



Achieving Business Excellence Through Standards

SAZ ESTABLISHES THE ZIMBABWE NATIONAL STANDARDIZATION STRATEGY (ZNSS) 2018-2020

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Introduction

The application of standards improves the general quality of life, and has been proven worldwide to contribute to the growth of economies. The use of international recognized standards leads to the production of goods and delivery of services that are competitive in global markets and removes barriers to trade. In the global village that we live in, standardization is a fundamental aspect that unlocks global trade and wealth creation. The SAZ is delighted to announce the establishment of the Zimbabwe National Standardization Strategy (ZNSS) for the 3-year cycle 2018-2020 that aims to unlock opportunities for enhanced socio economic development and support Zimbabwe's industrialization strategies.

Establishing the Zimbabwe National Standardization Strategy (ZNSS)

The main purpose for the development of a National Standardization Strategy (NSS) is to align the development of standards with economic, social, environmental and other priorities of the country, and doing this in a way that optimizes the utilization of the available resources of the country. The ZNSS project was launched in July 2016, and national standardization priorities have been established by assessing activities that have an impact on Gross Domestic Product (GDP), exports, imports, social and environment issues. Stakeholders were consulted to establish standardization gaps in their economic sectors activities that have national impact. Where gaps were found, appropriate standards were included in the strategy.

Methodology

The methodology to establish the ZNSS was implemented with guidance and support from the International Organization for Standardisation (ISO). The flow chart of the ISO methodology for the determination of standardization priorities based on a socio-economic and stakeholder analysis is shown in Annex 1.

ZNSS National Taskforce

A ZNSS Task Team drawn from SAZ, Consumer Council of Zimbabwe (CCZ), Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Enterprise Development, Zimbabwe National Chamber of Commerce (ZNCC), Confederation of the

Zimbabwe Industry (CZI), ZimTrade, Ministry of Lands, Agriculture and Rural Resettlement, and the Chamber of Mines was tasked to establish this strategy. In assessing the current and future needs of Zimbabwe, the task force analyzed the key socio economic factors, including the Zimbabwe Trade and Industrialization policies, the Zimbabwe Agenda for Sustainable Socio-Economic Transformation plans/policies (ZIMASSET) and trade related Statutory Instruments.

Outcome

A total of 133 standardization projects were identified in the ZNSS for development in the three-year cycle 2018-2020. The standards were prioritized according to the ISO methodology and those having the greatest priority were selected. Those that did not meet the greatest priority criteria were 'banked' and can be activated in future. The ZNSS projects give SAZ guidance on the relevant national standards to be developed and implemented in order to support sustainable socio - economic development. The summary of key priority standardization areas classified by economic sectors are shown Table 1 below:

Table 1: Summary of key priority standardization areas under the ZNSS

STANDARDS COUNCIL SECTOR / FIELD	Number of Standards
Automotive and transportation	23
Building and civil engineering (the construction sector)	4
Chemicals	26
Electrical and electronic engineering fields	7
ICT sector	0* (see note i)
Food and agriculture fields	46
Packaging, materials and textiles	19
Mining sector	0* (see note ii)
Pharmaceutical sector	3
Safety, health, environment and quality fields	1
Provision of services, e.g. banking, education etc.	4
Total	133

Note:

- (i) A total of 5 standards were recently published to support the small scale mining sector, and the strategy will focus on the sensitisation and promotion on the use of these standards.
- (ii) Adequate ISO standards relating to support the ICT sector have already been adopted in Zimbabwe and these require sensitisation and promotion for widespread use.

Resources required

The ISO methodology of establishing national standardization strategies also gives guidance on the systematic calculations of human and financial resources required. The process flow for resource planning and finalization of the national standardization strategy based on the ISO methodology as shown in Annex 1b. In selecting the number of standards to be developed, only critical projects were considered in order to align activities to available resources. The SAZ recurrent budget submission for 2018 was calculated on

the basis of the number of anticipated active Technical Committees, their national and international activities and Standards Councils and technical committee members' incentives.

ZNSS 2018-2020 Strategic Considerations

In addition to establishing the number of standards to be developed, a detailed SAZ organizational strategy with action plans has been compiled to support the ZNSS implementation

ZNSS Benefits

If the ZNSS initiatives and ambitions outlined in the strategy are successfully implemented, it is expected that by collaborating with various stakeholders in the country (Government, Regulators, public and private sector), the most significant benefits will be:

- The availability of standards that support key socio economic drivers leading to sustainable socio economic development and attainment of quality of life. Standards to be developed will complement the existing +2000 standards.
- Increased quality awareness and use of standards in the country through systematic referencing of standards in national policies, and the technical regulatory framework
- Greater national Quality Infrastructure coordination and effective / beneficial participation in regional, continental and international standardization activities leading to enhanced regional economic integration and trade facilitation.
- Mentoring of SMEs and increased quality awareness and the use of standards by implementing SME maturity programs and simplified sector specific training
- The introduction of standardization in education curricular so that students in primary and tertiary education are aware of the importance of quality and standards. This will have long term positive effects to sustainable development.

Performance monitoring and evaluation of the ZNSS

The ZNSS is an integral part of the SAZ strategy. The Association monitors and evaluates its overall strategy through the Results Based Management System. The ZNSS will be reviewed annually for continued relevance and suitability. Annual review will be carried out in consultation with Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Enterprise Development and key stakeholders including Government arms and the SAZ Standards Councils.

Gratitude

The SAZ is grateful to ISO for the training and guidance provided in establishing this strategy, and the Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Enterprise Development, who gave their full support to the process of establishing the ZNSS.

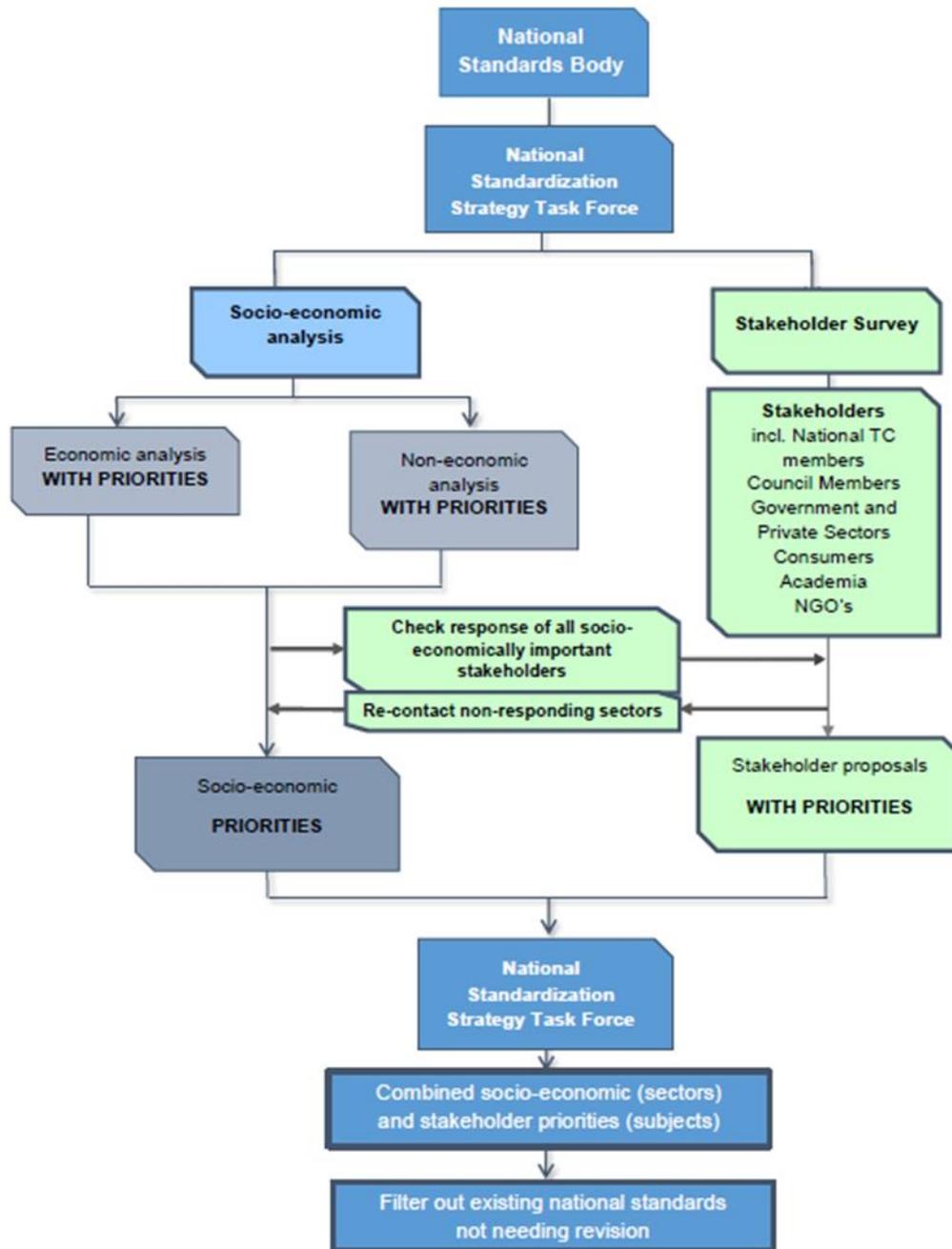
Appreciation is extended to the SAZ Technical Sub-Committee of the Executive Committee, Management and staff, Standards Councils and Technical Committees for their valuable contributions.

A special mention goes to the ZNSS Taskforce Team drawn from the participating organizations mentioned above.

Gratitude is expressed to the various standardization stakeholders who were consulted and submitted their standardization needs, that are a vital element of this ZNSS. The invaluable contribution by stakeholders is a reflection of their commitment to the implementation of this strategy.

To receive the complete ZNSS document, kindly contact SAZ on info@saz.org.zw

Annex 1: Flowchart of the ISO methodology for the determination of standardization priorities based on a socio-economic and stakeholder analysis



Annex 1(b): Resource planning and finalization of the national standardization strategy

