

CHAPTER FIFTEEN

STANDARDISATION AND QUALITY ASSURANCE

ARTICLE 112

Role of Standardisation and Quality Assurance

The Member States, recognising the importance of standardisation and quality assurance in the promotion of health, the enhancement of the standard of living, the rationalisation and reduction of unnecessary variety of products, the facilitation of interchangeability of products, the promotion of trade, consumer protection, the creation of savings in government purchasing, improved productivity, the facilitation of information exchange as well as in the protection of life, property, and the environment, agree to:

- (a) evolve and apply a common policy with regard to the standardisation and quality assurance of goods produced and traded within the Common Market, the relationship of their national standards bodies with regional, international and other organisations concerned with standardisation and quality assurance and in the development of activities in standardisation and quality assurance for the achievement of the objectives of the Common Market;

- (b) establish within their territories, national standards bodies, and develop their technical capacities so as to enable them to adequately carry out standardisation and quality assurance activities at the national level and to co-operate with other Member States;
- (c) promote and enforce standards relating to public health and safety and the protection of the environment by applying appropriate standards for goods produced and traded within the Common Market; and
- (d) recognise the African Regional Organization for Standardization as a leading co-operating partner in the implementation of appropriate provisions of this Chapter and agree to accede to the Agreement Establishing ARSO.

ARTICLE 113

Establishment of Standards

The Member States undertake to:

- (a) apply uniform rules and procedures for the formulation of their national standards;
- (b) adopt African regional standards and where these are

unavailable, adopt suitable international standards for products traded in the Common Market;

- (c) coordinate their views with regard to the selection, recognition, adaptation and application of regional and international standards in so far as the needs of the Common Market are concerned, and constantly endeavour to improve the standardisation of goods and services within the Common Market; and
- (d) apply the principle of reference to standards in their national regulations, so as to facilitate the harmonisation of their technical regulations.

ARTICLE 114

Quality Assurance

The Member States shall:

- (a) apply uniform standards and specifications for the inspection and testing of goods traded within the Common Market, so that the results may be more easily interpreted and coordinated in a uniform manner within the Common Market;
- (b) adopt regionally acceptable quality management systems standards, and develop capacities for quality

assurance of products traded in the Common Market;

- (c) use harmonised documentation for the evaluation of the quality of goods traded in the Common Market; and
- (d) in conjunction with customs and other relevant authorities, provide for the ease of movement of samples meant for testing within the Common Market.

ARTICLE 115

Certification and Laboratory Accreditation

The Member States shall:

- (a) adopt and apply a harmonised scheme for the certification of goods manufactured and traded in the Common Market;
- (b) adopt and apply a harmonised scheme for the accreditation of laboratories used for the evaluation of goods produced and traded in the Common Market; and
- (c) adopt common rules and procedures for the certification marks to be applied on goods produced

and traded in the Common Market and for the mutual recognition of each others national certification marks, as well as certification and laboratory accreditation schemes.

ARTICLE 116

Metrology

The Member States shall:

- (a) adopt a harmonised system for legal, scientific and industrial metrology activities in the Member States and formulate modalities for the mutual recognition of calibration certificates issued by the national metrology laboratories of the Member States;
- (b) promulgate national legal frameworks for legal metrology as well as the pre-packing and labelling of goods produced and traded in the Common Market;
- (c) adopt and systematically apply a uniform system of labelling goods to be traded within the Common Market;
- (d) agree to standardise all aids to the recognition and movement of goods and their containers such as labels and transit documents;

- (e) apply safety codes for the handling and shipment of goods traded within the Common Market; and
- (f) in conjunction with customs and other relevant authorities, provide for the ease of movement of metrology standards and equipment sent for calibration within the Common Market.

ARTICLE 117

Co-operation in Testing

The Member States undertake to encourage inter-laboratory comparison testing and mutual recognition of each others' accredited laboratories.

ARTICLE 118

Documentation and Information

The Member States agree to adopt compatible management systems for standardisation and quality assurance related documentation and information to facilitate easier exchange of information among themselves.

ARTICLE 119

Training in Standardisation and Quality Assurance

The Member States agree to:

- (a) consult one another through the Secretariat concerning their common training needs in the field of standardisation and quality assurance;
- (b) undertake to coordinate among themselves the use of existing facilities with a view to making them accessible to other Member States;
- (c) establish, in conjunction with the African Regional Organization for Standardization, training programmes designed to meet the specific needs of the Common Market; and
- (d) co-operate with the African Regional Organization for Standardization and through it with other international agencies concerned with standardization and quality assurance, in the implementation of training programmes established for the Common Market.

ARTICLE 120

Publicity of Standardisation Activities

The Member States shall endeavour to make the activity of standardisation and quality assurance known to all concerned through seminars, advertisements, publications, films, discussions, participation of the national standardisation

institutions in trade fairs, special national awards and the creation of national quality associations within the Member States.

ARTICLE 121

Administrative Procedures

The Member States shall use harmonised documentation for the evaluation of the quality of goods for customs clearance for goods traded in the Common Market.