



REPORT ON

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO BUREAU OF STANDARDS

ISO ACTIVITES

FOR THE PERIOD OCTOBER 2002 – JULY 2003

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1 Introduction

The activities listed below highlights the involvement of the Trinidad and Tobago Bureau of Standards (TTBS) in ISO activities for the period October 2002 to July 2003.

2 Adoption of standards

There were no standards adopted during this period.

3 Training

1. The Standardization Division hosted a three-day seminar in January 2003 entitled "**Standardization Training**". A total of forty employees participated in this seminar. This seminar was geared to sensitize staff of the processes involved in the development of a standard and also to gain a better understanding of ISO, IEC and ITU. In addition presentations were delivered by representatives of each division on the responsibility of the division. Being the core division of the Bureau, the division was able to show how the different processes that are undertaken by each division is as a result of a standard.
2. TTBS participated in six (6) ISO/TC's and twelve (12) ISO/SC's. The committees are:
 - TC 28 - Petroleum products and lubricants;
 - TC 34 - Food products;
 - TC 67 - Materials, equipment and offshore structures for petroleum, petrochemical and natural gas industries;
 - TC 94 - Personal safety – Protective clothing and equipment;
 - TC 176 - Quality management and quality assurance;
 - TC 207 - Environmental management.
3. Both the Librarian and the Systems Administrator attended the ISO Networking Conference "**Networking in a New Information and Communication Environment**" – Ottawa, Canada 15 – 16 May 2003. The Librarian's attendance to the Workshop and Conference was sponsored by ISO/DEVCO.
4. The Librarian attended the "**ICS Workshop**" – Ottawa, 14 May 2003.
5. The Librarian attended a two-day workshop at Standards Council, Canada from 12 – 13 May 2003. This session focused on "**Operating a National Standards Information Centre and WTO Enquiry Point**". The Systems Administrator attended the session on "**Web-based Products and the Information Technology Systems**", Standards Council, Canada.

4 For ISO 9000 two (2) new companies were certified to ISO 9001: 2002

1. Transition audits were performed for four (4) companies from ISO 9002: 1994 to 9001: 2000. Non-conformities observed at these companies are still to be closed.
2. Surveillances were performed for five (5) companies to ISO 9002: 1994.
3. Some companies audited were not certified.

For ISO 14000 no new companies were certified

1. Surveillances were performed for two (2) clients over the past year.

Many companies are not convinced of the value of ISO certification, especially for Environmental – 14000. Increasing the market has therefore been a challenge for TTBS.

5 Limitations

The following are some of the major challenges TTBS is faced with :

1. Companies and consultants are having some problems understanding ISO 9001: 2000 and are just adding new sections to ISO 9002: 1994. They are **NOT** utilising ISO 9000: 2000 nor are they using the eight management principles.
2. We are also finding that foreign registrars are unaware of regulations in this country and are also treating the ISO 9000: 2000 standard as an addition to ISO 9002: 1994.
3. Another is the lack of human resource to effectively market the Bureau's services.

6 Recommendations

The Head of Laboratory Services made the following suggestions:

1. ISO can assist by publishing "Development Manuals" which will reflect current trends and updated standards. For example, the Development Manual 3 which is currently held by the TTBS Information Centre is the First Edition, 1985. It is eighteen years (18) old and therefore would be out-of-date with respect to areas to which improvements and changes have been enacted. Current versions of the Development Manual Series from ISO would be of assistance.
4. Publications/Articles on Criteria for Accreditation will be useful and beneficial for developing countries, embarking on Accreditation for the first time.
3. TTBS has reviewed its participation in Technical Committees of ISO and has decided to reinforce its effort in this area. In this regard, we are considering expanding our participation to include the following TC's.

- TC 35 - Paint and Varnish
- TC 59 - Building Construction
- TC 136 - Furniture

TTBS would also like to have Observer (O) Status in the following Committees:

- TC 68 - Banking, Securities and Offshore Structures for Oil and Gas
- TC 71 - Concrete/ Reinforced Concrete/ Pre-Stressed Concrete

6 Conclusion

As TTBS continues to grow, it is faced with challenges that try to hinder its growth processes in some areas. TTBS would have to devise strategies to deal with these problems. One measure that can be initiated is to educate personnel. This can be pursued through the hosting of in-house seminars and training programmes. To encourage growth and development of the organization, TTBS educated its employees on the role of ISO, IEC and ITU. The Librarian and the Systems Administrator are now better equipped to perform their daily tasks, which would prove rewarding for TTBS.

RH/aaa

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