



MINUTES OF THE SADCTRLC ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

BOTSWANA, GABORONE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTIONAL CENTRE

Date: 21 MARCH 2011

Time: 11:00 – 16:00

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| 1. | <p>OPENING AND WELCOME</p> <p>The SADC TRLC Chairperson (Zimbabwe- Mr Petros Ndanga) welcomed all the participants.</p> |
| 2. | <p>ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA</p> <p>The Agenda was accepted with no additional items.</p> <p>LIST OF REPRESENTATIVES</p> <p>All SADC member states were represented (list of attendance register to be included)</p> <p>APOLOGIES</p> <p>- No apologies</p> |
| 3. | <p>SADCTRLC 2011 Report</p> <p>The SADCTRLC and SADCTBTSC hosted two workshops during 2010/11. The SADC TBT awareness workshop. The workshop allowed member states to report on their progress regarding the establishment of the national supporting structures of the SADCTRLC and SADCTBTSC, to discuss possible future projects for funding at SADC level, and the operational functions of the two committees. The second SADC Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labeling of Chemicals (GHS) workshop was held in January 2011, cosponsored by PTB and the dti, South Africa. A total number of 13 SADC countries attendees. Angola and Tanzania did not attend. The member states made inputs on the developed draft SADC policy proposal for the use and implementation of the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labeling of Chemicals (GHS) in regulations for occupational health</p> |

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| | <p>and safety and transport in the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC). During the SADC GHS workshop, members agreed to extend the working group with four SADC GHS Experts to assist the working group to develop and finalise the SADC GHS Policy Proposal. SADCTRLC is planning another SADC GHS Working Group meeting to discuss and to agree on the policy proposal.</p> <p>The SADCTRLC established the SADC GHS working group (WG) in 2011. The WG meeting was cosponsored by the dti (South Africa) and PTB. The WG consisted of the SADCTRLC Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, Regional Coordinator and the Secretariat, SADCSTAN Representatives and an Industry Specialist.</p> |
| 4. | <p>APPROVED RESOLUTIONS 2011</p> <p>The SADC TRLC has managed to achieve some of the activities planned for the year 2010/11 in terms of the development of a SADCTRLC Logo, the development of a draft policy proposal on GHS and the hosting of the SADC GHS Workshop and the development of reporting templates for member states.</p> <p>Outstanding activities includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop guidelines for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the identification of needs for harmonized Technical Regulations - proposals for SADC TRLC harmonized Technical Regulations - determining priorities for the harmonization of Technical Regulations in SADC - consultation, Impact Assessment and Risk Assessment. • Alignment between the SADC TRLC work and other SQAM structures • TRLC to understand SADCSTAN processes • Brochures, Newsletters, Banners, Letterheads • Dedicated (part of SADC) web site |
| 5. | <p>SADC TBT Annex Inputs/ Commercial</p> <p>The SADCTRLC committee identified unclear articles in the SADC TBT Annex and recommends that the identified articles need legal opinion and that SADC secretariat should handle this matter. SADC TRLC Input for the SADC TBT Annex includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the clarification of terminology in terms of the harmonized standards, harmonized text for standards, conflicting standards, common standards, common performance based standards, prescriptive standards and common technical regulations • Alignment with international obligations in terms of WTO TBT agreement obligations, Article 7,8.3, 9,10 and 11 and legal opinion • Role of the SADCTRLC and the SADC TBT stakeholders committee • Proposal to change the name of the TBT stakeholder committee to reflect their role |

6. PRESENTATIONS

6.1 SADCSTAN – Harmonization Process of Standards (Witness Mukwevho)

The presentation focused on the background of SADCSTAN that includes the establishment of the structure, aims, objectives, membership, the harmonization procedure and duties of SADCSTAN. SADCSTAN Harmonization procedures and processes highlighted the different stages of developing a Harmonized Text.

As of April 2008, 78 projects have been harmonized in the areas of:

- Cements
- Tires and Transportation
- Fish and fishery products
- Electrical Appliances
- Safety signs, Environmental Management Systems
- Assessment and Accreditation
- Quality Management

6.2 SADC MEL – Harmonization process in Legal Metrology (Brian Beard)

The presentation focused on Trade Protocol in terms of Article 3 & 6 regarding the Elimination of non-tariff barriers (NTB's) and Article 17 where member states are to accept as equivalent Technical Regulations of other member state as long as they are compatible. Member states experiences problems and challenges regarding the general lack of awareness to the importance of a sound legal metrology infrastructure, the time frames for the approval of legislation, lack of technical expertise and infrastructure to implement international requirements.

A list of the existing harmonized requirements are:

- Labeling of prepackages, misleading packaging & standard pack sizes)
- Beam scales and balance
- Mechanical non-self indicating counter scales
- tolerances and inspection methods for sale of goods including prepackages
- liquid measuring devices e.g. tot measure, COC fillers

6.3 SADC Vehicles Harmonization Proposal (Zen Fourie)

The presentation focused on SADC Vehicle Harmonization overview and its functions. The SADC Road Infrastructure, Transport and Traffic Committee mandated the Panel Of Experts to Harmonize Vehicle Regulations and Standards on:

- Equipment on Vehicles
- Dimensions of Vehicles
- Loads on Vehicles
- Transportation of Abnormal Loads
- Transportation of Dangerous Goods

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Testing of Vehicles for Roadworthiness • Evaluation of Vehicle Test Stations |
| 8. | <p>CONCLUSION</p> <p>In conclusion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Member states were requested to submit their SADCTRLC reports as well as the SADC GHS report to the SADCTRLC secretariat • SADCTRLC noted the progress made on the harmonization of vehicle standards through the work of the Ministries of Transport. • SADCTRLC encourages member states to report on progress regarding the establishment of national function within government and other related activities and submit these reports 1 month before the annual SADCTRLC AGM meeting • SADCTRLC requests the SADC Secretariat to seek legal opinion regarding the alignment between the SADC TBT Annex and the WTO TBT Agreement. • SADCTRLC encourages member states to approach the local EU delegation for financial support to roll out the implementation of the SADC TBT Annex at a national level. |
| 9. | Closure at 16:00 |