

## Process Flow Diagram for Stages in Standards Development



## Benefits of Standardization

### Manufacturers:

- Product Differentiation;
- Reduce Cost;
- Reduce Variability;
- Facilitates Trade;
- Facilitates Transfer Technology;
- Improves Compatibility.

### Consumers:

- Ensures quality and safety of the purchased products.

### Country:

- Used as a baseline for drafting regulations;
- Facilitates government purchasing;
- Avoids Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT);
- Promotes exports.



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**STANDARDIZATION**  
BELIZE BUREAU OF STANDARDS

GET INVOLVED!

*"Effective standardization promotes forceful competition and enhances profitability, enabling a business to take a leading role in shaping the industry itself."*  
**STANDARDS MEANS BUSINESS**

## What is a Standard?

- Document approved by a recognized body;
- It provides, for common and repeated use, rules, guidelines or characteristics for products or related processes and production methods; and
- Compliance is **not mandatory**

## What is a Technical Regulation?

- Document which lays down product characteristics or their related processes and production methods, including the applicable administrative provisions; and
- Compliance is **mandatory**

## What is the difference between a Standard and a Technical Regulation?

A standard and a technical regulation both set technical requirements to be met in the supply of commodities, products and services. However, compliance to standards is voluntary and compliance to technical regulations is mandatory. Standards covering certain areas may be made mandatory and referenced in a technical regulation, for legitimate objectives, such as health, safety, environmental protection, etc. Technical regulations require policing by regulatory authorities. **Example:** fire prevention and fighting, food and health, transport of hazardous goods, electric appliances, gas appliances, etc.

## Why the use of standards?

Standards are used to achieve safety, quality and consistency in the products and processes that affect our lives.

## What are the functions of the Standards Unit?

- To foster, promote and encourage standardization in relation to commodities, processes and practices in industry and commerce;
- To develop, adapt and adopt standards covering technical criteria in relation to domestically produced, imported and exported goods; and
- Assuming the role of the national information point for regional and international trade sensitive matters.

## What governs the work of the Standards Unit?

The Standards Act, Chapter 295 Revised Edition 2000 of the Laws of Belize, governs the Standards Unit