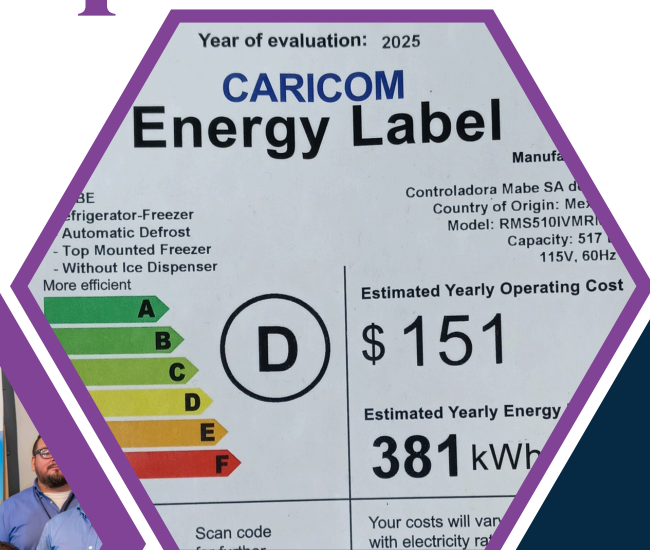


2024-25 Annual Report



Power Lane, Belmopan City, Belize



822-0446/0447



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Table Of Contents

Acronyms	3
Overview of the BBS	4
Vision And Mission	5
1. Main Achievements	6
a. National Quality Policy	7
b. Belize Energy Efficiency Labelling Scheme	8
c. ISO/IEC 17025:2017 Accreditation	9
2. Technical Overview	
a. National Standards Development	10
b. Metrology Services	10
i. Legal Metrology	13
ii. Industrial Metrology	15
c. Capacity Building	17
d. Public Outreach	19
3. Lessons Learnt	24
4. Future Priorities & Plans	24
5. Staffing & Financial Constraints	25
6. Conclusions & Recommendations	26
Contact Us	26

Acronyms

ACCT	Association of Challenge Course Technology
AEC	Accreditation E Committee
AWP	Annual Work Plan
BBS	Belize Bureau of Standards
BNSI	Barbados National Standards Institute
BSI	British Standards Institute
CARICOM	Caribbean Community
CARIFORUM	Caribbean Forum
CARIMET	Caribbean Metrology Cooperation
CENAM	Centro Nacional de Metrología
CROSQ	CARICOM Regional Organization for Standards and Quality
CRS	CARICOM Regional Standard
DBZS	Draft Belize Standard
EDF	European Development Fund
EELS	Energy Efficiency Labelling Scheme
EPA	European Union – CARIFORUM Economic Partnership Agreement
EU	European Union
FCDO	UK Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office
FDBZS	Final Draft Belize Standard
GA72/BZE	Grant Agreement 72 Belize
GNBS	Guyana National Bureau of Standards
IEC	International Electrotechnical Commission
ILC	Interlaboratory Comparison
ISO	International Organisation for Standardization
JANAAC	Jamaica National Agency for Accreditation
JICA	Japan International Cooperation Agency
KPI	Key Performance Indicator
LCM	Laboratorio Costarricense de Metrologia
LPG	Liquid Petroleum Gas
MEPS	Minimum Energy Performance Standards
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
MSME	Micro Small and Medium Sized Enterprises
NAWI	Non-automatic Weighing Instruments
NC	nonconformity
NQI	National Quality Infrastructure
NQP	National Quality Policy
QMS	Quality Management System
SAC	Standards Advisory Council
SIM	Sistema Interamericano Metrologia
TBT	Technical Barriers to Trade
TC	Technical Committee
TMC	Technical Management Committee
TTBS	Trinidad & Tobago Bureau of Standards

Overview of the Belize Bureau of Standards

The Belize Bureau of Standards (BBS) is the national standards body of Belize, responsible for developing, promoting, and implementing national standards to ensure the quality and safety of goods and services produced and consumed within the country. The mandate of the department includes:

- **Standardization:** the development, adoption, and promotion of national standards in various sectors such as agriculture, manufacturing, services, and consumer products.
- **Metrology services:** ensuring the accuracy and fairness of measurements in commercial transactions and calibration of measuring instruments.
- **Consumer protection:** safeguarding the interests of consumers by enforcing standards that guarantee the safety, reliability, and quality of products and services; and
- **Education and awareness:** Educating businesses, consumers, and other stakeholders about the importance of standards compliance and quality assurance.



Vision, Mission and Quality Policy Statement

Vision

The foundation of Belize's National Quality
Infrastructure

Mission

The Belize Bureau of Standards is committed to be the center of excellence in quality by providing internationally recognized quality infrastructure services, leveraging technological advancements, and ensuring public welfare and fair trade for national development.

Quality Policy Statement

The Belize Bureau of Standards, in accordance with the ISO 9001:2015 requirements is committed to deliver the highest professional services to meet customer satisfaction by:

- Ensuring that it fulfills its legal mandate in promoting and preserving transparency, health and safety in commerce, trade and industry;
- Delivering services that are timely, efficient and reliable;
- Developing and maintaining competency of its personnel;
- Pursuing quality objectives that are tailored to the expectation, needs and demands of its customers;
- Monitoring and reviewing its operational environment to identify, analyze and reduce risks to its management system; and
- Continuously improving its Quality Management System for compliance and preservation of this system across the organization.

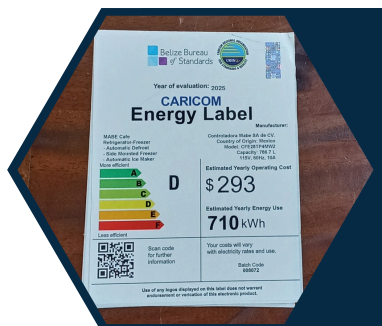
Main Achievements

NATIONAL QUALITY POLICY



The National Quality Policy was previously approved by Cabinet in 2022, since then works have been ongoing in its implementation. In the FY 2024-25, the British Standards Institute supported the BBS with its implementation through a National Workshop in October 30, 2024, and three (3) sessions with public and private sector stakeholders for the population of an implementation matrix in March 2025. Three (3) sectors were identified as pilots for the implementation of the NQP - one (1) emerging: coconut industry, one (1) almost ready for export: honey and one (1) exporting already: hot sauces.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY LABELLING SCHEME



The Standards and Compliance Units benefited from an attachment training to the Bureau of Standards Jamaica in the later part of FY 2023-24. After having returned from that training, both Units worked diligently on conducting equivalencies to determine the energy efficiency of refrigerators and air conditioning appliances in Belize. In FY 2024-25, the BBS embarked on registration of refrigerators and air conditioning models and the activation of a technical committee to adopt the Caricom Regional Standards for Refrigerators and Air Conditioners, in order to advance the scheme from a voluntary scheme to a madatory scheme.

ISO/IEC 17025:2017 ACCREDITATION BBS FINE MASS LABORATORY



The Industrial Metrology Lab begun its journey to accreditation to ISO/IEC 17025:2017 in 2023 to achieve accreditation for calibration of OIML F2 class mass standards ranging from 1mg to 10 kg through the support of the European Development Fund (EDF) Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) program. During FY 2024-25, the Industrial Metrology Unit successfully moved through the various stages of implementation, assessment with the Accreditation Body. The next step is revision by the AEC, their response is expected within Fiscal Year 2025-26.

National Quality Policy

Workshop



The BBS through the support of the UK Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO) and implemented by the British Standards Institute (BSI) titled Standards Partnership Programme, commenced Phase 2 of a project designed to provide direct support to public and private sector stakeholders in the implementation of the Belize National Quality Policy. This policy was approved at the National Level in 2022. The NQP supports the implementation of the National Quality Infrastructure System, which is comprised of standards, metrology, conformity assessment, and accreditation.

The Belize Bureau of Standards (BBS) was pleased to welcome a mission from the British Standards Institute (BSI) to Belize. During the week's mission, meetings were held with key stakeholders who would form the National Quality Council stakeholders. Additionally, an introductory workshop was held to expound on the roles of all the moving parts of the NQI with an aim to begin the process of implementation. Stakeholders were very engaged as they made their valuable contributions to the implementation of the NQP.



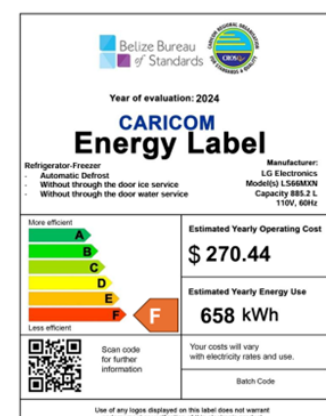
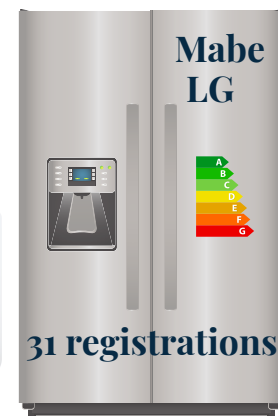
Following this week of activities, the project (in consultation with the BBS) employed the services of local consultant Mr. Herbert Haylock, to work alongside the BBS and to meet one-on-one with public and private stakeholders to identify the gaps and chart a way forward to close those gaps. The ultimate goal of the implementation of the NQI is to improve on the culture for quality in Belize among MSMEs, larger industries and consumers and increase local industries export readiness.



Belize Energy Efficiency Labeling Scheme

Registrations

There has been direct engagement with the manufacturer or supplier or trademark owners of these appliances. Applications for registration on a voluntary basis initiated in September 2024 however the number of requests has been stagnant with a few of the manufacturers expressing that they would submit an application for registration only if the program was mandatory.

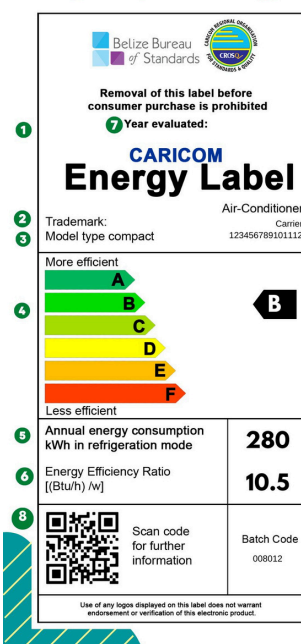


Technical Committee

Guided by this premise, the BBS convened a Technical Committee (TC) with the objective of adapting the CRS 57 and 59 standard and working toward the establishment of these standards as mandatory. Subsequently, this will pave the way for the mandatory implementation phase of the EELS program.

In addition, an assessment activity at retail outlets has been initiated to get a more comprehensive overview of both the refrigerator-freezer and air conditioner models currently available in the market.

"Quality for Energy"



HOW TO READ YOUR LABELS

AIR CONDITIONER

Energy efficiency can impact your electricity bill. Selecting the most efficient appliance is one way to save money.

What should you look for:

- 1 Year evaluated - this tells you what year the item was likely tested and fitted with the label.
- 2 Trademark - on top of the label you will find what type of appliance it is and its manufacturer
- 3 Model Type - you will find the type of model listed as well.
- 4 Energy Efficiency - the rating "A" to "F" tells you the level of efficiency of the appliance regarding its use of energy. "A" is the most efficient, while "F" is the least efficient.
- 5 Estimated Annual Energy Consumption - an estimation of the amount of energy the appliance uses to perform its functions per year. The more energy it uses the less efficient it will tend to be.
- 6 Energy Efficiency Ratio - a ratio for the total cooling capacity in relation to the power input in any set of rating conditions
- 7 Year of Evaluation - this data will tell you if the label details are still applicable and if the information provided is valid. Query labels where the date has expired.
- 8 QR Code - this code takes you to the CARICOM Regional Database for Energy Efficiency Products

ISO/IEC 17025:2017 ACCREDITATION

Fine Mass Laboratory

The BBS through the support of the 11th EDF begun its journey towards accreditation of its fine mass laboratory in August 2023. After having completed the implementation of the standards, the Unit underwent its accreditation assessment by JANAAC July 2nd through 4th, 2024. At the conclusion of this assessment, the system was cited with 10 Non-Conformities (NC), 2 Concerns and 4 Comments. The following are a few of the activities to correct the NCs which were also supported by the 11th EDF:

1. The BBS participated in an Interlaboratory Comparison (ILC) between Laboratorio Costarricense de Metrologia (LCM) and the BBS. The results showed comparability of BBS' calculations to that of Costa Rica for masses of F1 class or lower.
2. Calibration of the Climate station used for the monitoring of environmental Conditions inside of the Fine Mass Laboratory was done by CENAM in Mexico.
3. Additional, training in unit procedures was undertaken to streamline the calibration process.

The Unit, in conjunction with the Quality Management Team and the Administrative Unit worked the rest of the year to wrap up outstanding NCs and in March 2025, it submitted its third response to JANAAC.

One (1) final response for accreditation is set for June 2nd, 2025 with the BBS closing off the two remaining NC's:

1. Updating the traceability chains of the E2 masses and Climate Station.
2. Evidence of the calibration of the Climate Station.

Technical Overview

National Standards Development

#	STANDARDS PROJECTS	STAGE	STATUS/COMMENT(S)
1	Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) Standards (2 standards - 1 Final Draft) Final Draft Specification for Marking and Labelling of Gas Cylinders (DBZS 6:2025)	50	Final draft standard was submitted to the Standards Advisory Council (SAC) on 26th March 2025 and currently under voting process by SAC members with deadline date of April 9th, 2025. It is recommended by the Technical Committee (TC) for Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) that the standard be established as a compulsory standard.
2	Medical Gases Standards (5 Standards - 3 working drafts; 2 final drafts) Final Draft Specification for Compressed Air (FDBZS 27:2025); Final Draft Specification for Carbon Dioxide (FDBZS 28:2025) and Final Draft Specification for Nitrous Oxide (FDBZS 29: 2025)	50 40	Final draft standard was submitted to the Standards Advisory Council (SAC) on 26th March 2025 and currently under voting process by SAC members with deadline date of April 9th, 2025. It is recommended by the TC for Medical Gases that these standards be established as compulsory standards.
3	Energy Efficiency Standards (2 Standards) Final Draft Specification for Energy Labelling and Requirements for Refrigerating Equipment (FDBZS 34: 2025)	50	Draft standard under final review by the TC for Energy Efficiency to determine test control for supply voltage parameter (115±10% V). Note that Belize has aligned with updated Minimum Energy Performance Standards (MEPS) from Central America and Mexico (NOM-015-ENER-2018) and not the 2012 version to which CRS 57 is aligned with.

National Standards Development

#	STANDARDS PROJECTS	STAGE	STATUS/COMMENT(S)
4	Wholesale and Retail Standards (Prepackaged Foods) (2 standards) Final Draft Specification for Labelling Part 3: Labelling of Prepackaged Foods (FDBZS1: Part 3: 2025 ((Revised))	50	Final draft standard was submitted to the Standards Advisory Council (SAC) on 26th March 2025 and currently under voting process by SAC members with deadline date of April 9th, 2025. It is recommended by the TC for Processed Foods that this standard be established as a compulsory standard.
5	Tourism Standards (1 standard) Draft Belize Code of Practice for Recreational High Angle Activity Tours (Canopy, Canyoneering, Rappelling, and Zip Lining)	40	The High Angle Activity Standard (HAA) was formatted and edited based on comments agreed by the technical committee and prepared for submission to the SAC for approval. However, it remains pending due to a possible MOU with the Association of Challenge Course Technology (ACCT), USA and revision of national standard by ACCT experts.
6	Agriculture and Agricultural Product Standards (4 standards) WD Specification for Honey WD Specification for Potato WD Specification for Onion WD Specification for Pineapple	20 20 20 20	Working draft under revision by the Honey Working Group. Working drafts for potato and onion currently under revision by the Vegetables Technical Subcommittee. Preparation of working draft.

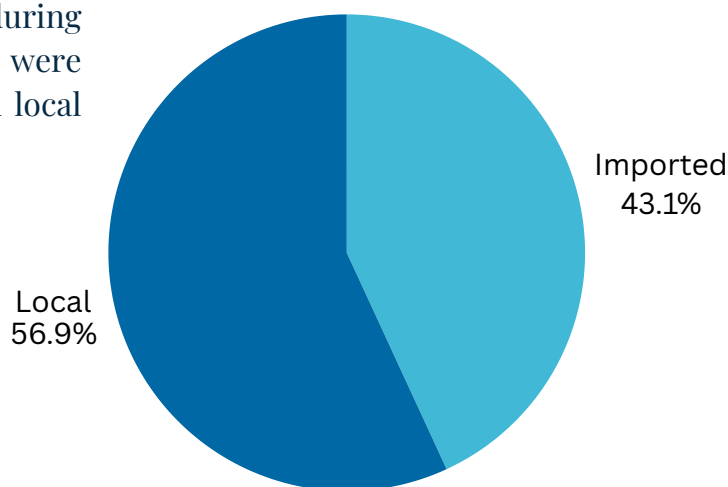
Regional Standardization: a total of 25 standards are currently on CROSO's TMC work plan for which Belize has direct participation in at least 14 of those standards.

Aim(s): Participate in the development of regional standards of high priority to Belize, harmonize national standards with regional standards identified as high priority, Increase Belize's standards expert pool at the regional level.

Standards Implementation

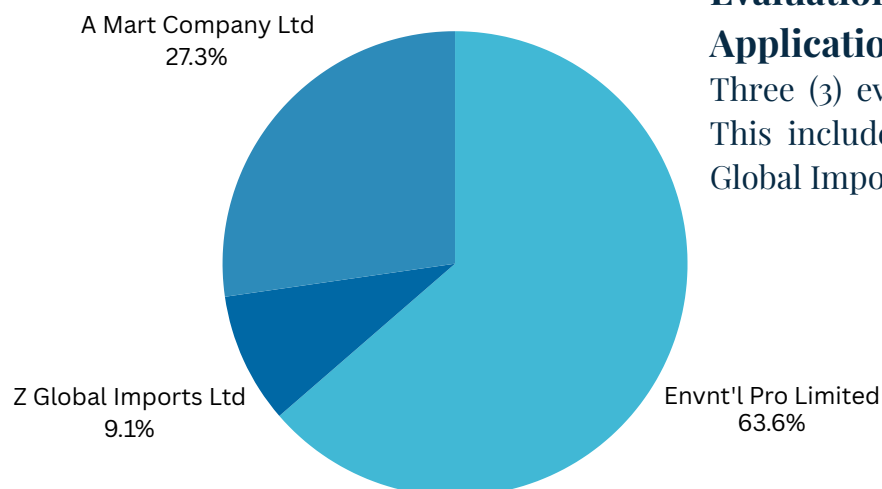
Product Label Evaluations:

A total of **109** product labels were evaluated during this annual period. 47 (43.12%) product labels were from imported sources and 62 (56.88%) from local businesses.



Evaluation of Biodegradable Products Applications:

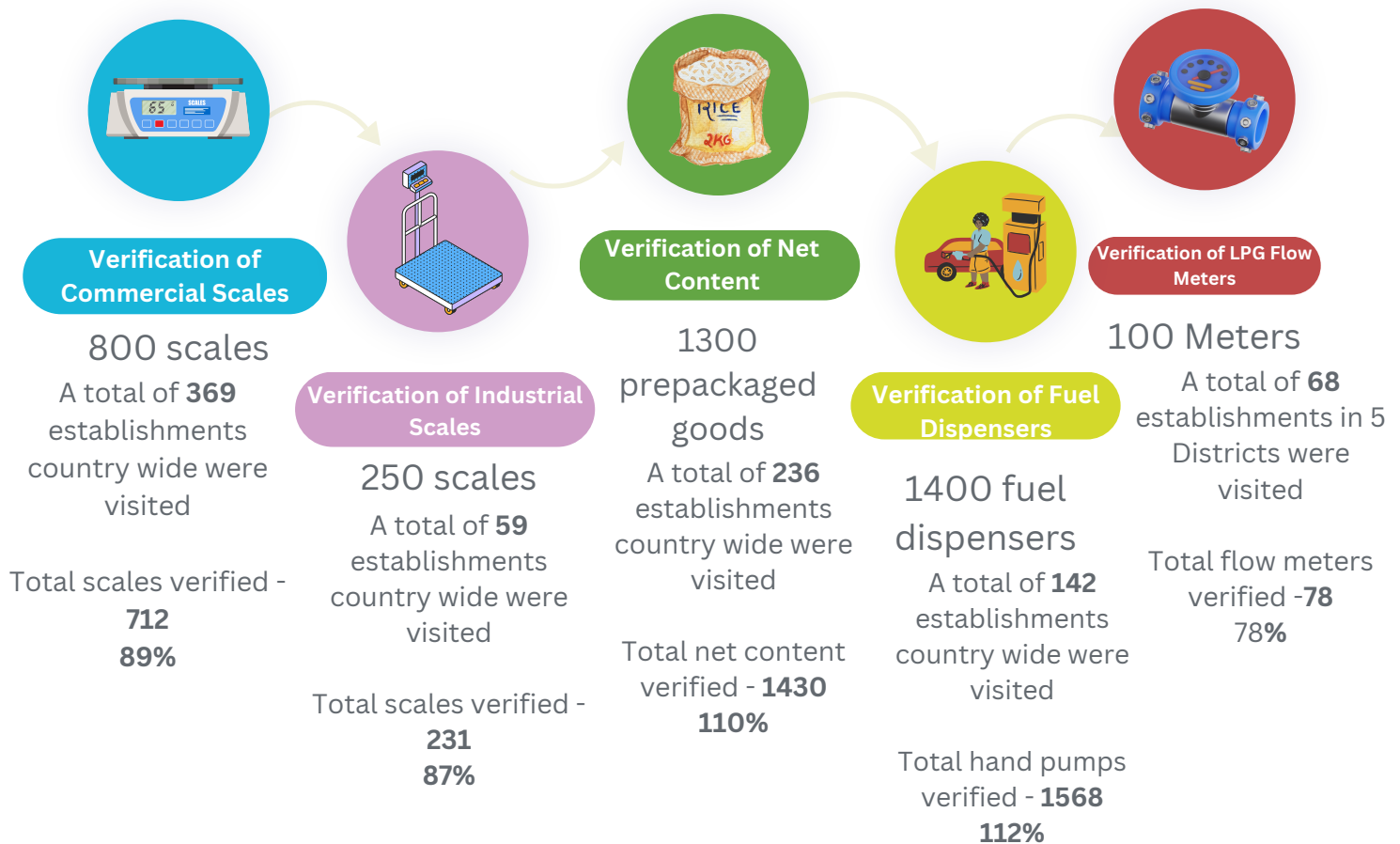
Three (3) evaluations were completed during the year. This included application from: Envnt'l Pro Limited, Z Global Imports Ltd, and A Mart Company Ltd.



Metrology Services

Legal Metrology

The Compliance Unit (CU) of the Belize Bureau of Standards completed FY 2024-25 by conducting various activities as outlined in its Annual Work Plan (BBS-AWP-1.0 - Compliance Unit AWP 2023-24). Despite some challenges encountered during the year, the CU carried out legal metrology activities which included: verification of weighing instruments for commercial and industrial purposes, verification of fuel dispensers at gas stations, inspection for net content at supermarkets and verification of flow meters at the liquid petroleum gas depots. As will noted below, reasonable coverage was attained in most of the work activities as mandated by its legislation. Below is a summary of all activities carried out by the Compliance Unit depicting the established KPIs, total number of establishments visited, total verified and pass rate.



Metrology Services

Legal Metrology - Verification Pass/Failure Rate



Commercial Scales

573 - PASSES
139 - FAIL

80%



Net Content

1342 - PASSES
88 - FAIL

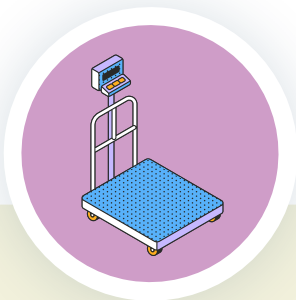
94%



Fuel Dispensers

1525 - PASSES
43 - FAIL

97%



Industrial Scales

182 - PASSES
30 - FAIL

86%



LPG Flow Meter

13 - PASSES
65 - FAIL

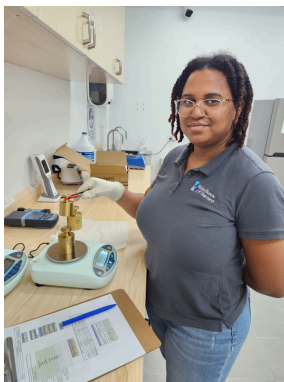
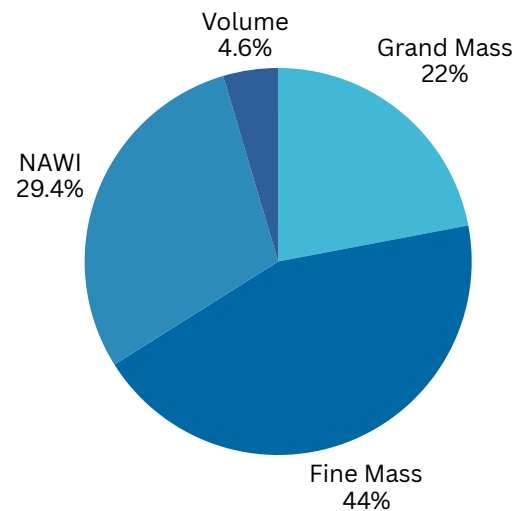
17%

Metrology Services

Industrial Metrology

The Industrial metrology unit performed a total of one hundred and nine (109) external calibrations. This included Fine Mass, Grand Mass, Volume and Non-Automatic Weighing Instrument (NAWI) calibrations.

The BBS performed eight (8) more Fine Mass calibrations than was planned; while this is an excess of the target set for FY 2024-25 (40), in comparison to FY 2023-24, this represents a decline in requests for fine mass calibrations which is connected to the number of total calibrations conducted.



Similarly Grand Mass calibrations surpassed target figures by nine (9) calibrations for a total of twenty-four (24) calibrations. In comparison to the previous year, there were seventy-seven (77) calibrations in Grand Mass. The BBS typically expects one request per year with several grand mass calibrations (50+ pieces) from either BSI-ASR group or CPBL.



While only five (5) volume calibrations were performed for the entire fiscal year, the BBS did not anticipate any requests at all for this magnitude. Fiscal Year 2025/2026 will be the first year in which volume will have a key performance indicator assigned, as this is the year the Unit plans to introduce volume calibrations as a part of the Laboratory's QMS.



Metrology Services

Project Activities - CDB GA 72/BZE

GA72/BZE is a grant agreement funded under the CDB Standby Facility as part of the 11th EDF aided with the procurement of mass standards for the BBS. This activity saw the BBS acquire two sets of E1 masses inclusive of the necessary instrumentation to maneuver the masses without physical touch in 2024. These masses were accompanied by calibration certificates and the masses will be designated as the national references that will be the highest point of traceability to SI inside of Belize. Additionally, the BBS has also acquired 5 pieces of 100 kg F2 class masses. These will be used inside of the Grand Mass Calibration for the calibration of the 500 kg masses used by the Compliance Unit. This will not only save on time to do the calibration, but also saves the cost of calibration since it can be done in house.



5 Pieces of 100 kg F2 standard acquired through the CDB standby facility.



Set of E1 from 1 mg to 20 kg including handling instrumentation

Additionally, this project aided with the calibration of the BBS' standards related to mass calibration. This calibration is broken into two parts: The second set of E2 standards, and the climate station. The calibration of the climate station has been completed on February 27th 2025 by Centro Nacional de Metrologia (CENAM) in Mexico. The other set of E2 Class masses will be sent to Trinidad & Tobago of Bureau of Standards (TTBS). By having both equipment calibrated it will allow the BBS to obtain up to date, third-party measurement results on its measuring instruments. This component is critical as it is an activity which also supports the accreditation of the fine mass laboratory.

Capacity Building Trainings

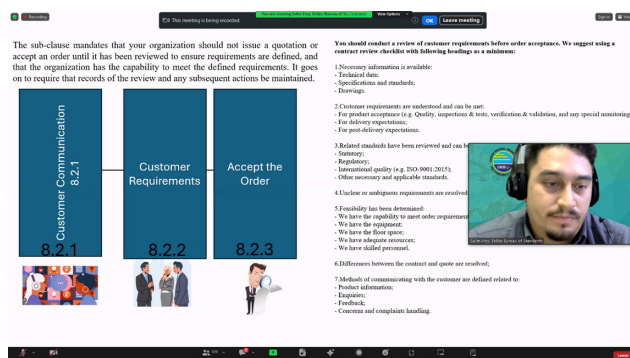
Temperature in Metrology Training April 30th to May 3rd, 2024



The Industrial and Legal Metrology Units of the Belize Bureau of Standards participated in a 4-day training facilitated by the 11th European Development Fund (EDF) Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) through the Caricom Regional Organization for Standards and Quality (CROSQ) and the Guyana National Bureau of Standards. Together Mr. Nicol Best, Technical Officer of CROSQ and Mr. Vishnu Matbadal, Calibration Technician of GNBS have a combined forty years' experience in temperature metrology. Over the course of 4 days, these units gained knowledge with the aim to operationalization the BBS's temperature calibration laboratory during Fiscal Year 2024/2025.

Overview of ISO 9001:2015 - Quality Management Systems May 14th, 2024

The Standards and Industrial Metrology Units along with other members of the CROSQ CARIMET Committee – the Caricom Regional Organization for Standards and Quality (CROSQ), Barbados National Standards Institute (BNSI), Guyana National Bureau of Standards (GNBS), and Trinidad & Tobago Bureau of Standards (TTBS), are co-hosting a free Regional Virtual Session on the elements and implementation of the ISO 9001:2015 Quality Management System.



ISO/IEC 17025:2017 Assessor Course July 15, 17, 23, 25, 29 & 30, 2024

Six (6) BBS Staff members and eighteen (18) public and private stakeholders benefited from a training designed by the Caribbean Institute for Quality Limited and funded through the Standby facility of the CDB – GA72/BZE. The purpose of which was to enable participants to implement, document and maintain a laboratory quality management system as denoted in the ISO/IEC 17025:2017 standard.

Capacity Building

Trainings

SIM Metrology School

August 12th to 16th, 2024

Two (2) officers of the Industrial Metrology Unit successfully completed training at the SIM Metrology School in Columbia where over 70 young Metrologists from the Latin America and the Caribbean Region participated in a training that focused on the significance of various metrological capabilities and the global infrastructure of quality.



Overview of ISO/IEC 17025:2017 - Quality Management Systems for Laboratories

August 20th, 2024

The Industrial Metrology Unit along with other members of the CROSQ CARIMET Committee - the Caricom Regional Organization for Standards and Quality (CROSQ), Barbados National Standards Institute (BNSI), Guyana National Bureau of Standards (GNBS), and Trinidad & Tobago Bureau of Standards (TTBS), are co-hosting a free Regional Virtual Session on the elements and implementation of the ISO 9001:2015 Quality Management System.



ISO 9001:2015 Lead Auditors

March 24th - 28th, 2025

The Belize Bureau of Standards through support of the FDCO/BSI received training for five (5) staff members in the ISO 9001:2015 Lead Auditor training. This was necessary to replenish the pool of staff members that are certified in auditing for this standard which is a requirement of the certification that the BBS has maintained since 2015.



Public Outreach



Vegetable Farmer Consultations April through June 2024

The work that begun in the last quarter of FY 2023-24 with the Belize Bureau of Standards, the Ministry of Agriculture, Food Security and Enterprise and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) to assess the vegetable value chain and challenges associated with improving quality of the final product concluded in the 1st quarter of FY2024/25 .

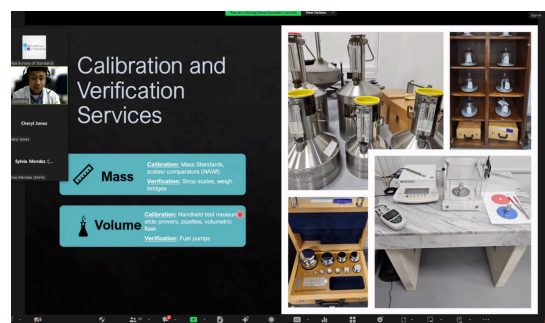
This approach is essential in engaging key stakeholders in Belize's vegetable value chains to addressing concerns about quality, climate change, among others with the ultimate goal to develop and implement a robust standards and quality assurance program.

Calibration vs Verification Webinar

May 23rd , 2024

The Legal and Industrial Metrology Units hosted webinar for our National Public and Private Sector Stakeholders on the difference between Calibration and Verification - both services currently being offered by the BBS. Both Officers have a combined 30+ yrs experience in the execution of duties in the subject matter.

"Metrology provides the foundation for data-driven decision-making and policy development in sustainability. By ensuring accurate measurements across various aspects of sustainability, it helps organizations, governments and individuals make informed choices that contribute to a more sustainable future." (Source <https://www.worldmetrologyday.org/>)



Public Outreach



Public Service Information Day June 19th. 2024

The Belize Bureau of Standards along with other Government Ministries and Departments participated in a public display of our respective roles and functions in celebration of Public Service Day. This year's theme was *"The Belize Public Service: Honouring Our Everyday Heroes - Public Servants, Empowering Communities, Enriching Lives"*

Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Roadshow July through August 2024

Annually, the BBS participates in a roadshow organized by BELTRAIDE to bring relevant government agencies to the small business owners across the country. The BBS' contribution to this event is readily accessible product label evaluations and general awareness of the role BBS plays in supporting business development.



Effective Packaging and Labeling August 23rd, 2024

The Belize Bureau of Standards and BELTRAIDE teamed up to provide training on Effective Packaging and Labelling to MSMEs. This session engaging covered the general requirements of the Belize National Standards for General Principles (BZS 1: Part 1: 1998), Prepackaged Foods (BZS 1: Part 2: 1998) and Pre-packaged Goods (BZS 1: Part 3: 1998). Compliance with ALL these standards is mandatory.



Public Outreach



World Standards Day October 15th, 2024

The BBS hosted two (2) activities in observance of World Standards Day which is celebrated annually on October 14th. **"Shared Vision for a Better World: Standards for Climate Change"**

A video competition where students were invited to produce videos showcasing the benefits in switching to energy efficient appliances and a forum where stakeholders were invited to speak on their various roles in energy efficiency.

This event was sponsored by the Belize Electricity Limited, LAIT UP Belize,

World Statistics Day 2024 October 15th, 2024

The Statistical Institute of Belize hosted an exhibition in commemoration of Caribbean Statistics Week under the theme "One Voice, One Caricom, Everyone Counts". The Industrial Metrology Unit of the Belize Bureau of Standards participated in this event, displaying the role statistical data collected for calibration of equipment plays in determining accurate measurements. The young minds that attended were very eager to learn about the world of Metrology.



School Visit - United Evergreen Primary School October 17th, 2024



The Belize Bureau of Standards was invited by the Standard 3 classes at the United Evergreen Primary School in Belmopan City to deliver a presentation on the different types of measuring devices. These students are currently learning about the different measuring devices, and we were met with very enthusiastic children who were excited to see the equipment in person and who also took chances handling the equipment, under close supervision.

Public Outreach

World Food Day October 18th, 2024

The Belize Bureau of Standards plays in an important role in the SYSTEM – Standards, Metrology, Accreditation, Testing and Conformity Assessment – that ensures the **"Right to Foods for a Better Life and a Better Future Leave No One Behind"**. Through the implementation of standards and ensuring fair trade through accurate measurement.



Through the execution of the Standards and Metrology Acts (Chapters 294 and 295), the BBS consistently ensures that fuel pumps, scales, pre-packaged foods, flow meters etc are measuring correctly. The BBS is also developing capacity in Industrial Metrology to perform calibration for mass, volume, temperature, etc. In addition, we work closely with private and public stakeholders to develop standards in various sectors such as food, agriculture, tourism etc. that are in the best interest of Belize.

National Quality Policy October 30th, 2024

Through the execution of the Standards and Metrology Acts (Chapters 294 and 295), the BBS consistently ensures that fuel pumps, scales, pre-packaged foods, flow meters etc are measuring correctly. The BBS is also developing capacity in Industrial Metrology to perform calibration for mass, volume, temperature, etc. In addition, we work closely with private and public stakeholders to develop standards in various sectors such as food, agriculture, tourism etc. that are in the best interest of Belize.



Introduction to Metrology January 23rd, 2025

The BBS hosted an Introduction to Metrology Session for the general public. Topics covered were: the definition, and branches of metrology, the International System of Units, calibration and methods of uncertainty.



Public Outreach

DRAFT BELIZE NATIONAL STANDARD LABELLING OF Pre-Packaged Foods

REVISION

February 21st Online 9:30

Register Now Public Consultation

Nutrition Facts

Serving Size: 100g (3.5oz)		Amount Per Serving	
Total Fat	10g	Calories From Fat	200
Saturated Fat	5g		
Trans Fat	0g		
Cholesterol	0g		
Sodium	0g		
Total Carbohydrate	10g		
Dietary Fiber	0g		
Sugars	0g		
Protein	0g		

The BBS is hosting a public consultation session to introduce, sensitize and seek comments on the new proposed core requirements of the Labelling Standard for Pre-packaged Foods.

What can I expect

- What is a label?
- Why label my product?
- Requirements as outlined in the Standard
- Amendments to the Standard
- What are the impacts of the amendments?

Salim Hoy
Standards Officer

822-0446/47 | helpdesk@bbs.gov.bz | 628-6867

Public Consultation - Draft Standard for Labelling of Prepackaged Foods February 21st, 2025

The BBS hosted a session to sensitize the PUBLIC on the Revision of the Draft Standard for the Labelling of Pre-packaged Foods. The Objective(s) of the session is to sensitize on the new core requirements so the public understands what a compliant product must have and how that also keeps the producer in compliance against standard by educating the public, they can rightfully demand for the right things and hold them against standard.

Customs Information Day January 31st, 2025

The BBS participated in an information Day organized by the Customs Department. This was an opportunity to sensitize importers, brokers and the general public on the role the BBS plays in the importation and exportation of products, goods or services.



National Quality Infrastructure Implementation Plan February 28th and 29th, 2025

Following the workshop held in October 2024, BBS through the support of BSI, held three (3) half day sessions on February 26th & 27th, 2025 with public and private stakeholders of the hot sauce, honey and coconut sectors. Phase 2 of the programme is designed to provide direct support to public and private sector stakeholders in the implementation of the National Quality Policy at the National Level.

The NQI Implementation Matrix Sessions are a continuation of the work that begun in October 2024 at the National Quality Policy Workshop. The goal of these sessions is to collect data identifying strengths and weaknesses in the Quality Infrastructure System across the various sectors. This data will inform an implementation plan per sector. Follow-up consultations are planned to capture as much data as possible.

Lessons Learnt

In an ever-changing global economic landscape, the BBS remains astute of its role as a business support organization in the development of Belize's economy and assuring fair trade and consumer protection. Through a delicate balance between execution of duties and resources, the Department recognized the need to:

- Strategize, taking into consideration our mandate, realistic goals to meet those mandates and efficient management of the resources allotted. This strategy saw each Unit honing into specific targets thereby allowing the Department to develop a comprehensive Strategic Plan for 2025-2028.
- Commit to increased visibility and stakeholder awareness as a deliberate act rather than a reactive approach through the development of a comprehensive communications plan.

Future Plans and Priorities

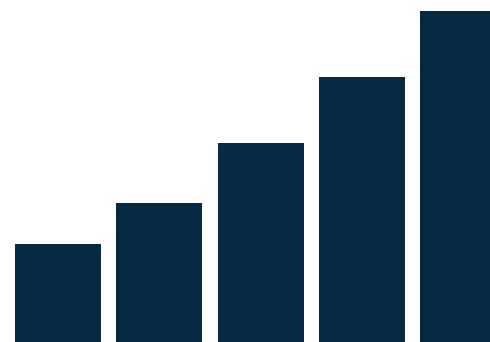
As outlined in the BBS Strategic Plan 2025-28, the BBS looks forward to:

- Developing a **National Standardization Strategy** which will allow the BBS to develop, revise or rescind Standards based on national priorities.
- Operationalization of the **National Quality Council** which will be tasked with overseeing the Implementation of the National Quality Infrastructure Plan.
- Implementation of the **Energy Efficiency Labelling scheme** for refrigerators and air conditioners through the adoption of the CRS 57 & 59 as mandatory standards and a fee structure for the sale of the energy efficiency labels associated with this program.
- Finalization of a 2-year journey towards **ISO/IEC 17025:2017 Accreditation** in the Fine Mass Lab for 1mg to 10kg and develop capacity in the volume lab in order for the lab to expand its accreditation scope to include volume. This is a significant milestone in our journey towards meeting our international obligations, as accreditation is international recognition of certificates produced by the BBS Metrology Labs in the magnitudes it's accredited for.
- **Increase** in the number of **verification exercises** to include: scales in medical offices (both private and public) and processing plants.
- **Metrology Act Revision** - this deliverable is part of the TBT Phase III project and as such five (5) CARICOM Countries will benefit from a revision of their Metrology Acts. Effective metrology laws strengthen public confidence in the fairness of trade, protect vulnerable consumers, and promote a culture of measurement integrity across public and private sectors. Legal clarity and updated enforcement mechanisms are also necessary to deter fraud, ensure accurate pricing, and support reliable trade data for economic planning.



Staffing & Financial Constraints

- **Operations** – Despite challenges faced – with a limited staff compliment of three field inspectors and other logistical constraints such as transportation failures, the Compliance Unit functioned optimally with room for improvement. It is evident that the maintenance of the transportation assigned to this Unit must be done in a timely and orderly manner. Additionally, as noted in the AWP 2022-23, there is a need for the implementation of proper management of inventory where a system of minimum and maximum inventory is established to ensure that stock levels of stickers and receipt books do not fall low. This can not only be detrimental to the provision of services but can surely have a negative impact on customer perception of the delivery of our services.
- **Human Resources** – With only three Compliance Unit staff traversing the length and breadth of this country to carry out compliance work in Legal Metrology and Standards, there is an urgent need to recruit additional personnel to be able to successfully implement additional programs such as the EELS. Similarly, the workload of the Standards Unit continues to increase with the same number of officers to carry out its mandate of standards development, implementation and compliance. The BBS would have to actively engage both the Public Service and the Ministry to revive the previous request for additional staff and filling vacant positions.
- **Industrial** – One Major constraint that the Unit faced during this FY 2024-25, is the lack of traceable equipment. While there has been strides to correct this issue through funding received through projects, the turnaround time from request to payment was too lengthy, which increased delays ad affected deadlines. Additionally, other equipment such as the Standard Platinum Resistance Thermometers (SPRTs) and the data loggers, which are necessary for the calibration of non-automatic weighing instruments, require calibration. These are not covered in the scope of project funds and the Department's annual budgetary allocations are inefficient. This directly impacts the Unit's ability to provide an unbroken chain of traceability in the calibration of non-automatic weighing instruments as well as for Mass calibrations and Volume Calibrations. There is also need for the acquisition of new balances for Fine Mass as their displays are all compromised to the point that it is very difficult to read the values.



Conclusions & Recommendations

In summary 2024-25 saw the Compliance Unit (CU) carrying out its core mandates which included verifications of fuel dispensers, industrial scales, commercial scales at supermarkets/stores and verification of net content exceptionally well despite the challenges of limited staff and weeks of immobility due to transportation issues. This indicates that with better management of the limited resources and decreased human resources to carry out the mandate, the Compliance Unit can increase its reach. With the rolling out of the Energy Efficiency Labelling Scheme (EELS), the unit will have to work smarter to ensure that objectives of these programs as well as the core legal mandates of the BBS are carried out.

Additionally, the Industrial Metrology Unit eagerly awaits a positive outcome in its bid for Accreditation. The Standards Unit continues to prioritize stakeholder engagement and outreach activities in order to increase participation in standardization. However, due to lack of resources for public awareness, other dissemination mediums are used where possible which does limit the engagement process.

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