

DISSEMINATION OF THE NATIONAL TECHNICAL REGULATIONS FRAMEWORK TO LINE MINISTRIES AND REGULATORY AGENCIES

The Ministry of Commerce, Trade and Industry, with support from the National Board of Trade Sweden, conducted a Workshop on the Dissemination of the National Technical Regulations Framework. Participants were drawn from Line Ministries and Regulatory Agencies responsible for the development and implementation of Technical Regulations.

The specific objective of the workshop was to raise awareness on the National Technical Regulation Framework for Zambia aimed at promoting good regulatory practices to Line Ministries and Regulators.

NATIONAL TECHNICAL REGULATION FRAMEWORK

The National Technical Regulations Framework is manner in which technical requirements, the conformity assessment system, regulatory authority mandates and sanctions are applied in the development and implementation of technical regulations.

In view of the operationalisation of the Department of Technical Regulations in January, 2023, the meeting also served as a platform to inform stakeholders on the mandate of the Department which was established through the National Technical Regulations Act No. 5 of 2017. Technical regulations are developed by national authorities to ensure the quality of products, for public safety and health, consumer protection and environmental protection.

In accordance with the Technical Regulations Act, the Department sits under the Ministry responsible for trade and is mandated to ***“implement the National Technical Regulation Framework and ensure transparency and consistency in the development, implementation and maintenance of technical regulations”***. The Department will, in executing its mandate, provide technical guidance to Line Ministries and other Regulatory Agencies on the development, implementation, administration and review of technical regulations.

During the meeting, stakeholders were also sensitised on the National Quality Infrastructure Institutions under the Ministry namely the Zambia Bureau of Standards, Zambia Compulsory Standards Agency and Zambia Metrology Agency. Discussions were held on the role each of the institutions play in facilitating trade and in supporting the development of technical regulations in Zambia.

The meeting was one of a series of engagements that the Department has undertaken since its operationalisation. The Department shall disseminate the National Technical Regulations Framework and conduct capacity building programmes for all relevant stakeholders to ensure that International Good Regulatory Practice is observed during the development and implementation of Technical Regulations in order to enhance trade.