

**COMISSÃO DA CEDEAO**

**ECOWAS COMMISSION**



**COMMISSION DE LA CEDEAO**

**Original: English**

**REPORT OF THE TECHNICAL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE OF ECOWAS STANDARDS  
HARMONIZATION COMMITTEE (ECOSHAM) TO ECOWAS COUNCIL OF MINISTERS**

14<sup>th</sup> October 2017,

BAMAKO, MALI

## 1. Introduction

Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) was established in 1975 by Heads of States and Governments of fifteen (15) Member States as Economic Community of the Region. The Treaty was reaffirmed in 1993. Some of the objectives of the ECOWAS are:

1. The establishment of Common Market.
2. Harmonization of Standards, and conformity assessment procedures and Measures in order to reduce Technical Barriers to Trade.
3. Harmonisation of National Investments and Codes
4. Promotion of Integration Programmes.
5. Promote intra and international Trade as well as enhance the industrialization of ECOWAS

ECOWAS in its West Africa Common Industrial Policy (WACIP) has set up some mechanisms such as Quality Policy (ECOQUAL) and the ECOWAS Standards Harmonization model (ECOSHAM). Thus the model of harmonization of ECOWAS standards helped define the framework for the development of harmonized standards which are of great importance in our region

Standards are documents that provide agreed specifications for products, processes, services, or performance. Every day, Standards and standardisation make a difference in the lives of citizens of ECOWAS.

Standards solutions help to keep our homes, public buildings, playgrounds, electrical appliances, and health services safe. They can also be used to protect people and our environment and to increase productivity and drive innovation.

Standardisation is a key factor of trade policy. It contributes to the removal of technical barriers to trade, increases market access and international trade, and enhances cooperation at the international level. The use of standards can help ECOWAS industry and SMEs to access global markets.

Harmonisation of standards help in the creation of the ECOWAS Single Market. In terms of ECOSHAM, ECOWAS standards (ECOSTAND) replace national technical specifications and help to eliminate technical barriers to trade.

This report focuses on the ECOWAS Standards Harmonization processes and achievements on harmonization of standard carried out within the year 2016/2017. It will also report the performance of the technical Management committee with regards the discharge of its responsibilities as enshrined in 5.2.4 of the ECOSHAM procedures.

This report therefore is intended to notify the ECOWAS Ministers in charge of Quality of the achievements of responsibilities of the TMC and progress made in accordance with the ECOSHAM procedures and to seek the validation of the 53 ECOSTAND standards as finalized by the TMC at their meetings in July 24<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> in Accra, Ghana and Bamako, Mali of 9<sup>th</sup> October to 14<sup>th</sup> October, 2017 .

TMC is also by this report requesting this meeting to recommend to the council of ministers the adoption of these ECOSTANDS Standards as harmonized regional standards for the elimination of technical barriers to trade, increase access to markets in the sub region and the global markets.

## 2. Reference texts / Legal basis

- Revised ECOWAS Treaty of July 24, 1993
- Article 26 of the revised ECOWAS Treaty of July 24, 1993
- Additional Act of 2 July 2010 adopting the Industrial Policy in West Africa Common (WACIP)
- Additional Act of 2 December 2013 adopting the Quality Policy of ECOQUAL ECOWAS and its framework
- Regulation C / Reg14 / 12/12 approving the procedures of standards harmonization of ECOWAS – ECOSHAM

## 3. Objectives of the standards harmonization (ECOSHAM)

### a. General :

Facilitate trade by and removing technical barriers to trade

### b. specific

Implement the harmonization of standards and through the work program proposed by the six (6) Technical Harmonization Committee (THCs) 1 (THC1) - Agricultural products, 2 (THC2) - Food products, 3 (THC3) - Chemical products, 4 (THC4) Building and Construction material, 5 (THC 5) Electrotechnical products and 6 (THC6) - Tourism.

## 4. Achievement of Responsibilities of TMC

The TMC according to ECOSHAM procedure, clause 5.2.4 is responsible for the overall management of the technical work of THCs and in particular for:

### a. Establishment and dissolution of technical committees;

Six THC committees have been established and are operational (THCs) 1 (THC1) - Agricultural products, 2 (THC2) - Food products, 3 (THC3) - Chemical products, 4 (THC4) Building and Construction material, 5 (THC 5) Electrotechnical products and 6 (THC6) - Tourism.

### b. Appointment of chairmen of technical committees;

### c. allocation or re-allocation of secretariats of technical committees and, in some cases, subcommittees;

The assigned chairmen and secretaries to the technical harmonization committees are:

THCs	THC1	THC2	THC3	THC4	THC5	THC6
<u>Chairs</u>	Cabo Verde	Niger	Ghana	Senegal	Nigeria	The Gambia
<u>Secretariats</u>	Nigeria	Ghana	Senegal	Burkina Faso	Côte d'Ivoire	Côte d'Ivoire

- d. approval of titles, scopes, programmes of work, policies and strategies of technical committees;

The details of the approvals including the methodology used to approve standards are detailed under section 5 and 6 of this report

- e. Approves Standards proposed by THCs:

See methodology adopted and outcome below

## 5. Methodology

The methodology used is based on ECOSHAM document which was formulated in line with international procedures including ISO/IEC Directives – Part 1: Procedure for the Technical Work and WTO/TBT agreements.

The stages for harmonization are as listed below.

**Preliminary stage (stage 0):** This is the stage when the new work items are introduced.

**Proposal stage (stage 1):** The stage at which the THC receives and either accepts or rejects a proposal for a new work item.

**Preparatory stage (stage 2):** This covers the preparation of a working document.

**Committee stage (stage 3):** This is the stage where the working draft is elevated to a committee draft.

**Enquiry stage (stage 4):** The stage when the draft harmonized standard is circulated for comment for a period of 60 days.

**Ballot stage (Stage 5) :** This is when the final draft Harmonized standard is distributed by the THCs secretariat to members States for votes for a period of 30 days.

**Approval Stage (Stage 6):** This is the stage at which the Final Draft Harmonized Standard is approved by the TMC on the basics of due process.

Based on international, regional and national Standards, as well as various technical documents, the technical secretariats managed by ECOWAS Members States, produces draft standards that are the subject of study in national technical committees. Each (National Standards Bodies (NSB) through its technical committees, give comments on every aspect of the draft standard, to the technical secretariats of the subject concerned. The summary of the comments is sent to all the countries that are responsible for debating on each point of disagreement on the basis of scientific and technical arguments. The Technical Management Committee (TMC) is responsible for the overall management of the technical work of the Technical Harmonization Committees (THCs). It endorses the work of THCs and prepares documents for the statutory bodies of the Commission to approve.

All Members States are involved in the process of harmonization of standards through the steps of public inquiry and vote.

The various stages and timelines are stated in the table below.

**Table — Time period allowed for commenting / voting**

<b>Stage</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Time period allowed for commenting/voting</b>	<b>Adoptions from International</b>
0	Preliminary stage	Not applicable	Not applicable
1	Proposal stage / NWIP	1 Month	2 months
2	Preparatory stage / WD	Not applicable	Not applicable
3	Committee stage / CD	4 months	Not applicable
4	Enquiry stage / DHS	2 months	1 month (preparation)
5	Ballot stage (FDHS)	1 Month	2 months
6	Approval stage and Publication	Not applicable	1 month

## 6. Results

According to the methodology explained above, TMC presents fifty-three (53) final draft harmonized standards to be approved by the statutory bodies.

<b>THC1 – Agricultural products</b>	<b>THC2 – Food products</b>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. ECOSTAND 030:2017 -Specification for Peanuts</li> <li>2. ECOSTAND 031:2017 - Code of Practice for the Prevention and Reduction of Aflatoxin Contamination in Peanuts</li> <li>3. ECOSTAND 072:2017 - Code of Practice for Production and Handling of fresh Cassava</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. ECOTAND 55:2017 - Fortified sugars – Specification</li> <li>2. ECOWAS FDHS 56:2017 - Salted fish and dried salted fish of the Gadidae family of fishes – Specification</li> <li>3. ECOSTAND 57:2017 - General guidelines on sampling</li> <li>4. ECOSTAND 58:2017 - Attiéké – Specification</li> <li>5. ECOSTAND 59:2017 - Dehydrated attiéké – Specification</li> <li>6. ECOSTAND 60:2017 – Millet semolina – Specification</li> <li>7. ECOSTAND 61:2017 – Maize semolina - Specification</li> <li>8. ECOSTAND 62:2017 – Couscous from millet - Specification</li> <li>9. ECOSTAND 63:2017 – Couscous from maize – Specification</li> <li>10. ECOSTAND 64:2017 – Wheat semolina – Specification</li> <li>11. ECOSTAND 65:2017 – Maize flour - Specification</li> <li>12. ECOSTAND 66:2017 – Fortified milled maize products - Specification</li> </ol>

	<p>13. ECOSTAND 67:2017 – Fishmeal as animal feed ingredient - Specification</p> <p>14. ECOSTAND 68:2017 - Baby foods - Specification</p>
<p><b>THC3 – Chemical Products</b></p>	<p><b>THC4 – Building and construction material</b></p>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. ECOSTAND 276 Paints and Varnishes – Specification for powdered cement paint</li> <li>2. ECOSTAND 369 Paints and Varnishes – Specification for mineral solvents (turpentine) for paints and other purposes</li> <li>3. ECOSTAND 794 Paints and Varnishes - Specification for sanding sealer for wood application</li> <li>4. ECOSTAND 795 Paints and Varnishes - Specification for lacquer thinner</li> <li>5. ECOSTAND 797 Paints and Varnishes - Specification for nitrocellulose lacquer</li> <li>6. ECOSTAND 039 Paints and varnishes - Specification for Architectural and Decorative Emulsion Paint</li> <li>7. ECOSTAND 041 Paints and Varnishes - Specification for Putty Filler</li> <li>8. ECOSTAND 042 Paints and Varnishes - Specification for varnishes</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. ECOSTAND 069-1: 2017 CEMENT - PART 1: COMPOSITION AND CONFORMITY CRITERIA FOR COMMON CEMENTS</li> <li>2. ECOSTAND 069-2: 2017 CEMENT - PART 2: CONFORMITY ASSESSMENT</li> <li>3. ECOSTAND 069-3.1: 2017 CEMENT - PART 3.1: METHOD OF TESTING CEMENT - SAMPLING AND PREPARATION OF CEMENT SAMPLES</li> <li>4. ECOSTAND 069-3.2: 2017 CEMENT - PART 3.2: METHODS OF TESTING CEMENT – DETERMINATION OF SETTING TIME AND SOUNDNESS</li> <li>5. ECOSTAND 069-3.3: 2017 CEMENT - PART 3.3: Methods of testing cement – determination of the chloride, carbon dioxide and cement alkalis</li> <li>6. ECOSTAND 069-3.4: 2017 CEMENT - PART 3.4: Methods of testing cement – determination of strength</li> <li>7. ECOSTAND 069-4.1: 2017 CEMENT - PART 4.1: Testing Method of Fly Ash – Part 1 – Determination of Calcium Oxide Content</li> <li>8. ECOSTAND 070-1: 2017 Steel for reinforcement of concrete – part 1: non-weldable ribbed bars and rods</li> <li>9. ECOSTAND 070-2: 2017 Steel for reinforcement of concrete – part 2: weldable plain bars</li> <li>10. ECOSTAND 070-3: 2017 Steel for reinforcement of concrete – part 3: weldable ribbed and coils of grade FeE500: weldable fabrics composed of these bars</li> <li>11. ECOSTAND 073-1: 2017 COMPRESSED EARTH BLOCKS - Standard Terminology</li> <li>12. ECOSTAND 073-2: 2017 COMPRESSED EARTH BLOCKS - Standard for definition, classification and designation of compressed earth blocks</li> </ol>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>13. ECOSTAND 073-3: 2017 COMPRESSED EARTH BLOCKS - Code of practice for the implementation of Masonry in compressed earth blocks</li> <li>14. ECOSTAND 073-4: 2017 COMPRESSED EARTH BLOCKS - Code of practice for the production Compressed Earth Blocks</li> <li>15. ECOSTAND 073-5: 2017 COMPRESSED EARTH BLOCKS - Classification Standard for Identification Tests Of materials and mechanical tests</li> <li>16. ECOSTAND 073-6: 2017 COMPRESSED EARTH BLOCKS - Technical Specifications for Facing Compressed Earth Blocks</li> <li>17. ECOSTAND 073-7: 2017 COMPRESSED EARTH BLOCKS - Technical specifications for ordinary compressed earth blocks</li> <li>18. ECOSTAND 073-8: 2017 COMPRESSED EARTH BLOCKS - Code of practice for the preparation of soil mortars</li> <li>19. ECOSTAND 074: 2017 Building and Construction Materials: Specification for Blocks - Part 1- Precast Sandcrete Blocks</li> <li>20. ECOSTAND 075: 2017 Accessibility standard in a built environment</li> <li>21. ECOSTAND 076-1: 2017 Hydrocarbon binders Cutback bitumen's: Specifications</li> <li>22. ECOSTAND 076-2: 2017 Hydrocarbon binders –Definitions and classification</li> <li>23. ECOSTAND 077: 2017 Bitumen and bituminous binders –Specifications for paving grade bitumen</li> </ul>
<b>THC5 – Electrotechnical Products</b>	<b>THC6 – Tourism</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. ECOSTAND 071-1 Minimum energy performance standards (MEPS) – Part 1 - refrigerating appliances</li> <li>2. ECOSTAND 071-2 Minimum energy performance standards (MEPS) – Part 2 – air-conditioning products</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. ECOSTAND 55:2017 Tourism Services – Hotels and Related Establishments – Criteria for Grading Restaurants and other Entertainment facilities Part 1: Criteria for Grading Formal Food Service Establishments and Drinking Establishments</li> <li>2. ECOSTAND 55:2017 Tourism and Related Services – Criteria for Grading Restaurants and other Entertainment facilities Part 2: Criteria for Grading Informal Food Service Establishments and Drinking Establishments</li> </ul>

## **7. Activities to be undertaken / Roles and responsibilities of Members States and the ECOWAS Commission as stipulated in ECOSHAM**

- In accordance with the provisions of ECOSHAM, each Member State shall replace existing national standards with approved ECOWAS harmonized standards.
- According to the ECOWAS Quality Infrastructure, ECOWAS Commission should ensure the adoption of texts necessary for the application of these standards

## **8. Expected Benefits**

The implementation of harmonized standards will:

- Promote regional integration
- Facilitate industrialization and marketing of products
- Adding value to products
- Protect consumer and environment
- Contribute to the sustainable reduction of deficiency of vitamin and minerals (standards for fortified foods)

## **9. Challenges and Recommendations**

- Active private sector participation in standardization activities
- Ownership and promotion / dissemination of standards by the National Standards Bodies (NSBs)
- Funding of standardization activities
- Reminding Member States to establish and strengthen NSBs to boost the function in the country and the region, this in line with the ECOWAS Quality Policy ECOQUAL
- Improvement of the performance of the language service Translation

## **10. CONCLUDING REMARKS**

**The Technical Management Committee (TMC) calls on the Meeting of Ministers to validate the fifty-three (53) Final Draft Harmonized Standards and to recommend their approval to the next Council of Ministers.**

*Annexes: TMC7 and TMC8 Reports (Accra & Bamako)*

Done this day, 14<sup>th</sup> October at Bamako, Mali

**Dr Justin B Nickaf**

**Chairman**