

STANDARDS OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOSOVO, STANDARDS AGENCY AND THEIR IMPORTANCE IN IMPROVING THE QUALITY

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SUMMARY

The Kosovo Standards Agency (ASK) was established as an executive institution in April 2005, based on the Law on Standardization 2004/12 and the Administrative Order on the organization and operation of ASK 2005/15.

The Mission of ASK:

- *To contribute to the quality of local products and services and to improve competitiveness,*
- *To help to reduce technical barriers to trade,*
- *To facilitate the introduction of Kosovo products into external markets,*
- *To raise awareness amongst businesses of the role and importance of European and international standards,*
- *To approximate the practices of Kosovo certification institutions with those of equivalent EU organizations,*
- *To fulfill the requirements of the WTO on standards and technical regulations.*

The Vision of ASK:

- *To contribute in collaboration with other stakeholders to build consensus in the drafting, adoption and adaptation of European and international standards,*
- *To fulfill the requirements for membership of ISO/IEC and CEN/CENELEC,*
- *To advance Kosovo standards to the level of equivalent regional and European organizations.*

ASK has two organizational units:

- *The standardization unit; and*
- *The accreditation unit.*

Even in this paper will show on the activities of standards and the agency for standardization of the Republic of Kosovo.

Key words: standards, agency, quality, Republic of Kosovo.

1. INTRODUCTION

Kosovo Standardization Agency since its inception until January of this year, viz. in 2011, has approved some 2000 European standard, and this year we were required to increase adoption of these standards, since our goal is to reduce technical barriers to trade, increase product quality, market penetration in regional and European, and finally - fulfilling the criteria for accession to the European Union. AKS has been pledged this year will double the number of approved standards, and political support has been satisfactory.

The Kosovo standardization of its jubilee this year

- Has doubled the number of standards in its archive, a good part of which is now in the hands of businesses that had realized the importance of quality products and services,
- Has released a new catalog with European standards as SK 3054
- Has promoted her work in regional organizations and international counterparts,
- Has raised the technical capacity to meet all the requirements of time,
- Catering to all businesses with the required standards, among which the most to the family standards ISO 9000, 17000, 14000, 22000 with standard woodworking, food processing, as well as standard construction products.

This agency also has supplied the institutional mechanisms for drafting laws and legal basis, various inspectorates, etc..

Ministry of Trade and Industry, Republic of Kosovo, Kosovo businesses provides a range of services, ranging from business registration, legal infrastructure, various consultancies, working space and facilities for the installation of your business, licenses to various activities. In this should emphasize the importance of implementing standards that adopts KSA Office. Manufacturer Kosovo will be much more accepted in the local and foreign, only by respecting international and European standards, now known as Kosovo standards. Is the time when our businesses have to follow the technological advancements in products and services, and am deeply convinced that the European market with products can be conquered Kosovo, only with application of modern European standards in technological process.

European standards are already part of our laws and various regulations. For a greater security of Kosovo's citizens, environment and health, every day drafter technical regulation expert groups which also are based on standards. Their implementation requires a greater commitment of everyone, even a rigorous discipline of companies.

2. STANDARDIZATION LAW OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOSOVO

The law for standardization for the defined rules for the development of all standardization activities in Kosovo level, and the organization and functioning of the Kosovo Standardization.

This law applies to standards developed, recognized, adopted, adapted to the field of economics, and industrial metrology.

This law does not apply to standards developed, adopted and approved the area of telecommunications, as well as different specifications for internal needs.

Terms used in this Law have the following meanings:

Standardization - volunteer activities as a result of a consensus made by and self-interested parties relates to processes of preparation, publication and implementation of standards based around the involvement and transparency;

Standardization Agency of Kosovo - KSA - standardization institution, known in the Republic of Kosovo, established by law, which enjoys the right of representation Kosovo counterpart organizations, regional and international;

International Organization of Standardization - Standardization Organization (ISO) in which membership is open to the relevant national authorities of each country;

European Organization for Standardization - European Committee for Standardization (CEN), European Committee for Standardization in the Field of Electrical (CENELEC) and European Institute of Telecommunications Standards (ETSI);

Standard - a voluntary document drafted by consensus and approved by a recognized standardization, which provides for common and repeated rules, guidelines or characteristics for activities or their results, for an optimal level regulation in a given context;

International standard - the standard which was adopted by an organization International Standardization and is available for public use;

European Standard (EN) - voluntary standard, adopted by one of the organizations European standards and is available for public use;

Harmonization Document (HD) - Voluntary normative document, adopted by one of European organizations for standardization, with the obligation to apply the content technical in Kosovo and the abolition of Kosovo adopted standards of Kosovo normative documents that are incompatible with the European;

Harmonized Standard - any European standard (EN) or a document harmonization (HD) adopted by one of European organizations for standardization, in implementation of the mandate issued by the European Commission, after consultations with the countries member, the reference numbers of which are published in the Official Gazette of the Union European;

Standard Kosovo - a document adopted by the Kosovo Standardization in accordance with the requirements of this law and marked with (SK);

Kosovo Harmonized standard - any standard Kosovo has adopted a harmonized European standard, according to technical regulations;

Standardization Document - a document adopted by the European International and adopted by the Kosovo Standardization (KSA), as technical specifications, technical reports, manuals or special technical arrangements, which is made available for public use;

Standardization work program - working program of the Kosovo Standardization (KSA), which contains the elements of standardization for period of time;

Professional Standards Council (PSC) an advisory body of the parties interest; Technical Committee - group of volunteer experts operating in certain areas standardization; Code of Best Practice - guidance document is derived from agreements dedicated international standardization bodies;

Reference to standards - a reference to the standard, which stipulates that one way to meet the relevant requirements of a technical rule is implementation of standards, referred to in the annex to the rule;

Subject - natural or legal person;

Parties of interest - natural or legal person (University Chamber of Commerce, the company private, the Environmental Protection Agency, business associations and representative protection consumer) located in a given ratio to the respective institution standardization.

3. THE PRINCIPELS OF KOSOVO STANDARDIZATION

Principles of Kosovo for standardization are:

- the right of voluntary participation of stakeholders in the drafting process, approval and adoption of standards in Kosovo, as well as their voluntary implementation;
- stakeholder consensus on the content of Kosovo standards;
- transparency at all stages of standardization, through the publication of public information;
- prevention, individual interests prevail over the general;
- participation in European and international standardization, implementation of European and international standards in Kosovo.

Field of standardization activity aims to:

- increase the safety level of products and processes, in view of the requirements for maintaining and improving the quality of life, health safety, environmental and consumer protection, providing common rules;
- promote the quality of products, processes and services vary according certain standards;
- ensure rational use of materials and energy, and efficiency work;
- help remove technical barriers in international trade.

4. IDENTIFY AND IMPLEMENT THE KOSOVO STANDARDS

Kosovo standards are identified with label letters and numbers;

- Name will contain the letters "SK" or a combination of letters "SK" with other letters, by origin, in the case of the implementation of European or international standards.
- Part numbers containing the number of standard and year of its adoption.

These designations are not used for other standards that are established by associations or other entities in the Republic of Kosovo except Standardization Agency (KSA).

Implementation of the Kosovo standards is voluntary.

Kosovo standards are the same for all individuals and / or legal entities, domestic or foreign, who exercise economic activities in the Republic of Kosovo.

A technical rule, which contains the essential requirements, standards, can be referred to Kosovo or parts of them only when the technical rule of European Union directives. Reference to these standards should be as "standard harmonized Kosovo.

Standards Harmonized Kosovo, adopted by the Kosovo Standardization (KSA) after consultation with the proposal of the ministries and other executive authorities, I proposed to the Government for approval with the corresponding list of technical rules. Kosovo List of harmonized standards and any of their review published in the Official Gazette. Any legal reference standards harmonized Kosovo will have indicative character.

Ministries, central and local governments that prepare technical regulations that contain references to Kosovo standards or parts of these standards implementation in Kosovo level, cooperate with the Agency for Standardization (KSA) for the manner of reference.

A technical regulation shall be referred to Kosovo standards, which recognize, adopt European or international standards only if these standards are adopted by the Kosovo Standardization (KSA) and are published as Kosovo standards in one of its documents.

5. KOSOVO STANDARDIZATION AGENCY

Kosovo Standardization Agency is a national body for standardization in the Republic of Kosovo for the design, recognition, adoption, approval and publication of standards in all sectors of the economy, except those in the area of telecommunications.

Electro Standards in the area are the responsibility of the Electro committee, which functions within the Kosovo Standardization Agency (KSA).

Kosovo Standardization Agency (KSA) functions within the Ministry of Trade and Industry.

Kosovo Standardization Agency (KSA) represents the Republic of Kosovo in the International Organization for Standardization (ISO), International Electrical Commission (IEC), and European Committee for Standardization (CEN) and European Committee for Standardization in the Field of Electrical (CENELEC) and other organizations dealing with standards.

5.1. Professional Council of Standardization and Technical Committees

Standardization Professional Council (SPC) is an advisory body composed of stakeholders and functions within the Agency for Standardization.

SPC handles work programs, composition and direction of technical committees.

SPC includes representatives from interested parties for standardization.

Standardization Professional Council (SPC) designs its working rules and chooses Chairperson by majority vote of members.

Technical committees are groups of experts on standardization that are not part of the internal structures of Standardization Agency (KSA) and commit to certain areas of standardization.

Technical Committees established and dismissed the proposal of the Council professional Standardization (SPC) and the decision of the Chief of Standardization Agency (KSA).

Participation in technical committees is voluntary and open to all stakeholders.

6. POWERS OF KOSOVO STANDARDIZATION AGENCY

Kosovo Standardization Agency shall exercise the following powers:

- designs and adopts rules and procedures for activities standardization in the implementation of the activities of standardization organizations;
- To prepare, adopt and publish the work program of standardization, in accordance with the interests of the parties.
- designs, acknowledges, adopts, approves, implements, amends, repeals and publishes Kosovo documentation standards and standardization;
- applies the principles and rules followed by European and international standardization;
- Prepares and maintains a database of standards;
- Prepares and maintains an archive with Kosovo, European, international as well as selling them under applicable law;
- provide information services to business entities that carry out activities economic situation in the Republic of Kosovo and abroad;
- implements reference obligations, which arise as a result of the agreement CEFTA / WTO related to technical barriers to trade and code of good practice drafting, adopting and enforcing standards;
- implement the obligations deriving from Directive 98/34/EC of the EU, dated June 22, 1998, as amended 98/48/EC and Directive 2006/96/EC "for information on standards and technical regulations and rules information society services;
- exchange information and cooperate in the field of standardization bodies national standardization of other countries;
- organizes training and standardization activities;
- publishes newsletter and catalog of Kosovo standards within the first quarter of each calendar year.
- initiate studies, publications, research experience and standardization, as and other activities related to standardization;

7. THE DRAFTING, APPROVAL AND PUBLICATION OF KOSOVO STANDARDS

Any subject can submit Standardization Agency (KSA) a proposal, accompanied by appropriate justification, for drafting, adoption and adoption of standards in Kosovo.

The procedure of drafting, adopting and approving the Kosovo standards should define:

- Objectives to be achieved by the proposed standard;
- factors and economic impact;
- sources of funding and expertise;
- Potential applications of the standard, within the assessment of conformity;
- Link with other standards.

European and international standards are available for public use, through the recognition and adoption as Kosovo standards.

European and international standards applied in the same way as Kosovo standards through:

- recognition, adoption, approval and preparation of a text identical to the original standard in languages;
- drafting of the first page in the official languages;
- approval of list as Kosovo standards.

Confirmation of approval as Kosovo standards is done through the preparation of an official document of approval, as well as publishing the periodical bulletin Standardization Agency (KSA).

By recognizing, adopting European standards and international standards in Kosovo, Kosovo or any standard other normative act, contrary to the European ones repealed.

The procedure for recognition or adoption of European standards as defined in the rules Kosovo standards and procedures for standardization activities, which are defined by secondary legislation.

Design, recognition, adoption, approval and publication of standards made in Kosovo accordance with the rules and procedures for Kosovo standardization activities.

8. CONCLUSIONS

Standardization Agency of Kosovo - KSA - standardization institution, known in the Republic of Kosovo, established by law, which enjoys the right of representation, Kosovo counterpart organizations, regional and international.

Standardization Agency (KSA) periodically checks and confirms the status of Kosovo standards.

Confirmation, amendment, review and repeal of a standard or Kosovo a document standardization is done in accordance with the rules and procedures of Kosovo standardization activities.

Kosovo Standardization Agency (KSA) has the exclusive right to publish, reproduction, distribution and sale of draft standards and standards in Kosovo, the draft documents and Kosovo standardization documents.

9. REFERENCES

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