



STANDARDS ASSOCIATION OF ZIMBABWE (SAZ) MESSAGE TO STAKEHOLDERS

The year 2020, was a tough year for all of us and 2021 continues to be difficult due to the Corona Virus Disease (COVID-19) pandemic which presents unprecedented challenges for organisations in Zimbabwe and the world at large. Zimbabwe has recently noticed an upsurge of COVID-19 cases and this has economic, organizational, social-political implications. In this regard, SAZ continues to provide tests for COVID-19 related products as mitigation solutions. Quality must remain a key priority and be consistent across the entire organization during this pandemic. Quality is the last thing companies can afford to sacrifice during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Organisations with poor, fragile and inefficient quality systems have completely broken down during COVID-19. The pandemic has placed enormous pressure on companies to deliver quality goods and services on the market to support economic growth. There has been a reduction of the quality of life and well-being of most citizens. Supplier quality has become more important than ever. Quality processes and systems which are flexibly managed by teams that are well trained are critical during the pandemic. Stakeholders across the board expect all companies to uphold and maintain high quality standards. In planning for 2021, organisations should therefore consider standards to guarantee Safety, Health, Environment and Quality goals.

Standards have social and economic benefits including safety, health, environmental protection and quality. Standards help to ensure that the quality of products meet every customer's expectations in terms of maintaining good health and safety. Manufacturers can contribute to saving lives by slowing down the spread of COVID-19 and ensuring that the Sanitizers, Masks, Disinfectants and other Personal Protective Equipment (PPEs) are manufactured sustainably in a suitable environment and according to the prescribed national standards and laws. Producers can also assure their customers that, products are tested by a reputable and trusted laboratory.

The SAZ is accredited by SADCAS and the South African National Accreditation System (SANAS), which is a signatory to the International Accreditation Forum (IAF) Mutual Recognition Agreement. This means that certification by SAZ independently assures conformity to globally accepted best practices and the certificates are internationally recognised, a demonstration of the organisation's commitment to quality and the ability to satisfy customer requirements. SAZ is fully committed to serving the nation and our aim is to effectively respond to the creation of a safe and healthy environment for all, as we tackle the COVID-19 pandemic together. We urge the community to heed the call to uphold the highest standards in terms of Safety, Health, Environmental protection and Quality in the homes, work places and the community at large to help reduce the spread of the devastating Coronavirus.

Director General