

SAUDI ARABIAN STANDARDS ORGANIZATION

(SASO)

TECHNICAL DIRECTIVE

PART TWO:

**POLICY FOR THE PREPARATION OF SAUDI
MANDATORY STANDARDS (SAUDI TECHNICAL
REGULATIONS) AND SAUDI VOLUNTARY STANDARDS**

TECHNICAL DIRECTIVE PART TWO: POLICY

1. Definitions:

The terms defined in Part One of SASO Technical Directive “Standardization and Related Activities - General Vocabulary”, shall be applied. However, for the purpose of this part the following definitions shall apply:

1.1

- 2.1 SASO agrees to act according to the code of good practice for the preparation, adoption and application of standards. SASO shall give adequate opportunity for consultation on comments made by other standardization organizations that accepted the code concerning the progress of this code (see Annex A).
- 2.2 All products, including industrial and agricultural products, shall be subject to all that is mentioned in this part of the directive.
- 2.3 Saudi voluntary and mandatory standards shall be prepared and enforced equally to all domestic and imported products (commodities).
- 2.4 Saudi voluntary and mandatory standards shall not create unnecessary barriers to international trade except what violates the Islamic legislation, national security requirements, prevention of deceptive practices, and the protection of human health or safety, animal or plant life or health or the protection of environment.
- 2.5 SASO shall participate properly within the limits of its resources in international standardization organizations in the preparation of international standards to achieve the harmony for standards on as wide a basis as possible.
- 2.6. SASO shall spare no effort to avoid duplicate or interference with the relevant regional or international standardization organizations. SASO shall make every effort to reach a national unanimity on the Saudi standards it prepares.

3. Procedures for Preparing, and Approving Saudi Voluntary Standards

3.1 Reference collection

International relevant standards or parts of them, if any, shall be used as a basis for preparing Saudi standards except that the international standards or relevant parts thereof proved to be an ineffective or inappropriate means for the fulfillment of the legitimate objective pursued, for instance because they violate Islamic legislation, or

3.3 Declaration of the draft standard

3.3.1 SASO shall allow a period of at least 60 days prior to the draft approval in order that the concerned bodies, provide their comments thereon. However, this period may be reduced in cases where pressing safety, health or environmental problems are found.

3.3.2 SASO should circulate a notice, indicating the time limit before which date to receive the comments, starting from the beginning of the comment period. This notification should, as much as possible, state whether the draft standard differs from the relevant international standard.

3.3.3 On the request of one of the concerned bodies SASO should promptly, provide a copy of the draft standard on which comments are to be made provided that the determined charges shall be the same as those of bodies inside and outside the Kingdom except for the actual delivery cost.

3.3.4 SASO should take into consideration - if acceptable - the comments received on the draft standard during the period of comments. The comments shall be replied if the concerned body requires. The reply shall include the reasons which made SASO to abandon the corresponding international standards.

3.4 SASO Board of Directo

The draft standard shall be presented to a sub-committee of the Board of Directors in view of its approval. In case the draft standard is agreed upon it shall be submitted to the Board of Directors so as to be approved. The draft standard should be accompanied with a brief report stating the stages that the draft passes and the comments made thereon and measures taken.

3.5 Printing

3.5.1 SASO shall print the Saudi standard in Arabic (and English if possible) when approved by SASO Board of Directors.

3.5.2 SASO shall supply any body, on request, with copies of approved Saudi standards provided that the determined charges shall be the same as those imposed for bodies inside and outside the Kingdom except the actual delivery cost.

3.6 Amendment or updating of approved Saudi standards

When it is necessary to amend or update the approved Saudi standard, the procedures of amendment or updating shall be completed as previously done during the preparation of the draft standard.

4. Saudi Mandatory Standards (Saudi Technical Regulations)

Subject to the provisions in paragraph (3), the following shall be considered when preparing and approving the Saudi mandatory standards (Saudi technical regulations) issued by SASO:

4.1 The relevant international standards should be used, when available, as a basis for preparing the Saudi mandatory standards unless these related international standards or their parts are ineffective or inappropriate means for achieving the intended, legitimate objectives. This, for example, is due to their inconsistency with the Islamic legislation or climatic, geographical factors or basic technical problems.

4.2 In case of preparing and approving Saudi mandatory standards which may have a significant effect on the trade of other countries, SASO shall justifies implementing of these regulations if asked by any body.

4.3 SASO should give positive consideration to accepting as equivalent mandatory standards of other countries, even if these mandatory standards differ from its own, provided SASO is satisfied that these mandatory standards adequately fulfill the objectives of SASO's mandatory standards.

- 4.4 Wherever appropriate. SASO shall specify mandatory standards based on product requirements in terms of performance rather than design or descriptive characteristics.
- 4.5 In case of preparing mandatory standards having no relevant international standard or the technical content of a proposed mandatory standard is not in accordance with the technical content of relevant international standards, and if the mandatory standard may have a significant effect on trade of other countries, SASO shall:
- 4.5.1 Publish a notice in a publication at an early appropriate stage, in such a manner as to inform interested parties that SASO intends to introduce a particular mandatory standard;
 - 4.5.2 Notify concerned parties of the products to be covered by the proposed mandatory standard, together with a brief indication of its objective and rationale.
 - 4.5.3 Providing the concerned bodies upon request with the details of the proposed mandatory standards or copies thereof and, whenever possible, identify the parts which in substance deviate from the relevant international standards.
 - 4.5.4 Without discrimination , allow a period of at least 60 days for the concerned bodies to make comments in writing, discuss these comments upon request and take these written comments and the results of these discussions into consideration.
- 4.6 SASO may drop whatever it considers unnecessary of the above-mentioned steps in 4.5 in case of any emerging persistent problem that relates to Islamic legislation, safety, health, environment or national security providing SASO will carry on the following at the time of approving the mandatory standards.
- 4.6.1 Notifying the concerned bodies with the mandatory standards and the products covered, with a brief statement of the objective of the technical regulations and their justification including the nature of the persistent problems.

- 4.6.2 Providing the concerned bodies with a copy of the mandatory standards upon their request.
- 4.6.3 Without discrimination allow the concerned bodies to present their comments in writing , discuss these comments upon request and take these written comments and the results of these discussions into consideration.
- 4.7 SASO prints all the mandatory standards which are approved, or makes

ANNEX A
CODE OF GOOD PRACTICE FOR THE PREPARATION,
ADOPTION AND APPLICATION OF STANDARDS

1- General Provisions

2.3 Where international standards exist or their completion is imminent, the standardizing body shall use them, or the relevant parts of them, as a basis for the standards it develops, except where such international standards or relevant parts would be ineffective or inappropriate, for instance, because of

draft standards shall, upon request, be provided in English, French or Spanish. A notice of the existence of the work programme shall be published in a national or, as the case may be, regional publication of standardization activities.

The work programme shall for each standard indicate, in accordance with any ISONET rules, the classification relevant to the subject matter, the stage

