

AFRICAN GUIDELINE DUAL MARKING OF PRODUCTS WITH THE ARSO QUALITY MARKS AND NATIONAL QUALITY MARKS

1. Scope- This African guideline describes the fundamentals of dual marking of products with the ARSO quality mark and a member state's notified quality mark for products complying with African harmonized standards.

2. Normative references

The following referenced documents are indispensable for the application of this document. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

i. ISO/IEC 17000, *Conformity assessment — Vocabulary and general principles*

ii. **ISO/IEC 17065, *Conformity assessment — Requirements for bodies certifying products, processes and services***

3. Terms and definitions
For the purposes of this guideline the terms and definitions given in ISO/IEC 17000, ISO/IEC 17065 and the following apply.

Note 2. May include a regulatory body or a trade association not being a certification body, which develop a product certification scheme in which one or more certification bodies participate.

3.4 The African Conformity Assessment Program (ACAP)- an African system that provides confidence to all interested third parties that a product or process fulfils certain specified requirements; to improve the quality and/or safety of goods produced within the ARSO member states .

3.5. Eco Mark Africa (EMA) - a certification system for sustainability standards for African products and services developed by the African Organization for Standardization (ARSO) and covered under Scheme D on Sustainability and eco-labelling of the ACAP

3.6 ARSO mark- A certification mark awarded by licensed Certification Body or a National Standards Body (NSB) which is a member of ARSO for marking on products complying with African standards.

3.7 Dual Marking- The marking of a product complying with the requirements of an adopted harmonized African standard with an ARSO mark and a notified mark of the member state.

3.7 Product Certification - the provision of assessment and impartial third-party attestation that fulfilment of specified requirements of ISO/IEC 17065 or equivalent has been demonstrated.

3.8 ARSO license- A signed document signed between ARSO and a Certification Body or designated member state authority or agent for the purpose of assessment and award of an ARSO quality mark

3.9 African Standard. standard approved by the ARSO Council and adopted by the ARSO General Assembly.

4. Objectives of certification and award of the ARSO mark

- i) to address the needs of consumers, users and, more generally, all interested parties by giving confidence regarding fulfilment of specified requirements
- ii) to allow suppliers to demonstrate to the market that their product has been attested to fulfil specified requirements by an impartial third-party body

5. Eligibility: Any Member State intending to participate in the Scheme may do so by notifying the Secretary -General of the ARSO, in writing, of its willingness to participate in the Scheme and signing a license agreement.

6. Operation

- 6.1 The dual marking of products shall be undertaken by a National Standards Body which is a member of ARSO
- 6.2 The marking of a product with the ARSO quality mark shall be voluntary
- 6.3 The renewal of the mark on the product shall be done alongside the national quality mark
- 6.4 The ARSO quality mark shall only be awarded to a product with a national quality mark
- 6.5 The NSB shall have adopted the African standard as a national standard
- 6.6 The NSB shall be operating a national product certification and award a national quality mark for those products complying with standards
- 6.7 The NSB shall set out its Rules, procedures, management related to a particular set of specified requirements of the adopted standard
- 6.8 The rules, procedures and management shall provide for:

- 6.8.1 **Selection**, including planning and preparation activities, specification of requirements, e.g. normative documents, and sampling, as applicable
- 6.8.2 **Determination of characteristics**, as applicable, by:
 - i. Testing
 - ii. Inspection
 - iii. design appraisal
 - iv. assessment of services or processes
 - v. other determination activities, e.g. verification
- 6.8.3 **Review**; examining the evidence of conformity obtained during the determination stage to establish whether the specified requirements have been met
- 6.8.4 **Decision on certification**; granting, maintaining, extending, reduction of scope, suspending, withdrawing certification
- 6.8.5 **Attestation**; issuing a certificate of conformity or other statement of conformity .
- 6.8.6 **Licensing**; granting the right to use certificates or other statements of conformity or

NOTE:

- i) Issuing a certificate of conformity for a batch of products granting the right to use marks of conformity (licensing) is based on surveillance or certification of a batch.
- ii) The NSB shall on a quarterly basis make a report on the owners and products awarded the ARSO quality mark