



A Specialized Body of SAARC

SARSO NEWS

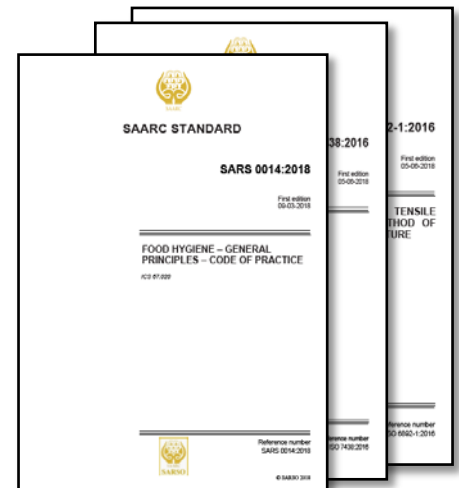
Newsletter of the South Asian Regional Standards Organization

SARSO PUBLICATIONS

SARSO Publishes Five SAARC Standards related to Building Materials and One Standard related to Food and Agriculture

The South Asian Regional Standards Organization, a specialized body of SAARC has published the following five SAARC Standards related Building Materials and one Standard related to Food and Agriculture on 05 June 2018. These regional Standards were finalized by the Sectoral Technical Committee, STC 03: Building Materials and STC 01: Food and Agricultural Products. The Sixth Meeting of the Governing Board of SARSO on the recommendation of the Fifth Meeting of the Technical Management Board approved the Standards as SAARC Standards:

1. SARS ISO 8491:1998 - Metallic materials - Tube (in full section) - Bend Test
2. SARS ISO 6892-1:2016 - Metallic materials - Tensile testing - Part 1 Method of test at room temperature
3. SARS ISO 6892-2:2011 - Metallic materials - Tensile testing - Part 2 Method of test at elevated temperature
4. SARS ISO 8492:2013 - Metallic materials - Tube - Flattening test
5. SARS ISO 7438:2016 - Metallic materials - Bend test
6. SARS 0014 - Food Hygiene - General Principles - Code of Practice



The five (5) Standards on Building Materials were recommended for adoption from the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) Standards by the Fifth Meeting of the STC on Building Materials held during 21-22 November 2017 in Colombo, Sri Lanka. The SAARC Standard on Food Hygiene - General Principles - Code of Practice was recommended by the Seventh Meeting of the STC on Food and Agricultural Products held during 04-05 October 2017 in Noida, India. Subsequently, the SAARC Standards were endorsed by the Fifth Meeting of the Technical Management Board of the SARSO held on 07 March

2018 and approved by the Sixth Meeting of the Governing Board of SARSO held during 08 – 09 March 2018 in New Delhi, India.

The SAARC Standards is the first step in fulfilling the aim of the SAARC Member States to develop harmonized Standards for the South Asia region to facilitate intra-regional trade and have access in the global market. These SAARC Standards is also a contribution to meet the rising demand of safe and quality products for the people of South Asia.

REGIONAL KICK-OFF WORKSHOP OF THE PROJECT PHASE 3 OF THE SAARC-PTB PROJECT 08 - 09 MAY 2018 IN KATHMANDU, NEPAL



Delegates of the SAARC Member States with the Honorable Guests

The Regional kick-off workshop of the project phase 3 (2018-2021) under the SAARC-PTB Project 'Strengthening regional integration and cooperation in the field of quality infrastructure in South Asia', was held from 08 to 09 May 2018 in Kathmandu, Nepal. The workshop was held under the financial assistance of PTB-Germany and hosted by Nepal Bureau of Standards and Metrology (NBSM), Nepal. The regional kick-off workshop was aimed to familiarize major project partners with the intervention, logic and expected outputs of the project; to discuss, plan and

present main activities and milestones in the field of Metrology and Accreditation and; for developing mechanisms for steering, monitoring and evaluation of the project. The delegates from National Accreditation Bodies, National Accreditation Focal Points, National Metrology Institutes of all SAARC Member States, representatives from the relevant Ministries of Member States, SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry, SAARC Secretariat, SARSO Secretariat and coordinators of PTB-Germany participated in the workshop.

The workshop was inaugurated by Mr. Matrika Prasad Yadav, Honorable Minister of the Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Supplies, Nepal. At the inaugural ceremony, His Excellency Mr. Amjad Hussain B. Sial, Secretary General of the SAARC Secretariat; Dr. Claudia Hiepe, Head of Development Cooperation, Embassy of Germany in Nepal; Mr. Bishwo Babu Pudasaini, Director General, Nepal Bureau of Standards and Metrology and Mr. Uwe Miesner, Regional Representative for South Asia, PTB-Germany were present and delivered their remarks. Mr. Bishwo Babu Pudasaini, Director General NBSM delivered the welcome address during the inaugural ceremony.



Left to right: Mr. Uwe Miesner (PTB-Germany); Mr. Bishwo Babu Pudasaini (DG-NBSM); Mr. Matrika Prasad Yadav (Honorable Minister, Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Supplies, Nepal); H.E Mr. Amjad Hussain B. Sial (Secretary General - SAARC Secretariat); Dr. Claudia Hiepe (Head of Development Cooperation, Embassy of Germany in Nepal)

The Honorable Minister for Industry, Commerce and Supplies, Mr. Matrika Prasad Yadav in his remarks welcomed all the SAARC delegates and thanked the German government for convening the workshop on a very important topic of quality standards and measurement. The Honorable Minister thanked the German government for rendering crucial support and hoped for continuous support and also iterated that the exchange of information through the workshop and support from German government would jointly support to manage the problems and issues of quality standards in SAARC region. He encouraged all SAARC member states to join hands together to overcome and manage the problems of quality standards and measurement and wished for very successful and fruitful and successful deliberations.



H.E Mr. Amjad Hussain Sial,
Secretary General of SAARC

His Excellency Mr. Amjad Hussain Sial, Secretary General of SAARC in his address thanked the Honorable Minister for Industry, Commerce and Supplies of Nepal for gracing the inaugural session. He also extended a very warm welcome to the distinguished delegates and thanked PTB-Germany and NBSM for organizing the event. He recalled that since the signing of the MoU between SAARC and PTB, the PTB-Germany has provided numerous capacity building programs in the field of Metrology and Accreditation to the Member States and has been an important development partner of SAARC. H.E Mr. Sial expressed confidence for fruitful deliberations and outcome of the workshop and wished the delegates a very pleasant stay in Kathmandu.

In the workshop, the delegates were provided an opportunity to:

- i. have a shared understanding of the project concept;
- ii. identify key activities that will help achieve the project's outcomes for components 2 (metrology) and 3 (accreditation);
- iii. identify linkages between project components and possible joint activities;
- iv. agree on a project coordination and monitoring mechanism considering the lessons learned from the previous phases and the phase 2 evaluation recommendations; and
- v. increase their commitment to the attainment of the project results.

The workshop identified key outputs, indicators and activities in the field of Accreditation and Metrology for the project phase 3 of the SAARC-PTB project (2018-2021). The workshop ended with closing remarks by Mr. Dinanath Mishra, Deputy Director

General NBSM; Mr. Uwe Miesner, PTB Regional Representative for South Asia; Dr. Vijay Chitnis, PTB Consultant and Mr. Indu Bikram Joshi, Director SARSO Secretariat.



Working Group Participants and facilitators - Accreditation



Working Group Participants and facilitators - Metrology

WEBEX MEETING – STC FOOD & AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS

The Secretariat of SARSO for the first time, hosted WebEx Meeting on 07 June 2018 with the Members of the Sectoral Technical Committee (STC) on Food and Agricultural Products for technical discussion to resolve the issues on the following final draft SAARC Standards:

1. SARS 0013 Final Draft SAARC Standards on Instant Noodles – Specification
2. SARS 0015 Final Draft SAARC Standards on Skimmed Milk Powder – Specification
3. SARS 0016 Final Draft SAARC Standards on Hydrogenated Vegetable Oil – Specification
4. SARS 0017 Final Draft SAARC Standards on Black Tea – Specification

The Meeting discussed the technical comments of Nepal on the above final draft SAARC Standards. The Meeting resolved some of the technical comments and proposed for a further WebEx meeting. The Members from

Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal and Pakistan participated in the Meeting. The WebEx tool was provided by Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), India.

SASEC SUB-REGIONAL WORKSHOP ON SPS & TBT NATIONAL & REGIONAL TRADE DIAGNOSTIC STUDY 11-13 APRIL 2018, NEW DELHI, INDIA



Mr. Indu Bikram Joshi, Director SARSO participated in the South Asia Subregional Economic Cooperation (SASEC) Sub-regional Workshop on Sanitary phytosanitary (SPS) and Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) National and Regional Diagnostic Studies held during 11 to 13 April 2018 in New Delhi, India with the financial assistance of ADB. The workshop was aimed to facilitate sharing of the recommendations of each national diagnostic study and discuss the next steps for the SASEC SPS-TBT agenda. The workshop shared the

findings and recommendations of the six national SPS-TBT diagnostic studies and sought participating countries' views and comments on the draft regional SPS-TBT diagnostic study. The workshop reviewed opportunities to include SPS-TBT trade facilitation project in the SASEC Operational Plan 2016-2025 and also organized a half-day learning event comprising panel sessions with international experts in SPS and TBT. A brief presentation on the activities of SARSO was also delivered by Mr. Indu Bikram Joshi, Director.

MEETING WITH ISO VIA WEBINAR

The International Organization for Standardization (ISO) organized a webinar meeting for SARSO professionals on 17 April 2018. Mr. Thoams Tharun, Marketing Specialist, ISO delivered a presentation and shared his knowledge to the professionals of SARSO on ISO Endorsement method and the relevant clauses of ISO POCOSA (policy for copyrights and sales of ISO documents). Mr. Tharun also clarified the queries related to Standardization raised by the SARSO professionals.

The SARSO professionals also attended the web meeting - follow up of the regional workshop on Developing National Standardization Strategy organized by the ISO on 28 June 2018. Mr. Kolin low, Regional manager, ISO regional engagement-Asia introduced the agenda of the meeting. Mr Reinhard Weissinger gave a brief status updates and recap of the draft National Standardization strategy followed by the status of development of National Standardization strategy and challenges faced by Mongolia and Bhutan.

FAREWELL TO Mr. KHAWJA GULAM MOHIUDDIN

The SARSO Secretariat organized a farewell event to bid farewell to Mr. Khawja Gulam Mohiuddin, Deputy Director of SARSO on 13 May 2018. Mr. Khawja Gulam Mohiuddin joined the Secretariat of SARSO on 14 May 2015 as a Deputy Director for a period of three years and completed his tenure on 13 May 2018. The

Secretariat of SARSO expresses its sincere gratitude and appreciation to Mr. Mohiuddin for his service and contribution to SARSO from 14 May 2015 to 13 May 2018.



*The Secretariat of SARSO congratulates
Mr. Abdul Aleem Memon for his new appointment as the Director General of
Pakistan Standards & Quality Control Authority (PSQCA), Karachi, Pakistan and
wish him every success*

Editorial Committee

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