plates, opaque beer, bottled water and fruit flavored drinks.

Under the new compulsory standards, Mr Mupeta said common products being regulated in the province include fingerling and broodstock, corrugated roofing sheets and concrete blocks.

He said 15 companies were actively registered in 2025 compared to 11 registered companies in 2024 and previous years.

Mr Mupeta urged potential producers of products covered by compulsory standards to work closely with the Agency.

He said ZCSA stands ready to support producers to comply with the required standards for them to not only access local markets



ZCSA Board Chairperson, Ian Besa Mupeta (left) interacting with Northern Province Minister Leonard Mbao when the ZCSA Board paid a courtesy call on the Minister.

but also penetrate the markets beyond the borders.

"We appeal to the business community to engage ZCSA offices early even before starting their production so that their entities are properly guided and equipped with necessary knowledge on good manufacturing practices for specific products," he said.

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

In Nakonde District of Muchinga Province during a courtesy call on the Administrative Officer, Alex Sinkala, Mr Mupeta said common products regulated in the area include used motor vehicles, used textile products, fuel, fertilizers, tyres, safety shoes, batteries, household electrical appliances, food products, foreign road tank vehicles, and laundry soap, among other products.

He said the current number of establishments is seven, with five dealing with reflective number plates, one dealing with refined vegetable oil and the other one with laundry soap.

Mr Mupeta said ZCSA remains committed to ensuring that only safe products are supplied to consumers.

In Kasama, Mr Mbao commended the Agency for ensuring that compulsory standards were adhered to in key industries.

He urged ZCSA to also intensify compliance checks on products crossing borders and inland to mitigate substandard products.

In Mansa, Mr Sikabbubba urged ZCSA to reposition itself for increased business activities ahead of the completion of the Mwenda-Kasomeno Road Project.

Mr Sikabbubba said once complete, the Mwenda-Kasomeno road would experience an increase in trade activities for various products.

In Nakonde, Mr Sinkala thanked ZCSA for safeguarding citizens from potentially unsafe and substandard imported products.



ZCSA Board Chairperson, Ian Besa Mupeta (third from right), board members and members of staff with Nakonde District Administrative Officer, Alex Sinkala (middle) after a courtesy call.

## ZCSA's Role in Ensuring New Tyre Safety

**E**VERY year, hundreds of road accidents in Zambia are linked to tyre-related failures – blowouts, poor grip, skidding, and loss of control.

While many factors contribute to these incidents, tyre quality remains one of the most critical but overlooked elements of road safety.

To protect motorists and consumers, the Zambia Compulsory Standards Agency (ZCSA) plays a central role in ensuring that all new tyres imported into the country comply with compulsory safety standards before they are allowed onto the market.

ZCSA regulates new tyres through the Import Quality Clearance Scheme. Under this system, consignments of new tyres undergo inspection before entry into the Zambian market.

### What ZCSA Checks During Border Inspection of New Tyres

1. Verification of Manufacturer's Documentation
  - Certificates of conformity
  - Test reports
  - Manufacturer declarations
  - Technical specifications

These documents must demonstrate compliance with **ZS 437**

### – Pneumatic Tyres – Specifications

2. Technical Specification Review

Inspectors check that each tyre model meets mandatory requirements such as:

- Load index
- Speed rating
- Tread pattern compliance
- Structural integrity requirements
- Quality markings and labelling

3. Physical Examination of Tyres

Inspectors ensure the tyres are:

- Free from cracks
- Free from cuts or bulges
- Free from deformities
- Correctly labelled with size, ply rating, DOT code, speed rating, and load index

4. Verification of Production Dates

Tyres that have been stored for excessively long periods may degrade even when unused. ZCSA ensures:

- Production dates are clearly indicated
- Tyres are within an acceptable shelf-life
- No old or expired stock is imported

### What Consumers Should Check When Buying New Tyres

Even after regulatory controls, motorists have a vital role to play. Before purchasing tyres, always check:

1. Date of Manufacture (DOT Code)

Look for the four-digit number showing the week and year of production.

Example: 2219 = 22nd week of 2019.

Older tyres become brittle and unsafe – even if never used.

2. Tread Depth

Adequate tread ensures proper grip, braking, and safe driving on wet roads.

3. Speed Rating

This is the maximum speed a tyre can safely handle.

Examples:

- T – up to 190 km/h
- H – up to 210 km/h
- V – up to 240 km/h

Using tyres with a lower speed rating than your vehicle requires can lead to overheating and failure.

4. Load Index

Indicates the maximum weight each tyre can carry safely.

- Load Index 121 or less: Up to 1,450 kg per tyre – common for SUVs, pickups, and vans.
- Load Index 122 or more: Above 1,500 kg per tyre – for heavy trucks, buses, large SUVs.

Always use tyres that meet or exceed your vehicle



Through strict inspection of new tyres, ZCSA continues to safeguard motorists, protect consumers from unsafe products, and enhance road safety across the country.

manufacturer's specifications.

5. Physical Condition

Never buy tyres with:

- Bulges
- Cuts
- Cracks
- Exposed wires
- Severely uneven wear

These are signs of structural failure.

6. Buy tyres from reputable outlets

Reputable dealers provide compliant tyres and proper fitment advice.

### Why This Matters

Road safety begins with tyres. They are the only contact point between your vehicle and the road. Poor-quality or non-compliant tyres compromise braking, stability, and control – especially on wet or uneven terrain. Tyre safety is not a luxury, it is a life-saving necessity.

Through strict inspection of new tyres, ZCSA continues to safeguard motorists, protect consumers from unsafe products, and enhance road safety across the country.

Tyres are the only contact a vehicle has with the road which means they play an essential role in ensuring the safety of motorists.

ZCSA is appealing to motorists and other stakeholders to buy new tyres from reputable outlets to assure them of product safety and ultimately save lives on the road.



ZCSA inspectors and other officials disposing of expired beer in Ndola in June 2025. Left: Seized cases of expired beer.

## ZCSA Cautions Against Production, Consumption of Illicit Alcohol

**T**HERE are some reports in which some consumers fell sick and died after consuming illicit beer concoctions made out of methylated spirit, fertilizer and shoe Polish, among other materials which are not meant for human consumption.

It is in view of this background that the Zambia Compulsory Standards Agency (ZCSA) is cautioning the public against the production and consumption of illicit alcoholic beverages, as the safety of such products cannot be guaranteed.

ZCSA regulates the following compulsory Zambian Standards (ZS) covering alcoholic beverages in a bid to protect the health and safety of consumers:

1. **ZS 321 - Opaque Beer – Specification;**
2. **ZS 430 - Clear Beer – Specification;**
3. **ZS 808 - Potable Spirit – Specification; and,**
4. **ZS 809 - Specification for Table Wines.**

These compulsory standards stipulate that any alcohol intended for human consumption must meet strict requirements.

For example, the alcohol content must be between 34 to 55 for potable spirits and two to five per cent for Opaque beer.

For table wines, which include dry wines, sweet wines, dry white table wines, sweet white table wines, dry red table wines, sweet red table wines, dry rose table wines and sweet rose wines, alcohol content should be between eight to 15 per cent.

This simply means that alcohol content above the maximum threshold can pose risks to public health and safety.

Further, the compulsory standards state that bottles shall be properly sealed to avoid contamination and leakage.

In addition, the bottle or packaging material should not affect the contents of the alcoholic beverages.

The standards add that no synthetic colour shall be added to

wines to give them the red or pink colour. Colours must come from the natural pigments in the grapes.

There are also limits to the heavy metals such as copper, mercury, tin and zinc, which must be adhered to when producing alcoholic beverages.

The standards also state that all raw materials used shall be clean such as Cereal or grain used in opaque beer shall be free from additives and no evidence of mould.

For wines, the grapes used in the alcoholic fermentation shall be ripe and fresh.

In terms of Hygienic Production, beers, wines and Spirits must be produced in certified, sanitary facilities while the equipment must meet food safety standards.

There should be clear Labelling for the products while every bottle must show:

- Brand name;
- Alcohol percentage;
- Manufacturer's name and address;
- Batch number;
- Country of origin;
- Date of manufacture; and
- Best before or expiry date for prepacked opaque beer.

According to Statutory Instrument (SI) Number 18 of 2020, each type of potable spirits must be approved by ZCSA before sale.

The same goes for Opaque beer and Table wines as all manufacturers

are expected to obtain approval from the ZCSA.

ZCSA is urging the public to buy alcoholic beverages only from trusted sources and desist from consuming alcoholic drinks whose safety has not been ascertained by the Agency.

The Agency is appealing to the public to further report to their nearest ZCSA offices any individual or firm who is involved in the illegal production and sale of alcoholic beverages.

ZCSA has intensified enforcement and public education activities, in a quest to enhance the safety of consumers.

...Alcohol content must be between 34 to 55 for potable spirits and two to five per cent for Opaque beer... This simply means alcohol content above the maximum threshold can pose risks to public health and safety.



Officials from ZCSA and Zambia Motor Dealers Association pose for a photo after a stakeholder engagement meeting on used motor vehicles in March 2025.

## ZCSA, ZMDA Seek to Promote Safety of Imported Used Motor Vehicles

**A** USED motor vehicle refers to any vehicle that has been previously registered, owned, or operated and is no longer considered new at the point of sale or import. This includes passenger cars, buses, trucks, and other motorized road vehicles being resold or re-imported for continued use.

In many developing countries, including Zambia, used vehicles are widely sought after due to their affordability compared to brand-new alternatives.

However, the importation of used motor vehicles carries multiple implications - economic, safety, environmental, and public health.

Therefore, importation of used motor vehicles must be strictly regulated to ensure they contribute to national development without compromising safety or sustainability.

The Zambia Compulsory Standards Agency (ZCSA) enforces the **Zambian Standard ZS 560: Code of Practice for inspection and testing of used motor vehicles for roadworthiness** using a pre-shipment inspection scheme implemented through appointed agents in countries of export.

It is mandatory for all used motor vehicles destined for use in Zambia to meet the requirements of this safety pre-export inspection.

The pre-shipment inspection of used motor vehicles is aimed at minimizing the risk of importing unsafe used motor vehicles.

In a bid to promote compliance with the requirements of ZS 560, the Agency held a meeting with the Zambia Motor Dealers Association (ZMDA), where the two organizations pledged to work together in promoting the importation of safe used motor vehicles.

Speaking during the meeting, ZCSA Director - Legal and Compliance, Tafuna Mumba Phiri said the importance of enhanced collaboration between the two institutions cannot be

overemphasized.

Mrs Phiri implored importers of used motor vehicles to comply with the requirement for pre-shipment inspections, to contribute to public safety and protection of the safety of local end users.

"We are grateful that after this interaction you will help us sensitize your members on the need to have inspections of the motor vehicles before shipment, we cannot over emphasize the fact this is a legal requirement. But most importantly, this is something that is meant to ensure public safety, the safety of citizens of this country who have to buy these used motor vehicles," she said.

ZMDA Chairperson Kelvin Kameta reiterated the need for the two institutions to work together to prevent the importation of unsafe used motor vehicles.

Mr Kameta pledged to share information on the importance of complying with the mandatory standard for used motor vehicles with all importers of used motor vehicles.

"We are grateful for awarding us this opportunity to just have this meeting, to us as Zambia Motor Dealers Association, this is a very important meeting and there are few things we have learnt from here which we did not know. Going forward, this information which has been gotten here will be taken down to

our members," he said.

ZCSA conducts roadworthiness inspection (RWI) on all imported used motor vehicles through its contractors mainly in Japan, Singapore, South Africa, United Arab Emirates and United Kingdom.

While used vehicles are an important part of Zambia's transport system, their importation must be regulated with public safety, environmental sustainability, and national integrity in mind.

The issue is not just technical — it is economic, environmental, health-related, and security-focused.

**“ZCSA conducts roadworthiness inspection on all imported used motor vehicles through its contractors mainly in Japan, Singapore, South Africa, United Arab Emirates and United Kingdom.”**

## ZCSA Wins 4 National 2025 Kaizen Awards

**K**AIZEN 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.

The Zambia Compulsory Standards Agency (ZCSA) upholds high standards of quality and service delivery.

In this regard, the Agency has actively employed Kaizen principles in a bid to reduce operational stress on employees leading to more efficient work accomplished, thereby externally resulting in timely, high quality services for clients.

During the 2025 National KAIZEN Conference held at Mulungushi International Conference Centre, Lusaka, ZCSA won four awards namely:

- 2 Gold awards i.e. one for Team Trendsetters and another one for Team Gurus;
- 1 Continuity Award for Team Trendsetters; and
- 1 exceptional performance Award at Africa level for Team Gurus.

Speaking at the 2025 National Kaizen conference, Japanese Ambassador to Zambia, Takeuchi Kazuyuki noted with satisfaction the results of using Kaizen principles in Zambian companies.

Mr Kazuyuki reaffirmed Japan’s commitment towards promoting Kaizen in Zambian firms.

“I am happy to hear that companies taking part in Kaizen are doing great things through these partnerships. Japan remains committed and will continue to cooperate in the co-promotion of the different sectors in Zambia,” Mr Kazuyuki said.

Team Trendsetters won the Gold Award for the Best presentation of a project titled “Reducing Sample Retrieval Time from 194 Seconds to 11 seconds”.

Team Gurus won the Gold Award for Best presentation of a project titled “Reducing File Retrieval Time from 120 minutes to 3 minutes”.



ZCSA Quality Assurance Manager, Francis Mwelwa (left), Records Officer Nzali Sinkamba (middle) and Administrative Assistant, Jessica Zulu display the award.

ZCSA Quality Assurance Officer, Mercy Mugala Ng’ambi, said the teams had identified problems that lay in sample retrieval and went further with brainstorming ideas that led to improvement of job satisfaction, improved adherence to product compliance, and improved sample integrity, among others.

The aforementioned results are vital to ZCSA’s work in protecting the consumers and environment.



ZCSA Quality Assurance Manager, Francis Mwelwa (left), Administrative Assistant, Jessica Zulu (second from left), Import Quality Monitoring Inspector, Katongo Musonda (second from right) and Quality Assurance Officer, Mercy Mugala display the Awards the Agency won at the 2025 National KAIZEN Conference in Lusaka.



Winners of the second ZCSA Media Awards with Commerce, Trade and Industry Minister, Chipoka Mulenga (middle, back) and others dignitaries in Lusaka.

## ZCSA Hosts 2nd Media Awards

**T**HE Zambia Compulsory Standards Agency (ZCSA) successfully hosted its second Media Awards to appreciate the role of journalists in educating the public on product safety.

The objectives of the media awards are:

- To promote innovative and consistent media coverage of products covered by compulsory standards;
- To recognise and motivate outstanding media personnel from television, radio, newspaper and online media based on best evaluated articles; and,
- To strengthen the collaboration between ZCSA and the media fraternity on publicity and education activities.

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 consumers on products and services which do not comply with the Compulsory Standards Act No. 3 of 2017.

The Agency hosted the second Media Awards on May 23, 2025 at Kenneth Kaunda Wing of Mulungushi International Conference Centre in Lusaka to acknowledge and honour deserving journalists from Print, Electronic and Digital Media outlets.

Best evaluated stories met the criteria of being original, compelling, multi-sourced, relevant, unique, simplified and grammatically sound, while demonstrating the journalist's understanding of the Agency's mandate.

The Adjudication Committee for the second ZCSA Media Awards (2024) was chaired by Media Network on Child Rights and Development (MNCRD) Executive Director, Henry Kabwe.

The majority of entries received and winners of the ZCSA Media Awards for the last two years are from Lusaka and Copperbelt provinces.

ZCSA Executive Director, Gerald Chizinga, said the Agency recognises the media as key partners in facilitating a platform to educate the public on the Agency's mandate of protecting consumers and the environment through the enforcement of compulsory standards.

Mr Chizinga said it was the hope of ZCSA that more journalists would take up the mantle of educating the public on product safety to contribute to consumer protection.

In a vote of thanks, the 2024 overall winner, Ms Muchimba, thanked ZCSA for providing an opportunity for journalists who report on product safety to be recognised and awarded.

The third ZCSA Media Awards for 2025 will be held during the first half of 2026.

### Media Awards Winners

- **First Prize Winner (TV):** Kabembe Kasabula Muchimba (ZNBC TV, Lusaka)
- **Second Prize Winner (TV):** Everness Nankala (Sun FM TV, Lusaka)
- **First Prize Winner (Radio):** Patrick Mupeta (Radio Ichengelo, Kitwe)
- **Second Prize Winner (Radio):** Ennie Kishiki (YAR FM, Kitwe)
- **First Prize Winner (Print/ Newspaper):** Abigail Chifusa (Zambia Daily Mail, Lusaka)
- **Second Prize Winner (Print/ Newspaper):** Joseph Nathan Banda (Office of the Vice President, Lusaka)
- **First Prize Winner (Digital):** Kabembe Kasabula Muchimba (ZNBC TV, Lusaka)
- **Second Prize Winner (Digital):** Joseph Nathan Banda (Ministry of Information and Media/Mast, Lusaka)
- **Most Consistent Award:** Kabembe Kasabula Muchimba (ZNBC TV, Lusaka)
- **Overall Winner:** Kabembe Kasabula Muchimba (ZNBC TV, Lusaka)



Overall winner, Kabembe Kasabula Muchimba (middle) receives her award plaque from Commerce, Trade and Industry Minister, Chipoka Mulenga (right) and ZCSA Board Chairperson, Ian Besa Mupeta.

## ZCSA Awards Four Female Employees

**T**HE Zambia Compulsory Standards Agency (ZCSA) awarded four deserving female members of staff as part of celebrating the 2025 International Women's Day held under the theme "For All Women and Girls: Rights, Equality and Empowerment".

This was during an Award Ceremony hosted on March 8, 2025 in Lusaka by the Ministry of Commerce, Trade and Industry.

The four recipients of ZCSA awards are:

### 1. Quality Assurance Champion Award – Julie Munsaka

This Award celebrates an energetic woman in upholding quality of regulated products. She is dedicated to ensuring all the Domestic Quality Monitoring and Import Quality Monitoring Departments meet the minimum requirements for continuous improvement and quality assurance. This includes facilitating the accreditation process to ISO/IEC 17020, which is a key element in competence for an Inspectorate body like ZCSA. Julie, who is ZCSA Quality Assurance Officer at the Head Office in Lusaka, is responsible for Quality Assurance internal audits among other responsibilities.

### 2. Compulsory Standards Enforcement Champion Award (imported products) – Cleopatra Kaunda

This Award celebrates a dedicated woman who has played a critical role in ensuring that imported products meet the prescribed compulsory standards in a quest to protect consumers and the environment. As a Senior Inspector - Import Quality Monitoring (IQM) Department based at the Head Office in Lusaka, Cleopatra's work involves providing guidance to Inspectors on daily monitoring of imported products.

### 3. Compulsory Standards Enforcement Champion Award (local products) – Theresa Kaputula

This Award celebrates a hard working woman who supervises Inspectors to ensure that locally manufactured products meet the prescribed compulsory standards. Theresa, who is a Senior Inspector – Domestic Quality Monitoring (DQM) Department based at the regional office in Ndola, supervises Inspectors in the Northern Region, to ensure local products are safe, credible and competitive on the market.

### 4. Public Education Champion Award – Mweshi Sosandi

This Award celebrates a dedicated professional whose contributions to regulatory communication, enforcement, and public awareness have significantly advanced the mandate of ZCSA. As a Senior Inspector under DQM, Mweshi Ng'andu-Sosandi has experience in inspection, market surveillance, and regulatory compliance.

As an active member of the ZCSA Communications Committee, she works closely with the Corporate Communications Unit to bridge the gap between technical regulation and public understanding. She represents ZCSA in various public sensitisation programmes by effectively educating manufacturers, consumers and traders on product safety, compliance obligations, and the risks associated with non-compliant products.

Permanent Secretary for Commerce and Trade at the Ministry of Commerce, Trade and Industry, Lillian Bwalya, handed over the awards to recipients.

Mrs Bwalya encouraged the women to continue striving for excellence in their roles.

"Your dedication, passion, and commitment to our Ministry's mission are invaluable. Remember, your contributions are shaping the future of our nation. Keep pushing boundaries, challenging stereotypes, and inspiring others through your work," she said.

She further emphasized the importance of adopting a growth mindset, resilience, and supporting one another in overcoming challenges.

"To our dedicated and ambitious officers, remain focused, determined, and committed to your goals. Draw strength from your experiences, learn from your mistakes, and use them as stepping stones to grow and improve." She said.

The 2025 International Women's Day theme resonated well with the Ministry's commitment to creating an enabling environment for competitive business and industrialization, ensuring no woman or girl is left behind.

Meanwhile, ZCSA participated in the launch of 2025's 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Based Violence (GBV) in Kitwe, Kabwe and Choma in November 2025.

The theme for this year's event is "Unite to End Digital Violence Against Women and Girls".



Julie Munsaka



Cleopatra Kaunda



Theresa Kaputula



Mweshi Ng'andu-Sosandi

## AIDS Day: Strengthening HIV Protection Through Standards

On December 1, 2025, which was World AIDS Day, the Zambia Compulsory Standards Agency (ZCSA) reaffirmed the importance of quality, safety and trust in products that protect lives.

ZCSA ensures that Male latex condoms placed on the Zambian market meet the required compulsory standards before reaching consumers.

### How ZCSA Ensures Compliance?

- **Inspection, Sampling and Testing:** All consignments undergo sampling and laboratory testing to verify tensile strength, bursting volume and pressure, leak-tightness, and overall integrity.
- **Certification and Verification:** Only condoms that meet the requirements of Zambian Standards are allowed for distribution.
- **Market Surveillance:** Continuous inspections are conducted to prevent non-compliant or expired products from circulating.
- **Traceability and Labelling Checks:** Ensuring every pack contains accurate manufacturing dates, expiry dates, batch numbers, and safe-use instructions.

### Why It Matters?

Quality-assured condoms reduce the risk of HIV transmission, Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs), and unplanned pregnancies, contributing directly to national public health goals.

Consumers should continue working together with ZCSA to protect communities, promote safe practices, and uphold high product quality standards.



Stained condoms due to compromised packing that allowed seepage of contaminants.



Condoms being tested using a Water Leakage Tester.



The President of the Republic of Zambia, Mr Hakainde Hichilema, has emphasised Zambia's commitment to fighting HIV/AIDS by promoting self-reliance, strengthening healthcare systems, and reducing dependency on external aid. Mr Hichilema (seated, middle) at the Ministry of Commerce, Trade and Industry One-Stop Shop during the Muchinga Province Trade and Investment Exposition.

## Understanding Mandatory Regulations for Paint

**P** AINT plays a crucial role in art, culture and industry, serving as a medium for expression, creativity, communication and emotional well-being.

Further, paint is important in enhancing appearance by covering defects and adding colour to buildings and other facilities.

The use of paint extends from merely preventing decay in structures to providing a picture for creativity, thereby making it adaptable and an essential material in many aspects of life.

It is also true that paint adds value to property because a well-maintained and freshly painted exterior can boost the property value and make a structure more attractive to potential buyers.

Additionally, paint conveys ideas and emotions. For instance, art created with paint communicates compound ideas and emotions that might be difficult to express through words alone.

However, paints, especially those containing Lead and other hazardous components, can pose significant health and environmental risks.

In Zambia, the dangers posed by paints are not limited to Lead alone. Mixed driers, solvents, and pigments commonly used in paints present additional, often overlooked, health and environmental risks.

In children for example, Lead exposure can result in developmental delays, learning difficulties, irritability, weight loss, sluggishness, and hearing loss.

Children are particularly vulnerable due to their developing nervous systems and frequent hand-to-mouth behaviors.

Similarly, in adults, Lead exposure can result in high blood pressure, joint and muscle pain, memory and concentration difficulties, mood disorders, and reproductive issues in both men and women.

Environmental concerns have also been raised. Lead-based paints deteriorate over time, releasing dust and flakes that contaminate soil and water.

These pollutants persist in the environment, harming aquatic life, crops, and entering the food chain, ultimately affecting humans and wildlife.

In addition to Lead, several other components commonly found in paints pose serious risks:

**Mixed Driers:** Mixed driers, also known as siccatives, are metallic salts added to paint to speed up drying. These commonly used driers include cobalt, manganese, and zirconium compounds.

- **Cobalt Driers:** May cause asthma-like symptoms, chronic lung disease, and in severe cases, cardiomyopathy. Long-term exposure is also associated with cancer risks.
- **Manganese Driers:** Inhalation can lead to manganese poisoning (Manganism), a neurological condition that mimics Parkinson's disease.
- **Zirconium Driers:** Exposure may cause skin and eye irritation, and inhalation can affect respiratory health.

**Paint Solvents:** Solvents are used to dissolve or disperse other components in paint and include toluene, xylene, and methylene chloride.

- **Toluene:** Affects the central nervous system, causing headaches, dizziness, and in high concentrations, unconsciousness. It is especially harmful to pregnant women and may cause birth defects.
- **Xylene:** Causes skin irritation, respiratory distress, and affects the liver and kidneys with prolonged exposure.
- **Methylene Chloride:** A potent carcinogen, it can cause dizziness, nausea, and suffocation in poorly ventilated spaces. Chronic exposure can impair brain function.

**Pigments:** Pigments provide color but may include harmful heavy metals:

- **Cadmium Pigments:** Often used in reds and yellows. Cadmium is highly toxic, can cause kidney damage, bone demineralization, and is classified as a human carcinogen.



The use of paint extends from merely preventing decay in structures to providing a picture for creativity, thereby making it adaptable and an essential material in many aspects of life.

- **Chromium VI Pigments:** Found in bright greens and yellows. Known to cause respiratory problems and is also a confirmed human carcinogen.
- **Mercury Pigments:** Can affect the nervous system, impair brain development in unborn children, and cause severe organ damage.

It is in view of these risks that the Zambia Compulsory Standards Agency (ZCSA) regulates paint to enhance product safety and health, consumer and environmental protection.

ZCSA enforces the **Zambian Standard (ZS) 201: Paints and Vanishes-Emulsion paints for Interior and Exterior use specification** and **ZS 295: Paints and Varnishes-High Gross Synthetic Enamel paints specifications**.

According to ZS 201, paint on receipt in an unopened container should be suitable to contain the paint within the recommended shelf-life by the manufacturer and shall not have irritating or offensive odour.

The Compulsory Standard also guides that paints shall be free from lumps and skins and shall not exhibit excessive settling, caking, granular, leveraging or colour separation.

Additionally, ZS 295 prohibits the use of all hazardous raw materials in paints. It further states that all paints should be completely Lead free. It further prescribes that Lead shall be below detection limit when tested according to ZS ISO 6503.

Regular testing and monitoring of these parameters is key to ensure the quality and safety of paint on the market.

ZCSA is mandated by Compulsory Standards Act No. 3 of 2017 to regulate all imported and locally manufactured products such as paint for the purpose of protecting consumers and the environment.

It is required by law that any product covered by compulsory standards must comply with the applicable standard or requirements in terms of design, material, performance, manufacturing, packaging and labeling, among other requirements.

ZCSA is enhancing monitoring of paint products on the market to ensure compliance with safety standards.

The Agency also conducts Public Awareness campaigns about the dangers of Lead and toxic components in paint.

ZCSA will continue to encourage manufacturers to transition to safer alternatives, such as water-based and non-toxic paints.



Females Double participants in action at the 2025 ZCSA Inaugural National Tennis Championship in Ndola.

## ZCSA Hosts Inaugural National Tennis Championship

**T**HE Zambia Compulsory Standards Agency (ZCSA) hosted its inaugural National Tennis Championship in October 2025 in Ndola to support the development of tennis as part of the Agency's Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR).

The Championship, which was hosted in partnership with the Zambia Tennis Association (ZTA), was held at Ndola Tennis Club.

ZCSA Director – Corporate Services, Maikisa Ilukena, said the Tennis sponsorship reflected the Agency's commitment not only to regulatory excellence, but also to national development, and nation-building through sport.

Mr Maikisa was speaking at Ndola Tennis Club during the official closing and award ceremony of the 1st edition of the Zambia Compulsory Standards Agency - National Tennis Championship.

By supporting the tournament as part of ZCSA's Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), Mr Maikisa said ZCSA was investing in a future where young athletes could thrive in environments that were safe, structured, and filled with opportunity.

He said ZCSA is aware of various societal vices that arise as a result of unregulated alcoholic beverages especially potable spirits.

"We are therefore happy that the tennis association has involved young people to be part of the tournament," he said.

ZTA president, Lighton Musonda, said the Association was grateful to ZCSA for sponsorship the National Tennis tournament.

Mr Musonda said the tournament brought together some of the best tennis players in Zambia, showcasing their skills and talent.

"ZCSA's involvement in tennis will undoubtedly contribute to the growth of the sport and inspire young players to reach their full potential," he said.

Men's Singles Winner, Edgar Kazembe, said tennis is key in keeping young people from substance and alcohol abuse.

Meanwhile, Mr Maikisa reiterated the Agency's commitment to ensuring that only safe products were supplied to consumers.

He said the Agency had enhanced its border monitoring, market surveillance inspections, routine factory inspections, stakeholder engagements, enforcement and public education activities in a bid to ensure only safe products are supplied on the market.

Mr Ilukena added that ZCSA was ready to support producers of products covered by compulsory standards to comply with the required standards for them to not only access local markets but also penetrate the markets beyond our borders.



ZCSA Public Relations Officer, Onishias Maamba (right) educating attendees of the 2025 ZCSA Inaugural National Tennis Championship on the Agency's mandate in Ndola.

He urged the business community to engage ZCSA early even before starting their production of products covered by compulsory standards so that their entities were properly guided and equipped with necessary knowledge on good manufacturing practices for specific products.

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

ZCSA took advantage of the tournament to educate the public on its mandate and new compulsory standards.

The Agency also urged consumers to only buy products from reputable outlets to assure their safety.



# ZCSA 2025 Activities in Pictures



ZCSA Manager - Communications and Public Relations, Brian Hatyoka (right) explaining the mandate of the Ministry of Commerce, Trade and Industry to Education Minister, Douglas Syakalima (left), Information and Media Minister, Cornelius Mweetwa (second from left) and Technology and Science Minister, Felix Mutati during the Africa Public Service Day. Mr Hatyoka was the stand manager for the Ministry of Commerce, Trade and Industry One Stop Shop.



ZCSA Lusaka Head Office members of staff during the International Labour Day commemoration.



A cultural group performing at the ZCSA Stand during the Nc'wala traditional ceremony in Chipata.



ZCSA Inspector - Domestic Quality Monitoring, Sam Ng'ona, (left) educating members of the public on ZCSA's mandate during the World Consumer Rights Day.



Linda Secondary School pupils follow deliberations during the joint CCPC-ZCSA School Clubs initiative in Livingstone, aimed at sensitizing pupils on product safety and consumer protection.



ZCSA Executive Director, Gerald Chizinga (left) being interviewed during the Agriculture and Commercial Show in Lusaka.



ZCSA Chirundu members of staff during the International Labour Day commemoration.



ZCSA Chipata members of staff during the International Labour Day commemoration.



ZCSA Kazungula members of staff during the International Labour Day commemoration.



Ministry of Commerce, Trade and Industry, alongside statutory bodies, won two awards at the 2025 Africa Public Service Day namely: First Prize - Best Legal and Structural Reforms; and Second Prize - Best Exhibitor. Permanent Secretaries at the Ministry, Lillian Bwalya (seated, middle) and Crusivia Hichikumba (seated, third from right) lead others in celebrating the awards.



ZCSA Kabwe members of staff during the International Labour Day commemoration.



ZCSA Executive Director, Gerald Chizinga (middle) with other members of Management after appearing before the Parliamentary Committee on National Economy, Trade and Labour Matters.



ZCSA members of staff clad in "Back to School" outfits as part of celebrating Zambia's Independence anniversary.



ZCSA Western Province Inspector, Egan Chimboma, (left) educating attendees on ZCSA's mandate at the Kuumboka Ceremony in Mongu.



ZCSA Inspector - Import Quality Monitoring, Mutumba Mufaya (left) and Compliance Officer, Chama Mulenga (next to her) educating attendees during the Agriculture and Commercial Show in Lusaka.



ZCSA members of staff at the Ministry of Commerce, Trade and Industry One-Stop Shop during the Muchinga Province Trade and Investment Exposition (EXPO).



ZCSA Southern Province Inspector, Levert Nkulunga (right) educating a member of the public on ZCSA's mandate during the Southern Province Trade and Investment Exposition (EXPO).



Mishishi Secondary School pupils follow deliberations during CCPC-ZCSA School Clubs project aimed at promoting product safety and consumer protection in Muchinga Province.



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**"With Your Safety in Mind"**

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SCAN ME

