



MONGOLIA

Modernizing quality infrastructure to benefit businesses and consumers in the Land of the Eternal Blue Sky

Although their origins date back to the 1920s, standardization services in Mongolia were established in 1953. The Mongolian Agency for Standardization and Metrology (MASM) has been responsible for standardization since 2008. Its 350 staff deliver services via local offices in most of Mongolia's 21 provinces.

MASM can be proud of its role in developing standardization in Mongolia. However, a new three-year EU-funded project we started in April 2014 seeks to further modernize Mongolia's quality infrastructure and ensure that many more Mongolian standards match international requirements.



“Mongolian companies and government institutions are interested in standards and are ready to improve their internal management systems. This country offers many opportunities.”

Volodymyr Yakubov
BSI Head of International Projects

Export drive

The project supports a key Mongolian government initiative to adopt European principles, norms and standards relating to free movement of goods, through institutional capacity building, which could drive up Mongolian exports.

Exports totaled an estimated £3.6bn (US\$5.2bn) in 2015. Key Mongolian commodities include copper, clothing, livestock, animal products, cashmere, wool, hides, coal and crude oil. Its key export partner, China, buys more than 90 per cent of Mongolian exports, but as a result of improved quality infrastructure, more Mongolian goods could soon be heading for other regional and international markets.

National Quality Plan

The first of the project's five components involves advising the Deputy Prime Minister's National Quality Working Group, which organized Mongolia's first National Quality Forum as part of efforts to develop a National Quality Plan. Our project team will continue to work with the group and organizations such as the Mongolian National Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Mongolian Employers' Federation.

“The core aim of the project is to leave Mongolia with a modern and independent quality infrastructure, which should enhance buyer confidence in Mongolian-made products.”

Henk de Pauw – BSI Team Leader, Support to the Modernisation of Mongolia's Standardisation System

The second component supports legal reform. The current law on standardization and conformity assessment was adopted in 2003, but a revised version has been drafted with the help of the project. It reflects WTO requirements on standardization and technical regulation, as well as ILAC requirements on accreditation and conformity assessment.

With a new consumer protection law also awaiting the vote in the Great State Hural, focus has now shifted to introducing the provisions of the EU General Product Safety Directive in Mongolia.

ISO 9001 certification

The project's third component seeks to significantly improve Mongolia's standards infrastructure. “We helped MASM to achieve ISO 9001 certification, which is a considerable step forwards, although there's still work to be done before MASM becomes a WTO-compliant national standards body,” says BSI Lead Project Manager, Rakhita Nikahetiya.

Independent accreditation body

The fourth component is dedicated to creating a fully independent accreditation body in Mongolia (the current one is governmental). We've already delivered staff training to this end.

Market surveillance (i.e. ensuring that marketed products comply with relevant law) is the project's final focus area. Work began with food-sector training delivered by EU experts on veterinary drugs and surveillance techniques. For non-food products, European experts travelled to Mongolian border control posts and regional inspection centres, as well as the central office, to complete a detailed gap analysis on market surveillance. The project will continue until mid 2017.

Did you know?

Mongolia is the world's second-largest landlocked country. About a quarter of its population is nomadic or semi-nomadic.

Did you know?

Some 3m people live in Mongolia, which borders China (south) and Russia (north). Its capital is Ulaanbaatar, where about 40 per cent of Mongolians lives.

Contact us

For more information on international projects, please contact:

E: projects@bsigroup.com

T: +44 20 8996 7080

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