

Certification

The Standards Act 2006-5 provides for the BNSI to issue licenses for its Certification Mark on goods and services.

The Certification Mark distinguishes goods and services which have been technically monitored by the BNSI, and have been found to comply with a Barbados National Standard, from those which have not.

In order to use the Certification Mark, a Manufacturer or Service Provider has to satisfy the Institution that its goods and services meet the requirements of the applicable Barbados National Standard and that its operations are reliable.

Procedure for obtaining a Licence to use the Standard Mark

Under the provisions of the Standards Act 2006-5 and the Certification Marks Regulations of Barbados, the Barbados National Standards Institution is authorised to grant licences to manufacturers and service providers for use of the Standard Certification Mark in respect of those products and services which conform with the requirements of a relevant Barbados National Standard. The procedure for obtaining licence to use the BNSI – Certification Mark is as follows:

- a. An applicant desirous of obtaining a licence to use the Standard Certification Mark has to apply to the Barbados National Standards Institution on the forms prescribed for the purpose, in duplicate, along with an application fee of BB \$50 per application. The forms may be obtained from the Institution.
- b. A separate application has to be made for each product or service covered by a particular Barbados National Standard.
- c. On receipt of application, the Institution shall arrange for a preliminary inspection of the organisation to examine the facilities which the applicant has, and the manner in which the control of quality of the product or service is being exercised. In the case of manufactured products, samples are also to be drawn for testing in an independent laboratory to determine whether they conform to the relevant Barbados National Standard(s). The fees for these samples and their testing costs are to be borne by the applicant. All the information attained by the Institution at the time of preliminary inspection and afterwards shall be treated as confidential.

The essence of the BNSI – Certification Marking Scheme is that it gives an independent, third party assurance of quality, reliability and safety based on a system of continuous inspection and testing of products and examination of service according to the requirements of a Barbados National Standard, with the provision for continuous external audit of the licensee's own quality control arrangements. The Certification Mark is applied to goods and is also displayed in an organisation that provides a service to indicate compliance with a Barbados National Standard. This independent third party certification system offers advantages to both manufacturers and consumers.

TO MANUFACTURERS

- a. Streamlining of production processes and introduction of quality control system.
- b. Independent technical audit of quality control systems by the BNSI.
- c. Reaping of production economies occurring from standardization.
- d. Better image of the product, both domestically and internationally.
- e. Win-win for wholesalers, retailers, consumer confidence and goodwill.
- f. Preference for certified goods by organised purchasers.

TO CONSUMERS

- a. Guarantee of quality as per Barbados National Standard by an independent technical, national organisation.
- b. Full value and satisfaction for the money spent.
- c. Assistance in making an informed choice.
- d. Free replacement of certified products in cases of sub-standard quality.

TO ORGANISED PURCHASER

- a. Convenient basis for concluding contracts;
- b. Elimination of the need for inspection and testing of goods purchased, saving time, labour and money.
- c. Free replacement of products carrying Standard Certification Mark, found to be sub-standard.

TO EXPORTERS

- a. Exemption from pre-shipment inspection wherever admissible;
- b. Convenient basis for concluding export contracts.

A certification marking licence is granted when:

- a. full testing facilities are available with the applicant, in the case of manufacturers, or, alternatively, arrangements are made with another organisation having the testing facilities, to carry out the tests to the satisfaction of the Institution;
- b. samples or service conform to the requirements of a relevant Barbados National Standard;
- c. formal acceptance of the scheme of testing and inspection, and marking fee rate is received from the applicant;

The licence is valid for one year where the licensee is authorised to apply the Standard Certification Mark on the product and display the logo in its marketing. The licence also entitles the manufacturer or service provider to advertise that his goods and services conform to the relevant Barbados National Standard and bear the Standard Certification Mark.

The following fees are required to be paid to the Institution:

- a. application fee, which is not refundable;
- b. testing charges of the independent laboratory for samples drawn and tested prior to grant of licence;
- c. annual licence fee;
- d. renewal application fee when a licence is due for renewal;
- e. marking fee depending upon the quantum of annual production of the licensed product marked or service provided.

Please contact us for more information on how your product can bear the Standard Certification Mark – the symbol of Quality.