

SAUDI ARABIAN STANDARDS ORGANIZATION

(SASO)

**TECHNICAL DIRECTIVE —
PART TWO:
POLICY FOR THE PREPARATION OF SAUDI
MANDATORY STANDARDS (SAUDI TECHNICAL
REGULATIONS) AND SAUDI VOLUNTARY STANDARDS**

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TECHNICAL DIRECTIVE — PART TWO: POLICY FOR THE PREPARATION OF SAUDI MANDATORY STANDARDS (SAUDI TECHNICAL REGULATIONS) AND SAUDI VOLUNTARY STANDARDS

Introduction:

The aim of the Saudi Arabian Standards Organization (SASO), when preparing and approving Saudi voluntary standards and Saudi mandatory standards (Saudi technical regulations) issued by it, is to achieve the appropriate levels of quality in products, taking in consideration the Islamic legislation, national security requirements, the protection of the consumer's health and safety, the protection of environment, and the prevention of deceptive practices and not to create unnecessary technical barriers to international trade, and to depend on the international standards prepared by international organizations such as ISO when preparing Saudi standards and technical regulations.

To achieve this aim, this part of technical directive for SASO has been prepared so that it ensures the agreement upon a unified technique for the preparation of Saudi voluntary and mandatory standards and the participation of all concerned bodies by making comments in all stages of preparing Saudi standards.

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 SASO: Saudi Arabian Standards Organization.

1.2 **Saudi Voluntary Standard:**

Document approved by SASO, that provides, for common and repeated use, rules, guidelines or characteristics for products or related processes and production methods, with which compliance is not mandatory. It may also include or deal exclusively with measurements and calibration, terminology, symbols, packaging, marking or labelling requirements as they apply to a product, process or production method, testing methods, sampling.

1.3 **Saudi Mandatory Standard (Saudi Technical Regulation):**

Document approved by SASO, which lays down product characteristics, or their related processes and production methods, including the applicable administrative provisions, with which compliance is mandatory. It may also include or deal exclusively with measurements and calibration, terminology, symbols, packaging, marking or labelling requirements as they apply to a product, process or production method, testing methods, sampling.

2. **General Provisions:**

The following shall be taken into account when preparing and approving the Saudi voluntary and mandatory standards:-

- 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

because of climatic or geographical factors, or fundamental technological problems.

3.2 Preparation of draft standard

In view of the above, the draft standard shall be prepared in Arabic (and English if possible) and the following shall be taken into consideration:

- 3.2.1 It shall be prepared on the basis of the product requirement in terms of performance and not according to design or descriptive characteristics.
- 3.2.2 The draft standard shall conform, in method and layout, with the methodology of Saudi standards layout which mainly depends on the international method that is applied by ISO.
- 3.2.3 SASO shall number the draft standard with an indispensable number until it is approved by SASO Board of Directors. SASO shall also maintain and store the basic information of the draft and follow it up through its stages.

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 Director's approval

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 them available to permit the other concerned parties to be acquainted with them.
- 4.8 Except for the persistent conditions mentioned in item (4.6), a reasonable time period is permitted between printing and enforcement of the mandatory standards.
- 4.9 Mandatory standards shall not be maintained if the circumstances or objectives giving rise to their adoption no longer exist.

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

1- General Provisions

- 1.1 For the purposes of this Code the definitions in SASO Technical Directive - Part One shall apply: “Standardization and Related Activities - General Vocabulary”.
- 1.2 This Code is open to acceptance by any standardizing body within the territory of a Member of the WTO, whether a central government body, a local government body, or a non-governmental body; to any governmental regional standardizing body one or more members of which are Members of the WTO; and to any non-governmental regional standardizing body one or more members of which are situated within the territory of a Member of the WTO (referred to in this Code collectively as “standardizing bodies” and individually as “the standardizing body”).
- 1.3 Standardizing bodies that have accepted or withdrawn from this Code shall notify this fact to the ISO/IEC Information Centre in Geneva. The notification shall include the name and address of the body concerned and the scope of its current and expected standardization activities. The notification may be sent either directly to the ISO/IEC Information Centre, or through the national member body of ISO/IEC or, preferably, through the relevant national member or international affiliate of ISONET, as appropriate.

2- Substantive Provisions

- 2.1 In respect of standards, the standardizing body shall accord treatment to products originating in the territory of any other Member of the WTO no less favourable than that accorded to like products of national origin and to like products originating in any other country.
- 2.2 The standardizing body shall ensure that standards are not prepared, adopted or applied with a view to, or with the effect of, creating unnecessary obstacles to international trade.

- 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 their violation to the Islamic Legislation, an insufficient level of protection or fundamental climatic or geographical factors or fundamental technological problems.
- 2.4 With a view to harmonizing standards on as wide a basis as possible, the standardizing body shall, in an appropriate way, play a full part, within the limits of its resources, in the preparation by relevant international standardizing bodies of international standards regarding subject matter for which it either has adopted, or expects to adopt, standards. For standardizing bodies within the territory of a Member, participation in a particular international standardization activity shall, whenever possible, take place through one delegation representing all standardizing bodies in the territory that have adopted, or expect to adopt, standards for the subject matter to which the international standardization activity relates.
- 2.5 The standardizing body within the territory of a Member shall make every effort to avoid duplication of, or overlap with, the work of other standardizing bodies in the national territory or with the work of relevant international or regional standardizing bodies. They shall also make every effort to achieve a national consensus on the standards they develop. Likewise the regional standardizing body shall make every effort to avoid duplication of, or overlap with, the work of relevant international standardizing bodies.
- 2.6 Wherever appropriate, the standardizing body shall specify standards based on product requirements in terms of performance rather than design or descriptive characteristics.
- 2.7 At least once every six months, the standardizing body shall publish a work programme containing its name and address, the standards it is currently preparing and the standards which it has adopted in the preceding period. A standard is under preparation from the moment a decision has been taken to develop a standard until that standard has been adopted. The titles of specific

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 attained in the standard's development, and the references of any international standards taken as a basis. No later than at the time of publication of its work programme, the standardizing body shall notify the existence thereof to the ISO/IEC Information Centre in Geneva.

The notification shall contain the name and address of the standardizing body, the name and issue of the publication in which the work programme is published, the period to which the work programme applies, its price (if any), and how and where it can be obtained. The notification may be sent directly to the ISO/IEC Information Centre, or, preferably, through the relevant national member or international affiliate of ISONET, as appropriate.

- 2.8 The national member of ISO/IEC shall make every effort to become a member of ISONET or to appoint another body to become a member as well as to acquire the most advanced membership type possible for the ISONET member. Other standardizing bodies shall make every effort to associate themselves with the ISONET member.
- 2.9 Before adopting a standard, the standardizing body shall allow a period of at least 60 days for the submission of comments on the draft standard by interested parties within the territory of a Member of the WTO. This period may, however, be shortened in cases where urgent problems of safety, health or environment arise or threaten to arise. No later than at the start of the comment period, the standardizing body shall publish a notice announcing the period for commenting in the publication referred to in paragraph J. Such notification shall include, as far as practicable, whether the draft standard deviates from relevant international standards.

- 2.10 On the request of any interested party within the territory of a Member of the WTO, the standardizing body shall promptly provide, or arrange to provide, a copy of a draft standard which it has submitted for comments. Any fees charged for this service shall, apart from the real cost of delivery, be the same for foreign and domestic parties.
- 2.11 The standardizing body shall take into account, in the further processing of the standard, the comments received during the period for commenting. Comments received through standardizing bodies that have accepted this Code of Good Practice shall, if so requested, be replied to as promptly as possible. The reply shall include an explanation why a deviation from relevant international standards is necessary.
- 2.12 Once the standard has been adopted, it shall be promptly published.
- 2.13 On the request of any interested party within the territory of a Member of the WTO, the standardizing body shall promptly provide, or arrange to provide, a copy of its most recent work programme or of a standard which it produced. Any fees charged for this service shall, apart from the real cost of delivery, be the same for foreign and domestic parties.
- 2.14 The standardizing body shall afford sympathetic consideration to, and adequate opportunity for, consultation regarding representations with respect to the operation of this Code presented by standardizing bodies that have accepted this Code of Good Practice. It shall make an objective effort to solve any complaints.