

## **STANDARDIZATION MARK (S MARK)**

### **1. What is the Standardization Mark?**

The Standardization Mark also referred to as S-Mark or SM is a mandatory mark of quality on all locally manufactured goods complying with the relevant standards.

### **2. Who issues the Standardization Mark?**

Kenya Bureau of Standards (KEBS) issues the **Standardization Mark** (as per its mandate stipulated in the Standards Act Cap 496) on behalf of the Government of Kenya.

### **3. Who should apply for the Standardization Mark?**

All manufacturers operating in the Republic of Kenya.

### **4. What is the procedure for acquiring the Mark?**

- a) Fill and return the application forms (STA 1) to KEBS.
- b) Pay the applicable fees as indicated below:
  - For Companies producing less than ten (10) products, the factory will pay Kes 20 000 and Kes. 7 500 per product every year.
  - For Companies producing ten (10) products or more, the factory will pay Kes. 20 000 and Kes. 5 000 per product every year.
- c) Assessment is carried out by KEBS including sampling and testing of products and assessment of line processes.
- d) If product complies, the S-Mark is issued (granted).

### **5. What happens if the Product does not comply?**

- a) The mark is not issued.
- b) KEBS works with the manufacturer to improve the quality of the product for compliance.

### **6. What benefits does the S-Mark bring to my business?**

- a) The product is assured of market access even in the regional EAC Countries due to mutual recognition of the marks issued by the Bureaux in the region.
- b) The product enjoys consumer confidence.
- c) The product quality is underpinned by the national quality system.

### **7. How does one maintain the Standardization Mark?**

By ensuring continuous quality assurance for compliance throughout the validity period and surveillance by KEBS officers.

**10. How long does it take one, upon application to be granted a Standardization Mark?**

A manufacturer can acquire a Standardization Mark within 14 days once the product has been tested and shown compliance.

**11. When do we expect all locally manufactured products to have the S Mark?**

The deadline for registration for all manufacturers is 1<sup>st</sup> October 2008. All locally manufactured products will have the Standardization Mark by 1<sup>st</sup> March 2009.

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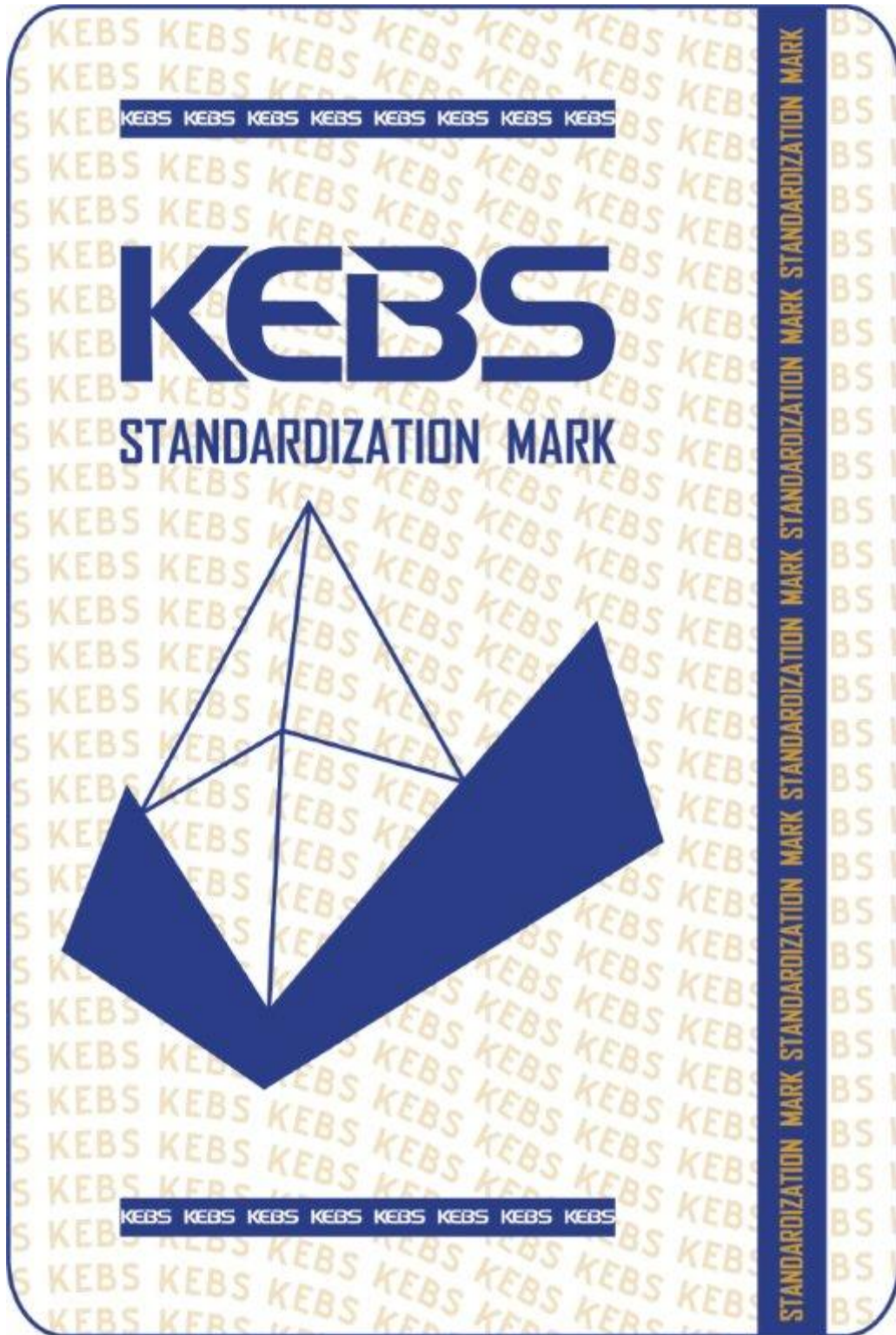
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Graphical Representation