

Country Paper  
on  
**National Standards Bodies and  
Trade Promotion Organisations**



**BANGLADESH STANDARDS AND TESTING INSTITUTION  
(BSTI)  
DHAKA, BANGLADESH**

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 General**

Bangladesh is a sovereign country as the People`s Republic of Bangladesh. After long war of liberation for 9 months Bangladesh emerged as an independent country on 26 March 1971. Bangla is our state language and English is used as the second language. We feel proud to express that our Bengla has been recognized as one of the International Mother Languages all over the world.

Bangladesh is situated in the eastern part of South Asian Sub-continent. Our neighbouring countries are India and Myanmar. On the east, west and north Bangladesh have borders with India and Mayanmar border is on the South of Bangladesh. The Bay of Bengal is also in the south of our country. Total area of Bangladesh is 1,47,570 Sq. kilometers. Padma, Meghna and Jamuna are the main rivers. Besides, there are many small rivers in our country. Some portion of the southern part of the country are covered with small hills. Bangladesh is a tropicalised country having 6 seasons in a year. In the summer the average temperature ranges from 22 to 37°C and 8 to 28°C in the winter.

By tradition and culture we are Bangalee. Total population of the country is around 150 million, 88% of which are Muslims and 11% are Hindus and the rest are Buddhist and Christians. More than 70 percent people live in the village and their occupation is agriculture. Rice and fish are our main food. Our per capita income is about \$600.

### **1.2 Bangladesh Standards and Testing Institution (BSTI)**

Bangladesh Standards and Testing Institution (BSTI), the national standards body of Bangladesh is a body corporate established under the Bangladesh Standards and Testing Institution Ordinance, 1985 (Ordinance No XXXVII of 1985). The BSTI Council, highest decision making body governs the functions of the institution. Minister for Industries is the Chairman of the Council and the Director General of BSTI acts as member secretary. The Director General is the Principal Executive Officer responsible for proper administration of the Institution.

## **2.. THE ROLE STRUCTURE AND SCOPE OF THE ORGANISATION**

### **2.1 Role**

In Bangladesh, BSTI plays leading role in the field of standardization, certification testing and metrology. To achieve its objective the Institution provides service to the nation in an effective manner. The institution, as a whole acts to build its credibility in fulfilling the need of the customers. Activities of the institution are performed in a coordinated efforts with active participation of all the stakeholders. Every personnel is devoted to carry out his task in aiming at earning the consumer satisfaction.

BSTI is committed to develop an effective national quality management system for improving product`s quality and promoting export.

## **2.2 Structure**

BSTI operates its various functions through six wings namely – Standards Wing, Certification Marks Wing, Chemical Testing Wing, Physical Testing Wing, Metrology Wing and Administration Wing. Each wing is headed by a Director. A good number of subordinate officers designated as Deputy Director, Asstt. Director, Chemist, Microbiologist, Physicist, Engineers works under supervision and control of Directors. Besides the head office located in Dhaka, there are six regional offices where testing, product certification and metrological activities are being performed separately.

The laws governing its activities are-

- a) The Bangladesh Standards and Testing Institution Ordinance, 1985 (Ordinance No. XXXVII of 1985).
- b) The Standards of Weights and Measures Ordinance, 1982 (Ordinance No. XII of 1982).
- c) The Bangladesh Standards and Testing Institution (Amendment) Ordinance, 1988 (Ordinance No. XI of 1988).
- d) The Standards of Weights and Measures (Amendment) Act, 2001.
- e) The Bangladesh Standards and Testing Institution (Amendment) Act, 2003.

## **2.3 Development of Standards**

The Bangladesh standards are developed by considering our national perspective, manufacturers need, industrial development, health and welfare of the public and promotion of export. We have developed 3300 standards so far. The standards are developed in a concensus based approach.by t six divisional committees and 73 technical committees comprising of various stakeholders from

industry, research organization, consumers association, government body, business chambers and laboratory experts. In selecting the project for developing national standards the need of the users and specially the export items are considered. The standards are reviewed generally after every five years to keep track with modern technological advancement in view of the national and international requirements. In most of the cases the international standards are treated as guideline to fix the national standards. The standards developed are basic standards, products specification, test methods, system standards, guidelines and code of practices etc.

#### **2.4 Product certification**

BSTI acts as a leading national certification body. Product certification is the main activity of the Institution. Till to date approximately 14500 licences covering more than 170 products have been issued.

BSTI provides both voluntary and mandatory certification to ensure quality and safety of the products. BSTI has developed its product certification scheme in line with the requirements of ISO/IEC guide 65. The certification process provides for a thorough inspection of total quality system of the applicant industry and selection of samples on a random basis or applying appropriate sampling method under joint signature of the representative of industry and the BSTI. The sample is tested in the BSTI laboratory or other recognized laboratories. The inspection report, test report and other documents are evaluated in conforming with all the requirements for certification.. Surprise surveillance is also conducted for ensuring conformance of maintaining the quality as per the standard. For this purpose samples are drawn from both the industry and the market. The samples are tested in the laboratory. If any non- conformity arises action is taken as prescribed under rules and procedures. After having certification the licensee is allowed to use the BSTI mark on his product.

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#### **2.5 BSTI testing laboratories.**

Measurement and testing play key role in standardization and quality assurance activities. For quality assurance of the products there is need to assess the conformity of the requirements of the standards. Hence, BSTI has set different laboratories since its inception. In the Head Quarter, BSTI, Dhaka has Chemical laboratories, Food testing laboratories, Microbiological laboratory, Electrical laboratory, Meter testing laboratory, Building Materials laboratory, Jute and Textile laboratory etc. The laboratories are well-equipped with modern and sophisticated instruments. In

the Divisional Head quarters located at Chittagong, Khulna and Rajshahi full- fledged different laboratories have been set up. More laboratories in other Divisional Headquarters like Sylhet and Barisal are also being set up soon.

In BSTI head office, One Stop Service Centre has been established for prompt delivery of service. Timely service with correct test results are delivered according to the declared Citizen-Charter from One-Stop Service Center.

## **2.6 Management system certification**

Considering the increasing trends of entry into various innovative dimensions in the international arena, BSTI has undertaken the task of Management System Certification. The Schemes of Quality Management System, Environmental Management System and Food Safety Management System are now being operated. To perform this task BSTI has developed a group of skilled personnel with sufficient training and experience. Auditing are conducted in appropriate manner and certificates are issued to the applicant organisation.

## **2.7 Metrology**

Metrology is the science of measurement, embracing both experimental and theoretical determinations at any level of uncertainty in any field of science and technology. The BSTI Metrology Wing is responsible for :

- a.. Implementation of metric system (SI-System International) of weights and measure through out the country.
- b. Maintenance of standards weights and measures with international traceability.
- c. Development of national standards of measurements.
- d. Promotion of metrological activities by creating physical facilities to implement the legal metrology and industrial & scientific metrology in the country.
- e. Verification and calibration of the weights, measures, weighing and measuring instruments used in industries and commercial transactions.

The National Metrology Institute (NMI) has been established under BSTI with the financial and technical support of EU and UNIDO. NMI is of an international standard.

## **2.8 Library Services**

BSTI has one library where a large number of technical reference books on various subjects are available. Standards of different countries and various International Standards Organisations are

also available in this library. BSTI library receives journals, magazine, news bulletin, brochure, regarding standardization, metrology and certification regularly from different International standards bodies and countries. The library is open for all during the office hours.

## **2.9 International relations**

Bangladesh Standards and Testing Institution, the national standards body of Bangladesh maintains relations with different International Standards Organisations like – ISO, IEC, ITU, WTO, OIML, BIPM, APMP, ITC, CAC etc. BSTI is a member of ISO since 1974. BSTI is a P-member (participating member) of 5 technical committees such as- TC 120 - Leather, TC 120/SC 1- Raw hides and skins, including pickled pelts, TC 120/SC 2 – Tanned leather, TC 120/SC 3 – Leather products, TC 207/SC1 – Environmental management systems and O-member (observer member) of 4 technical committees such as- TC 157 – Mechanical contraceptives, TC 207 – Environmental management, TC 216 – Footwear, TC 219 – Floor coverings. BSTI is also a member of IEC affiliate country programme.

## **2.10 Service provided to exporters**

BSTI has been designated as the national enquiry point of Bangladesh under WTO Agreement on TBT. BSTI enquiry point answers all reasonable queries from other WTO member countries regarding technical regulations, standards and conformity assessment procedures. BSTI helps the business society, particularly the exporters by providing information on standards, technical regulations and conformity assessment procedure. On request from our exporters or any member countries of WTO, BSTI provides documents on the above publications.

BSTI holds meetings with the Bangladeshi exporters who are exporting their products abroad. All the trade promotion organizations (TPOs) are invited to participate in such meetings. Export Promotion Bureau, Ministry of Commerce different business organisations and other relevant organizations generally attend these meetings. The problems being faced by exporters in exporting their products to foreign countries are identified to be resolved in those meetings. NSB advises the ways and means to resolve these problems. Technical barriers created by standards and technical regulations formulated and adopted by importing countries are sometimes placed before the relevant technical committees, if required.

## **3. RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN NSB AND TPOs**

In Bangladesh, Export Promotion Bureau under the Ministry of Commerce is officially responsible to oversee all the matters related to exports from Bangladesh. The Bureau provides advisory and support services to the exporters and act as contact point in this regard. The private trade bodies such as, Bangladesh Garments Manufacturers & Exporters Association (BGMEA), Bangladesh knitwear Manufacturers & Exporters Association (BKMEA). Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DCCI), Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI), SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry, SME Foundation etc. also play vital role in enhancing exports of the country. The standards of products either exported or domestically consumed are developed through the technical committees of BSTI where the representatives of the above mentioned trade promotion organizations participate actively. The NSB seeks opinion on the initial draft standards from all the stakeholders including TPOs. Their comments are duly considered and a final standard is formed. BSTI also participates in the meetings, seminars and workshops held in these trade promotion organizations and share views with them to promote trade and commerce. Regular coordination between NSB and TPOs are being maintained.

A new regional standards organization under the name and style “ South Asian Regional Standards Organisation (SARSO) has established with its headquarters in Dhaka for enhancing the flow of goods and services amongst South Asian countries and to overcome the technical barriers and establish cooperation in the field of standardization, certification, accreditation, metrology and testing.

#### 4. POTENTIAL FUTURE RELATIONSSHIP BETWEEN NSB AND TPOs

As mentioned in paragraph no.3 BSTI maintains relationship with the trade promotion bodies. After having gathered knowledge and experience from this innovative and thoughtful workshop sponsored by ISO we would be able to strengthen the relationship between NSB and TPOs in Bangladesh which would make our market access more easier, we believe.

#### 5. CONCLUSION

BSTI, the only NSB of Bangladesh is performing its noble task of setting national standards on various products and provide services to the exporters in sorting their problems out and giving advice to resolve those problems. Mention may be made that it is an established fact that for increasing the volume of export basket of a country, a very healthy and vibrant relationship between NSBs and TPOs is essentially required.