



# Press Release

CONTACT: Patrick Wilmot, Underwriters Laboratories /

Gerente de Comunicación de Normas de UL /

Teléfono: +1 (847) 664.3216 /

Correo electrónico: Patrick.Wilmot@ul.org /

## Underwriters Laboratories and BBS Establish Formal Partnership

### Organizations agree to work together to contribute to standards development

Belize, September 13<sup>rd</sup>, 2021 - Underwriters Laboratories, a U.S. based global standards developer, and the *Belize Bureau of Standards* (BBS) are pleased to announce the signing of a collaborative memorandum of understanding (MOU).

The agreement was signed virtually by both parties. The document formalizes the working relationship between the two organizations and outlines how they will collaborate to advance their respective efforts to develop standards that serve the elevation of the standardization system in Belize.

BHN specializes in developing standards for several industries. Specific goals of this MOU include

- (1) Promote communication between the two organizations.
- (2) Avoid duplication of work efforts where possible.
- (3) Increase knowledge of each other's standards development activities.
- (4) Utilize the resources of both parties to strengthen the Belize's national standards system; and
- (5) Allow for the acceptance and use of UL Standards in Belize where determined to be appropriate by the Belize Bureau of Standards (BBS)

"We believe this agreement will establish the foundation for us to also meet the particular needs of Belize and initiating our formal collaboration agreement and continuing to work together in areas of mutual interest" said Phil Piqueira, Underwriters Laboratories Vice President, Global Standards.

"The BBS looks at key partnerships at the regional, international and bi-lateral level as it relates to memorandum of understandings. As a small organization, we will be leaning on UL and other partnerships to help us grow and develop but I think that we share a common objective, we want the world to be a safer place, we want the world to be a dynamic one to ensure that standards underline our society, our economy and our environment." said Jose Trejo Director of the Belize Bureau of Standards

## **About BBS**

BBS is a public Body under the Ministry of Agriculture, Food Security & Enterprise, part of the Government of Belize. BBS was legally established in 1992. Like most Bureau of Standards in the CARICOM Region it was born out of a Weights and Measures Act, which was typical of British Colonies.

The mission of the BBS is to facilitate, promote and encourage the use of quality services in Metrology, Standardization and Conformity Assessment thereby contributing to competitiveness of goods and services, facilitation of trade and the protection of consumers in Belize. With a legal mandate in promoting and preserving transparency, health and safety in commerce, trade, and industry.

The vision of the BBS is to facilitate, promote and encourage the use of quality services in Metrology, Standardization and Conformity Assessment thereby contributing to competitiveness of goods and services, facilitation of trade and the protection of consumers.

BBS also has membership with the following organizations:

- International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC)
- International Organization for Standardization (ISO)
- CARICOM Regional Organization for Standards and Quality (CROSQ)
- Pan American Standards Commission (COPANT)
- Codex Alimentarius Commission
- World Trade Organization (WTO)

And partnerships with:

- ASTM International
- Federal Consumer Protection Agency of Mexico (PROFECO)
- British Standards Institution (BSI)
- National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST)

**To learn more, visit:** <https://bbs.gov.bz>

## **About Underwriters Laboratories**

Underwriters Laboratories is a nonprofit organization dedicated to advancing the UL public safety mission through the discovery and application of scientific knowledge. We conduct rigorous independent research and analyze safety data, convene experts worldwide to address risks, share knowledge through safety education and public outreach initiatives, and develop standards to guide safe commercialization of evolving technologies. We foster communities of safety, from grassroots initiatives for neighborhoods to summits of world leaders. Our organization employs collaborative and scientific approaches with partners and stakeholders to drive innovation and progress toward improving safety, security, and sustainability, ultimately enhancing societal well-being.

**To learn more, visit** <https://ul.org/>



Diana Rico

Diana Rico

Maria Iafano - Underwriters Lab

Phil Piqueira

Jose Trejo Belize

Marcia Mohabir

Belize Bureau of Standards

Belize Bureau of Standards

Commemorative Virtual Signing UL- BBS September 13, 3:30 pm CST	
Agenda	
3:30 – 3:35	<b>Brief Welcome</b> <i>Maria Iafano</i>
3:35 – 3:40	<b>Brief introduction to the Belize Bureau of Standards</b> <i>Jose Trejo</i>
3:40 – 3:50	<b>Importance of the MoU for both institutions</b> <i>Phil Piqueira and Jose Trejo</i>
3:50 – 3:55	<b>Virtual signing MOU</b> <i>UL and BBS</i>
3:55 – 4:00	<b>Word of thanks and closing</b> <i>Underwriters Laboratories and BBS</i>

Diana Rico    Jose Trejo Belize    Maria Iafano - Underwriters Lab...    Marcia Mohabir    Belize Bureau of Standards    Ryan Cobb

LIVE on Facebook

Phil Piqueira

Diana Rico    Phil Piqueira    Maria Iafano - Underwriters Lab...    Marcia Mohabir    Belize Bureau of Standards    Ryan Cobb

LIVE on Facebook

Jose Trejo Belize