News Stories

TBS strengthens verification of solar gadgets

By Neema Mtemvu

Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS) has urged importers of solar panels to make sure that they import solar panels that comply with the requirements of the respective standard.

Speaking at a recent opening of the Lighting Global Quality Assurance Training Workshop at the TBS Headquarters, TBS Director of Standards Development Mrs. Edna Ndumbero said “the workshops initiated by the IFC will help participants to understand and apply the knowledge to continue supporting the initiatives of fighting against substandard products in the market”. She was speaking on behalf of the TBS Director General Prof. Egid Mubofu.

She added that ‘the Lighting Tanzania’ program came at the right time where TBS is now able to verify the quality of solar products manufactured or imported into Tanzania market.

“This training will add value in the Quality Framework for the same. We will use the results of this project to address similar challenges in other products especially in the Electro Technical sub-sector,” She explained.

TBS hosted the lighting global quality assurance workshop as well as being a key stakeholder of the workshop. Currently TBS is supporting all initiatives of the IFC-World Bank to increase access to affordable, off-grid renewable energy to households and businesses in Tanzania by strengthening Quality Assurance of Solar Lighting Products imported in Tanzania. IFC-World Bank support and collaboration with TBS is highly appreciated as part of this effort to increase access to energy across the country.

TBS acknowledged and appreciated the cooperation and collaboration shown by IFC on the adoption of Pico PV lighting Global Standards/IEC Standards as National Standards, and the establishment of a Pico Solar Laboratory for market surveillance testing of solar lighting products in Tanzania Market. Mrs. Ndumbero said “We appreciate and acknowledge the cooperation and collaboration shown by IFC”.

The workshop comprised of members from the Bank, IFC, CLASP, GOGLA, TAREA and GIZ/EnDev. The knowledge gained will help in market surveillance and the enforcement of the Standards for Solar Lighting Products since it intended to prepare participants to engage with stakeholders of all kinds about Lighting Global Quality Assurance (QA), intervene early, and explain to those stakeholders how and why they should use the QA framework. The 2nd session of the training was mainly focusing on the enforcement strategies of the National Standards for Solar Lighting Standards.
TBS yakomalia
bidhaa za umeme

NA REHEMA MAIGALA

MKURUGENZI wa Uandaaji wa Viwango wa Shirika la Viwango Tanzania (TBS), Edna Ndumbaro, amewataka waagizaji, wauzaji na wasambazi wa bidhaa za umemenuru (PICO PV) kuzingatia viwango vya ubora wa bidhaa hiyo.

Hayo aliyasema juu, wakati akizungumza na wadu wa bidhaa hiyo kuhusu umuhumi, wa kuzingatia viwango vya bidhaa za umemenuru.

Edna alisema wadu hao nido wamiliki na watumiaji wakubwa wa viwango hiyo katika shughuli zao za kila siku.

"Kuna changamoto ryingi zinazojtokeza katika masoko, hiyo TBS imeamua kutoa elimu fupi kwa wadu ili kuona umuhimu wa kuza bidhaa zilizo bora kwa ajili ya kudumisha soko la ndani.

Alisema TBS imelezimika kuwasilisha kiwango cha lazima cha bidhaa za umemenuru ili kuwezesha utapelezeaji mzuri miongoni mwa wadu wakumuwa sekta ya umeme huo.

Alisema viwango vya Tanzania (TZS 1951-9-5 na TZS 1952) vilivunika rasmi Septemba 15, mwaka jana kama viwango vya lazima na kutaka bidhaa zinazoalishwa na kuagizwa kuhakikisha zinakidhi viwango hiyo.

"Viwango vinatanya maeneo makupwa ya ubora kwa bidhaa ya umemenuru, ukweli katika kuzitangaza, uimara wake, mfumo wa ubora na matengenezo,"alisema.

Alisema kuanzia sasa TBS itaendelea kufanya ukaguzi wa mara mara wa kushtukiza sehemu zote za masoko ili kuona viwango vya ubora wa bidhaa zinazozwa katika masoko haya.

Kwa upande wake, mdau wa bidhaa za umemenuru kutoka Kampuni ya Moud Brothers Investment, Issa, Amir alisema wanakabiliwa na changamoto ya bei kwa wazalishaji bidhaa zenywe ubora na zisizo na ubora.

Alisema bidhaa zisizo na ubora zimekuwa zikichangia kudimidiza soko la walia bora kwa sababu ya gharama nafuu wanazouza.

Amir alivaombwa TBS kuendelea kutoa elimu kila kuchida kuhusu umuhimu wa bidhaa zenywe viwango ili kutokomeza visvivo na ubora.
TBS issues solar products standards

By DAILY NEWS Reporter

THE Tanzanian Bureau of Standards (TBS) has unveiled to importers, suppliers and traders of solar power products the basic standards required for products in effort to have durable and quality products and easy maintenance system.

The basic standards set by TBS were announced in the government Gazette on September 15, last year and were presented to the stakeholders yesterday in Dar es Salaam during a one-day seminar organised by the agency in partnership with the International Finance Corporation (IFC).

The Director of Standards Development with Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS), Ms Edna Nдумbaro, disclosed the basic standards set for the solar power product at TBS 1951-9.5 and TZS 1952 when opening the seminar attended by importers, distributors and suppliers of solar powers and its equipment.

According to the TBS, the unveiled standards involve all solar power and related products manufactured inside the country or imported.

“This means that all solar power products and related products produced in the country or imported from abroad should meet the requirements of the standards,” said Nдумbaro who urged the workshop participants to realise that the national level standard of solar power products is one thing and its implementation is something else.

Ms. Nдумbaro also emphasized on the problem of the presence of weak solar power products in the country markets which threaten the growth of the market for those products, since the majority of customers who will be dissatisfied with their quality may lack faith on the technology.

On that matter, TBS will continue with its closer supervision of the solar power and related products in the market through surprising inspections on markets and in various stores.

She further explained that in global business the priority is provided to institutions or companies that supply products and services certified and satisfy the requirements of quality; the standards as well includes solar power products.

And Ms. Nдумbaro urged the final consumers of various products to have the tendency of utilising products and services which their qualities have been verified by TBS.
Hakikisheni manunuzi yanathibitishwa TBS

Na Mwandishi Wetu

DARA za manunuzi nchini zimetaikiwa ku-
hakikisha manunuzi yote yanafanya kwa bidhaa na huduma zili-
thibitishwa ubora na Shirika la Viwango Tanzania (TBS) kwa maslahi ya jamii na taifa kwa ujumla.

Ushauri huo ulitolewa Dar es Salaam jana na Mkuu ujenzi wa Uandaaji Viwango wa TBS, Edna Ndumbero, wakati akifun-
gua wandahya ya utekeruzaji viwango vya bidhaa za uweke nuru (solar) iliyoo-
andaliwa na Shirika hilo kwa kushirikiana na Shirika Linaloshughuliika Mawala ya Feda (IPC).

Alsima waagiizi, usanambazaji na wawuzaji wa vifaa na idara za manunuzi nchini wanatakiwa ku-
hakikisha bidhaa wanazohusika nazo zimethibitishwa ubora kwa ajili ya maslahi ya wateja wao na jamii kwa ujumla.

"Nahamisisha idara za manunuzi kurejea viwango ili kuhakikisha kuwa man-
unuzi yanafanya katika bidhaa na huduma zili-
thibitishwa ubora wake na shirika letu," alsima Ndumbero.

Alifanana kwamba viwango viangusa moja kwa moja maisha ya mwanadamu ya kita miku, ndio ya maana shirika hililo linashauri na kusisitiza wadadu kujitolea na kushirikika katika shughuli za uandaaji viwango na kutoa maoni na maapendekezo yao pale-
inapohitajika.

"Hili itahakikisha ushirikishaji wa wadu na umma kwa ujumla katika shughuli za uandaaji viwango na kuwepo maana halisi ya maendeleo ya viwango ambayo ni kwezesha biashara," alsima.

Hata hiviyo, Ndumbero alsima changamoto kubwa kwa sasa ni wadu na jamii kwa ujumla kutofautilia shughuli za maendeleo ya viwango.

Akizungumzia viwango wa uweke nuru, Ndumbero alsima bidhaa hafifu za uweke huko katika masoko nchini zinatishia ukuaji wa soko la bidhaa hizi, halwi ambayo inaweza kusababili-
sha idadi kubwa ya wateja ambao hawa bidhaa kuwa uweke na mapekezi hilo na teknolojia hilo.

Kwa kutambua changa-
moto hivi, Shirika limepit-
isha viwango vya lazima vya bidhaa za uweke nuru ndi-
yanzi FZS 1951-9-5 na FZS 1952 vilivyotangazwa nasi-
katika gazeti la Serikali Septemba 15, mwaka jana, ikiwa na maana kwamba bidhaa zote za uweke nuru na zinazohusiana na hizi ziwe zinazalishwa nchini au kuagizwa kutoka nje ya nchi zinatikwa kikidhi-
matakiwa ya viwango hiviyo.

"Viwango hiyo vinataja maeni maku ya ubora kwa bidhaa za uweke nuru katika uumari wake, mifumo ya ubora na matengenezo," alsima Ndumbero.

Akizungumzia wa-
andaishi wa habari kuhusu uamuzi ya TBS kuwa-

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semia waagiizi, usan-
ambazaji na wawuzaji wa vifaa vya uweke nuru, Msaloi-
wa masuala za nchini katika kampuni ya SNV Viwango Tanzania, Pelchini Swai,

Alsima hatua hivi ya ita-
saidia kuwa ngouza na uweke kuhusu vifaa vya uweke na ujumla.

Kwa upande wake mwikilisi kutoka kampuni ya Solar Planet, Hamza Lema, alsima; "Tutumia fursa hii kuwanja twasatu-
miazi wa vifaa hivyo waliope-
vijini kwamba tunawapele-
ka bidhaa zenywe viwango vya kimataifa," alsima.

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AN IPSOS RESEARCH UNVEILS MASSIVE COUNTERFEIT SOLAR PRODUCTS IN MARKET

By Francis Kajubi

Some 72 percent of solar products selling cheaply in the domestic market are counterfeit, which have not been endorsed by Lighting Africa, an Ipsos research has revealed.

The Ipsos report dubbed Solar off Grid Market Research in Tanzania 2018 also found out that there is massive increase of informal agents and retail traders dealing in solar products hence facilitating the supplying of counterfeit and substandard products in the market.

Presenting the research findings to stakeholders in Dar es Salaam at a meeting organized by Tanzania Bureau of Standards, Ipsos Country President, Samuel Muthoka said the newly introduced TBS solar quality standards will help to reverse the situation.

"All these brands have not been endorsed by Lighting Africa. This portrays that only 28 percent of the market share goes to associates genuine brands," he said.

Going through the report, Muthoka said that there are 188 different brands of solar products in the market out of which only 29 are genuine as they have been endorsed by Lighting Africa, a continental standard mark for the products.

The Ipsos Country President however noted that there are challenges faced by both formal and informal solar retailers while shortage of qualified technicians is also wanton hence repairing of faulty solar products becomes difficult especially in rural areas.

Researchers found out that 46 percent of the retailers interviewed said that the biggest challenge they face is that consumers consider them as suppliers of low-quality, counterfeit solar products which has undermined consumers trust.

The report also shows that 72 percent of the retailers can’t differentiate between a genuine and a counterfeit product because only 18 percent of them had a minimum of secondary school education while the bulk of them are primary school dropouts.

"But English language is also a barrier for the majority to understand the products which usually bear labels written in the language," Muthoka noted.

The Ipsos report shows that 39 percent of the people interviewed said they get their solar products through street hawkers as they go from house to house compared to formal agents.

The majority of them do sell solar home kits and have informal offices where they go to pick the products which they supply to customers. Consumers however don’t care much about quality because what they look for is the product’s ability to generate electricity," he noted.

TBS Standard Officer and Secretary of the Renewable Energy Technology Committee, Henry Massawe said the new solar quality standards introduced last year are TBS 19540-5 and TBS 19529-5. He called upon suppliers to make sure that they check the standard marks before purchasing the products.

"We invited almost all stakeholders today so as to inform them about these solar quality standards that we have set hence the need to adhere with them from now onwards," Massawe advised.

Isa Amir, a Sales Officer from Mudi Brothers Investment which deals in solar products supplying, commended TBS for organizing the meeting solar is important as most of the rural areas are not connected to the national grid hence rely on solar energy.

With this research, it is evident that there is a big number of solar products in the market that don’t meet the required quality and standards, we need action new to get rid of these products," Amir noted.