



### **National standardization requirements by Kenya Bureau of Standards (KEBS) and Kenya Plant Health Inspectorate Service (KEPHIS).**

The key objectives of the Kenya Bureau of Standards are to facilitate the preparation of standards relating to products, measurements, materials, processes, and their promotion at national, regional and international levels. certification of industrial products; assistance in the production of quality goods, improvement of measurement accuracy and circulation of information relating to standards.

Conformity Assessment is the foundation of market access. It covers standardization-compliance of standards; metrology-calibration of measuring equipment to enhance accuracy in process/ product monitoring.; inspectorate; testing; product certification-at country of source in case mutual recognition of Marks or memorandum of understanding (MOU); import inspection-at the destination market/country; and market surveillance- evaluates products in the market.

To meet KEBS requirement, a product must comply with relevant Kenyan standards, undergo testing and evaluation by KEBS and obtain a Standardization Mark Permit, which allows them to affix the KEBS Standard Mark(S-Mark) on their products, signifying compliance with KEBS quality standards. This often includes submitting necessary documentation like business licenses, product specifications, and test reports, and may involve factory inspection to verify production process meet the standards.

The S-Mark is mandatory for certain products to be sold in Kenya such as food, electrical goods, chemicals, construction materials, textiles and medical equipment which signifies that the product meets the required standards set by KEBS.

There are different levels of standards based on voluntary sector recognitions, interest and markets. These are:

- Kenya standards – These are the national standards- [www.kebs.org](http://www.kebs.org)
- East African Standards – Harmonized standards for the EAC 7 Partner States- <https://www.eac.int>
- Regional standards – COMESA, SADC, ECOWAS and ARSO Standards.
- African Standards/ African Electrotechnical Standardization Commission (AFSEC) – African Regional Organization for Standards (ARSO) - <https://www.arso-aran.org/>
- International Standards – ISO Standards and Codex Standards.

The KEPHIS mandate is to administrate and enforce sanitary and phytosanitary measures; regulate matters relating to plant protection, seeds and plant varieties; establish service laboratories to monitor the quality and levels of toxic residues in agro inputs, irrigation water, plants, soils and produce at the ports of entry and exit.



The organization offers the following services:

- Integrated export/import certification system (IECS) – This is automated to issue the phytosanitary certificate and e-phytos for exports which are transmitted to the receiving party via a secure transportation protocol.
- Seed certification and plant variety protection management system (SC& PVP management system) – aimed at reducing time and transaction cost by providing online payment option for the seed industry and plant breeders.
- Pest information management system (PIMS)- a web-based data base system containing information to help effectively report and manage pests.
- Provides quick link phytosanitary services, seed import, biological requirements, import certification system and laboratory services.

The KEPHIS import/export requirements are mainly:

- Plant Import Permit (PIP).
- Phytosanitary Certificate.
- Declaration at point of entry.
- Packaging and labeling.

To export or import plants, plant products, or regulated articles from Kenya, one must obtain a plant import permit (PIP) from KEPHIS before shipment and ensure that the consignment is accompanied by a phytosanitary certificate issued by the exporting country's relevant authority, verifying the plant material meets Kenya's phytosanitary requirements. Any import without proper documentation may be denied entry and could be destroyed or re-shipped at the owner's cost.

KEPHIS is therefore, expected to play a critical role in the implementation of the Kenya-EU EPA especially for the agriculture chapter the objectives of which are to have a sustainable and competitive agriculture sector that stimulates rural development through competitive agriculture activities, that add value, increase productivity through modern and sustainable agricultural technologies and contribute to gainful employment.