

# BELIZE BUREAU OF STANDARDS (BBS)

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD SECURITY &  
ENTERPRISE - ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
21<sup>ST</sup> AND 22<sup>ND</sup> APRIL 2022



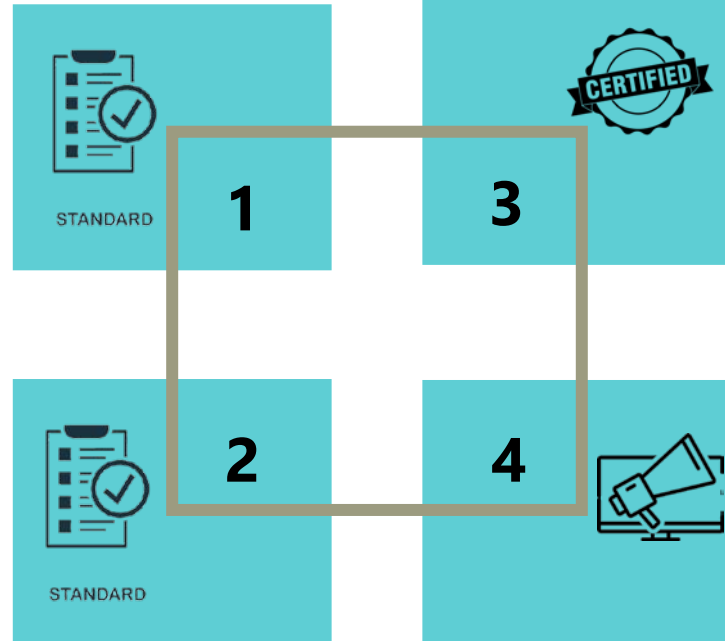
# Main Achievements: Standards

## Published Belize National (Compulsory) Standards:

- SI No 126 of 2021 – Standard for the Definition of Terms used in the Biodegradable Products Industry
- SI No 127 of 2021 – Standards Specification for Biodegradable Products
- SI No 137 of 2021 – Standard Specification for Unleaded Gasoline for Motor Vehicles
- SI No 138 of 2021 – Standard Specification for Diesel (High Sulphur, Low Sulphur and Ultra Low Sulphur)

## New Work Item Proposals (NWIP)/New Field of Technical Activity (NFTA) include:

- Medical Gases (NFTA): Review of Working Draft (WD) for marking and labelling of medical gas cylinders in accordance with the Global Harmonization System Hazard Classification Guide has been completed. (Stage 20: Preparatory Stage completed)



## Biodegradable Product Standards: Third-party Certification Scheme and Evaluations

- Commenced evaluations on September 1st, 2021
- 15 evaluations conducted in 2021

## Published Infomercial for WSD:

- To commemorate World Standards Day (WSD) 2021 on October 14<sup>th</sup>, BBS published an infomercial which contained testimonials from key stakeholders such as DOE, OCEANA, and Ministry of Energy on ways that standards can help to address Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

# Main Achievements: Metrology

## Metrology for Meteorology

- Funded by Physikalisch-Technische Bundesanstalt (PTB)
  - USD \$25,100

## Development of Belize National Quality Infrastructure (GA72/BZE)

- Funded by the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) Standby Facility
  - EUROS \$172,595

## Accreditation of BBS Fine Mass laboratory (10 mg to 10 kg – F2 class)

- Funded by the 11<sup>th</sup> EDF
  - EUROS \$39,760

## Development and Strengthening of Institutional Capacities for a Functional National Quality Infrastructure

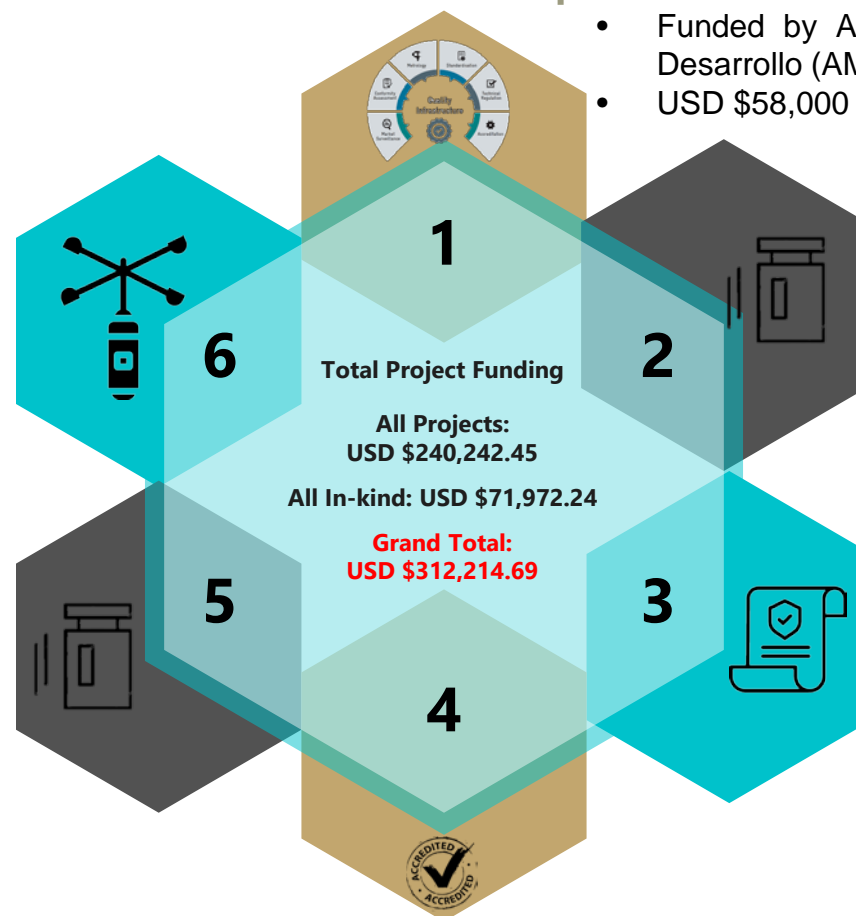
- Funded by Agencia Mexicana de Cooperación Internacional para el Desarrollo (AMEXCID)
- USD \$58,000

## Pilot Calibration Program

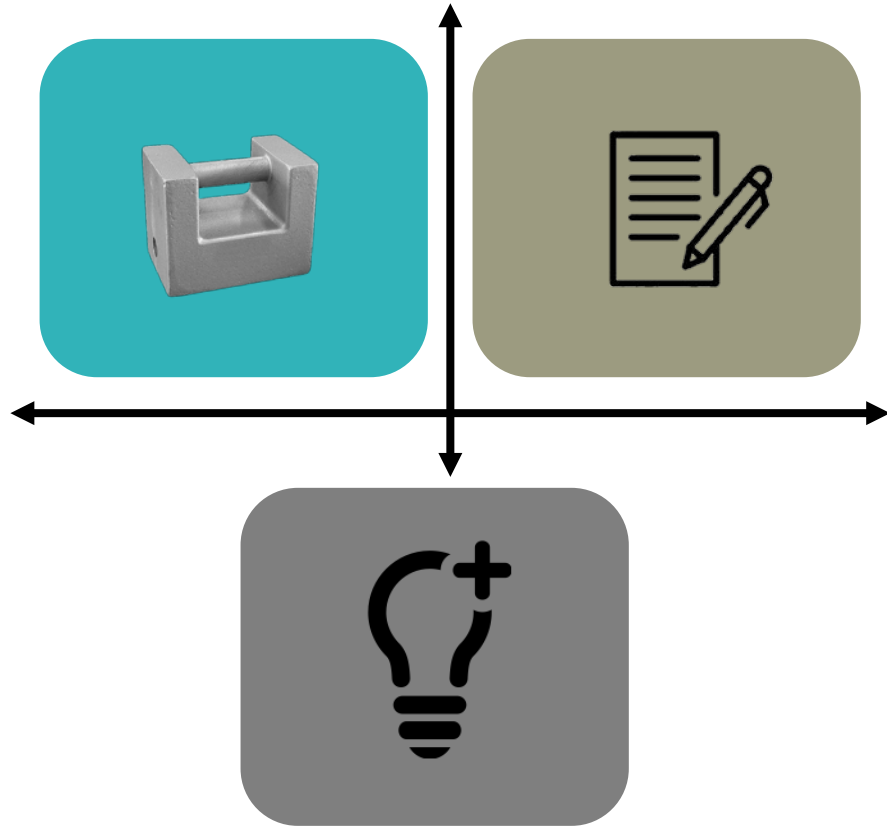
- Launched September 2021: Mass, Volume, Nonautomatic Weighing Instruments (NAWI) calibrations
- Calibrations to-date: Mass – 59; NAWI – 19

## Development of a Regional Non-Medical Laboratory Policy (RLP)

- Funded by UNIDO in collaboration with the CARICOM Regional Organization for Standards and Quality (CROSQ)



# Main Achievements: Compliance



## Monitoring of the marketplace for compliance with the Metrology Act & Standards Act:

- Industrial Scales – 125 scales
- Fuel Pumps – 954 pumps
- Commercial Scales in Supermarket – 79 scales
- Price Controlled Goods – 719 items



## BBS and Underwriters Laboratories (UL) signed a MoU on September 21, 2021:

- This Agreement is intended to provide a framework for the development of technical standards to improve the quality of life, well-being, and public safety the rational use of resources, innovation, productivity, and trade for collaboration for Belize and its stakeholders.



## Energy Efficiency Labelling Scheme:

- Engagement with the Association of Normalization and Certification (ANCE) of Mexico to garner support for Belize EE pilot scheme.
- Funding obtained from the Liat Up Belize Project under the 11th EDF to support the communication and visibility initiatives of the scheme and to assist in staff capacity building to strengthen the department's capabilities in properly executing this scheme.

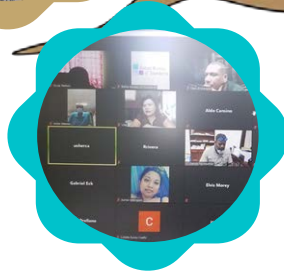
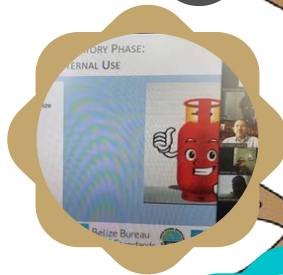
# Main Achievements: Stakeholder Engagements

## Front of Package Warning Label Consultation



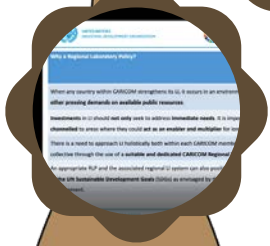
## Calidena Workshops

- Mapping the value chain for LPG in Belize
- 2 mini workshops held for both regulators and industry stakeholders
- 3 days kick of workshop for all stakeholders in the LPG industry



## World Consumer Rights Day 2021

- Tackling Plastic Pollution Sensitization Session
- Presentations from DOE on the Plastic Pollution Regulation and the BBS on the Biodegradable Standards
- 50 participants



## Regional Non-Medical Laboratory Policy Stakeholder Engagement

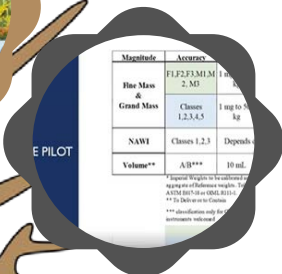
- 47 participants

## World Metrology Day

- Measurement in Health Video Competition

## Launch of the Belize Electronic Licenses and Permits System (BELAPS)

- Creating a single window platform for the application of commodities under the Supplies Control Regime



## Launch of BBS Pilot Calibration Program

- Pilot calibration services includes Mass calibrations in both Fine Mass and Grand Mass weights, Volume and Non-Automatic Weighing Instruments



## Virtual Signing of MoU with Underwriter's Laboratory (UL)

## Presentations to Schools

- Nazarene High School – 35 Fourth Form Students
- University of Belize Ethics Class – 37 Bachelor Degree Students

# Lessons Learnt

1

Adjusting to  
the new work  
environment

2

Stakeholder  
Engagement

3

Business  
Continuity

4

Re-certification  
to ISO  
9001:2015

5

Loss of skills  
set/setback  
from the  
restructuring  
of the BBS

6

General cross  
cutting measures  
affected an  
already strained  
BBS budget



## Future Priorities & Plans



### Revision of Metrology Act:

- To make provision for Industrial Metrology, fee structure, and to strengthen the Legal Metrology Framework



### Traceable Calibration Services:

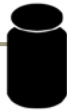
- Provide calibration services for liquid-in-glass thermometers and digital thermometers
- Operationalization of Pressure Laboratory
- Establishment of fee structure for Calibration Services



### Perform Testing of Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG)



### Develop training schemes for stakeholder on Metrology-related topics



### Establish a National Network of Non-Medical Laboratories



### Continuous enforcement of BBS Legal Mandate:

- Verification of Fuel Pumps – 1,400 Fuel Dispensers
- Verification of Industrial Scales – 150 scales
- Verification of Commercial Scales in Supermarkets – 600 scales
- Verification of Pre-packaged Goods – 984 pre-packaged goods
- Verification of LPG Meters – 100 Meters



### Signing of Cooperation Agreement with ANCE:

- Cooperation Agreement will provide capacity building opportunities for Compliance Staff by ANCE to better prepare staff for the implementation of the EELS.



### Promulgation of standards:

- Non-Food: LPG (4 standards), Medical Gases (2 standards), & Energy Efficiency (3 standards)
- Food: Rice and Dairy (whole milk)
- Agriculture related standards (tomatoes, sweet peppers, hot peppers, cabbages, carrots, onions, pineapple & honey) through financial and technical support from Resilient Rural Belize (RRB) valuing USD \$22,700

STANDARD

# Recommendations/Conclusions:

## Standards

1

### Recommendations:

- Development of a comprehensive stakeholder mapping and engagement plan

## Metrology

2

### Recommendations:

- Procurement of transportation to support Industrial Metrology activities
- Procurement of testing equipment for LPG

## Compliance

3

### Recommendations:

- Additional human and capital resources to effectively carry out the legal mandate of Standards and Metrology Legislations

## General

4

### Recommendations:

- Endorsement of National Quality Policy (NQP)





## **CONTACT THE BUREAU'S CUSTOMER SERVICE HELPDESK**

Power Lane, P.O. Box 430, City of Belmopan,  
BELIZE



(501) 822-0446/ 0447



(501) 822-2871



[bbs@btl.net](mailto:bbs@btl.net)



[www.bbs.gov.bz](http://www.bbs.gov.bz)



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