STATUS OF NEPAL RELATED TO TBT

Sanjeev Kumar Thakur
Director,
Nepal Bureau of Standards and Metrology

LEGAL FRAME WORK FOR TBT

- The functions of NBSM (Nepal Bureau of Standards and Metrology) is guided by two acts-
- ✓ Nepal Standards (certification mark) Act 1980
- ✓ Standards Weights and Measures Act 1969
- Nepal Standards Act is in the process of revision
- A new bill – Accreditation Act is also in the process of approval

- Food act
- Drug act
- Consumer protection act

Institutional Framework

MEMBERSHIP TO INTERNATIONAL BODIES

- Member body of **ISO**, International Organization for Standardization (since jan, 2014)
- Affiliate member of **IEC**, International Electrotechnical Commission
- Founding member of **APMP**, Asia Pacific Metrology Program
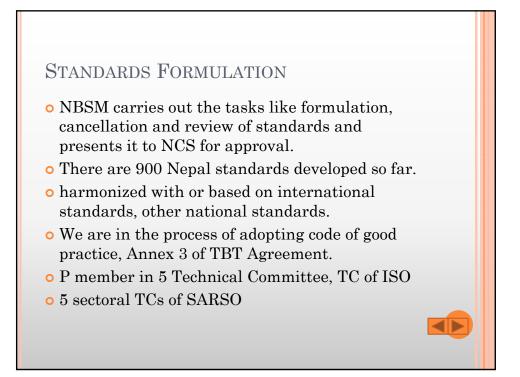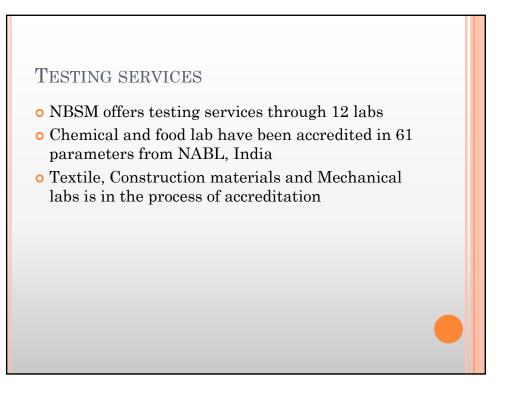- Corresponding member to **OIML**

FUNCTIONS OF NBSM

- Formulation of national standards
- Provides services to NCS, Nepal Council for Standards
- Inspection
- Certification
- Testing and calibration services
- Training and Trade facilitation
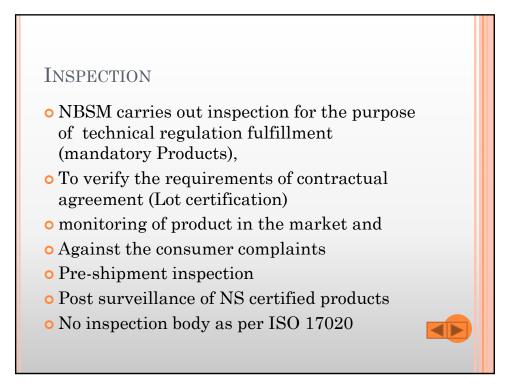- Coordinates for Laboratory Accreditation

STANDARDS FORMULATION

- NBSM carries out the tasks like formulation, cancellation and review of standards and presents it to NCS for approval.
- There are 900 Nepal standards developed so far.
- harmonized with or based on international standards, other national standards.
- We are in the process of adopting code of good practice, Annex 3 of TBT Agreement.
- P member in 5 Technical Committee, TC of ISO
- 5 sectoral TCs of SARSO

PRODUCT CERTIFICATION

- NBSM offers product certification services to Nepalese industries
- 185 industries (no of licenses 260) have been granted licenses to use NS-mark in 60 products
- 11 products are part of technical regulation with the view to protect public health and safety
- NS mark is mandatory in those products
- Accredited from NABCB, India in 13 products (Construction materials & food and feed)
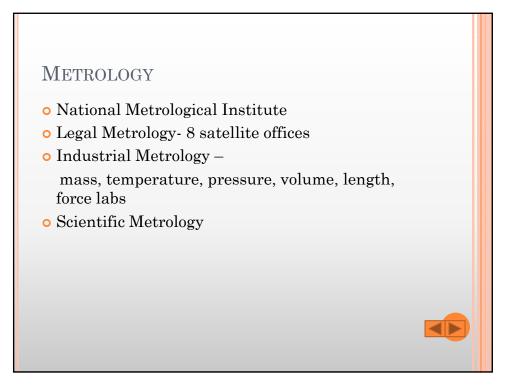
SYSTEM CERTIFICATION

- NBSM provides system certification services.
- 10 industries/ organizations certified
- In process of establishing EMS certification based on ISO 14001
- In process of certifying for food safety as per ISO 22000
- NBSM system certification has been accredited for ISO 9001 from NABCB, India
- More than 800 organizations in Nepal are certified in different management systems (QMS, EMS, FSMS) by foreign certification bodies, mostly from India

TESTING SERVICES

- NBSM offers testing services through 12 labs
- Chemical and food lab have been accredited in 61 parameters from NABL, India
- Textile, Construction materials and Mechanical labs is in the process of accreditation

INSPECTION

- NBSM carries out inspection for the purpose of technical regulation fulfillment (mandatory Products),
- To verify the requirements of contractual agreement (Lot certification)
- monitoring of product in the market and
- Against the consumer complaints
- Pre-shipment inspection
- Post surveillance of NS certified products
- No inspection body as per ISO 17020

TBT ENQUIRY POINT

- NBSM has been designated as national enquiry point for TBT
- It is involved in assisting for notification to WTO and responding to enquiries
- Capacity of Enquiry Point is week to disseminate information to exporters

ACCREDITATION

- No organization in Nepal for providing accreditations
- NBSM involved in private laboratory accreditation under the NEPLAS (Nepal Laboratory Accreditation Scheme)program
- NEPLAS has recognized 10 labs of Nepal
- At present, we have established a national accreditation focal point, NAFP
- Nepal Accreditation Act yet to be approved from parliament

METROLOGY

- National Metrological Institute
- Legal Metrology- 8 satellite offices
- Industrial Metrology –

  mass, temperature, pressure, volume, length, force labs
- Scientific Metrology

AGREEMENTS

- Mutual Agreement on Industrial product with AQSIQ, China 2005
- MoU with BSTI, Bangladesh Standards and Testing Institute
- MoU with NABCB, National Board for Certification Bodies, India, for NAFP National Accreditation Focal Point
- MoU with NABL national Accreditation Board for Laboratory for NAFP
- MoU with BIS, Bureau of Indian Standards – **in process**

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

- EU project on Quality Infrastructure Development
- PTB Germany on metrology & standardization
- UNIDO on certification and testing

ISSUES

- Weak coordination and cooperation
- Weak conformity assessment infrastructure
- Non recognition of certification & testing
- Insufficient testing and calibration facilities
- Lack of CRM or PT facilities for labs
- Cost of conformity assessment- high for export
- Industries- loosing export market
- Regulator- Insufficient mechanism to ensure public safety

CONCLUSION

- Coordinated effort
- Avoidance of overlap and duplication of work
- Need to build a basic QI, quality Infrastructure
- Focus on product specific facilities of QI

Thank you