

COMPLIANCE WITH STANDARDS : A GATEWAY TO GLOBAL COMPETITIVENESS AND QUALITY ASSURANCE IN CONSTRUCTION.

2025 CIFOZ Annual Congress

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Construction Industry
Federation of Zimbabwe





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SAZ's Role – Enabling a Standards-Led Construction Revolution

 SAZ is:

- The national standards body (member of ISO, IEC, ARSO, SADCSTAN, COMESA).
- Developer and publisher of Zimbabwe Standards (ZWS).
- Provider of training, and conformity assessment support (Certification and Testing).



Congratulations to Zimbabwe – ARSO Elections

- At the closely contested Africa Organisation for Standardisation (ARSO) Elections held in Zanzibar, Tanzania in June 2025, Zimbabwe was a candidate in both the ARSO Council or Board, which is the apex body of ARSO and the Standards Management Committee (SMC).
- Zimbabwe candidates, Mr Cosmus Mukoyi, the Director General of SAZ for ARSO Council and Madam Romana Marunda, the Director for Standards Development of SAZ for SMC both won the elections resoundingly. Congratulations to Zimbabwe.



International - ISO

- Special recognition at the 2025 ISO Annual Meeting.
- SAZ Director General elected and will be a member of a special committee at ISO.



SAZ GOST-R MOU



SAZ Involvement in National Infrastructure Projects

SAZ's involvement in national infrastructure projects that demanded rigorous products / material testing and quality assurance, such as:

- Construction of the New Parliament Building in Mt. Hampden (in preparation for the 44th SADC Summit).



SAZ Involvement in National Infrastructure Projects

- **Trabablas Interchange.** SAZ tested some of the materials especially steel products used during the construction of the new multi-level flyover eases traffic flow along Simon Mazorodze Road and other connecting routes, including Chitungwiza and High Glen roads.



Why Standards Matter Now More Than Ever

- Zimbabwe's Vision: Towards a Prosperous & Empowered Upper Middle Income Society by 2030.
- Construction sector as a key driver of infrastructure, jobs, and GDP growth.
- Rising reliance on imports → Need for quality control, compatibility, sustainability and safety.
- Standards = Foundation for innovation, efficiency, sustainability, and global trust.

“You cannot leapfrog with chaos. You leapfrog with order — and standards provide that order.”

Zimbabwe's Construction Landscape – Opportunities & Challenges

✓ Opportunities:

- Massive infrastructure deficit → Room for growth.
- Regional integration (SADC, AfCFTA).
- Digital transformation potential.



Zimbabwe's Construction Landscape – Opportunities & Challenges



Challenges:

- Fragmented compliance culture.
- Reliance on imported materials without adequate conformity assessment.
- Skills gaps in modern construction techniques. We have always been crying about skills flight yet we are faced with accelerated road development and other infrastructure development programme. Who remembers Operation Garikai/Hlalani kuhle. How were the standards of construction then. Have we developed a different quality with latest accelerated development programmes.
- Inconsistent enforcement of building standards.

We import goods — but must export confidence.

What Are Standards? Clarifying the Misconceptions

- ◆ Voluntary or regulatory technical specifications.
- ◆ Cover materials, processes, safety, environment, governance, social, AI, digital systems.
- ◆ Developed through consensus (industry, government, consumers).



Examples:

- ISO 9001 (Quality Management)
- ISO 14001 (Environmental Management)
- SANS 10400 (South African Building Regulations – often referenced locally)
- Water and Material Standards),
- BS 8110 Series which specifies the use of concrete in building construction.

Standards are not red tape — they are the rails on which innovation runs smoothly.

Leapfrogging Through Standards – Zimbabwe's Strategic Advantage

💡 Leapfrogging ≠ Skipping steps. It means adopting best practices from day one.

📌 How Standards Enable Leapfrogging:

- Adopt globally recognized standards (ISO, IEC) → Skip trial-and-error phases.
- Harmonize with SADC, COMESA, Africa → Easier regional and continental trade.
- Use standards to vet imported technologies → Avoid substandard/dangerous imports.
- Embed digital Building Information Modelling (BIM), green building, smart materials via compliant frameworks.

Global Competitiveness – Why Compliance Opens Doors



Without standards:

- Rejected exports.
- Costly rework.
- Loss of investor confidence.
- Safety disasters (e.g., building collapses).



With standards:

- Access to global supply chains.
- Eligibility for international tenders (World Bank, AfDB, UN).
- Attract FDI with proof of quality infrastructure.
- Build brand “Made in Zimbabwe” with trust.

Compliance isn't optional — it's your passport to global markets.

Quality Assurance – The Silent Guardian of the Built Environment



Standards ensure:

- Structural integrity of buildings.
- Fire safety, electrical safety, plumbing reliability.
- Worker safety on sites (ISO 45001).
- Environmental protection (waste, emissions, energy use).



Non-compliance risks:

- Loss of life and property.
- Legal liability.
- Reputation damage.
- Increased insurance and financing costs.

A collapsed building doesn't just break bricks — it breaks trust in an entire industry.

Sustainability & Innovation – Where Standards Meet the Future

 Standards drive sustainable construction:

- Green building ratings.
- Energy-efficient materials and designs (ISO 52000 series).
- Circular economy principles (reuse, recycle, reduce waste).

 Innovation thrives within standards:

- Modular/prefab construction (needs dimensional & safety standards).
- Smart buildings (IoT sensors, data protocols – ISO/IEC 30141).
- Drones, AI in site monitoring (need calibration & safety norms).

Innovation without standards is experimentation. Innovation with standards is scalable progress.

SAZ's Role – Enabling a Standards-Led Construction Revolution

Our Commitment to CIFOZ & Industry:

1. Fast-track adoption of international standards relevant to construction.
2. Co-develop localized standards with industry input.
3. Capacity building for contractors, engineers, inspectors.
4. Digital standards portal for easy access.
5. Advocate for mandatory compliance in public projects.

We don't set barriers — we set benchmarks.

Case Study – Standards in Action: Harare Affordable Housing Project

 Project: 10,000-unit housing scheme (Govt + Private Sector)

 Applied:

- ZMS for cement, steel, roofing.
- ISO 9001-certified contractors.
- Energy efficiency standards for appliances and insulation.
- Third-party inspection aligned to SANS 10400.

 Results:

- 30% reduction in material wastage.
- Zero structural defects reported after 2 years.
- Faster approvals due to pre-certified components.
- Model being replicated in Bulawayo, Mutare.

Proof: Standards deliver ROI — not just compliance.

Roadmap to middle income economy – Integrating Standards into National Development



Short Term (2025–2026):

- Review & update 50+ outdated construction-related ZS.
- Train 1,000 industry professionals on compliance.



Medium Term (2027–2028):

- Mandatory SAZ certification for all public infrastructure tenders.
- Digital platform for real-time standards access & reporting.



Long Term (2029–2030):

- 80%+ compliance rate in registered construction firms.
- Zimbabwe recognized as regional hub for certified, high-quality construction services.

Aligning with Vision 2030: Standards = Predictability = Investment = Growth.

Call to Action – Building Smarter Together

 To Government: → Enforce standards in procurement and licensing. → Fund SAZ capacity and inspectorate networks.

 To Industry (CIFOZ Members): → Demand certified materials and trained personnel. → Participate in standards development committees. **Self regulate. How many of your members have you called to reprimand on quality or standards deviations. Lets not react to public outcries.**

 To Academia : → Embed standards literacy in curricula. → Partner with SAZ on training programs.

 To All: → See standards not as cost, but as competitive advantage. → Champion a culture of “Quality by Design.”

Let's build not just structures — but systems. Not just houses — but legacies.

SAZ Salutes Certified Companies

Organisation	System
Bitumen World	ISO 9001, ISO 14001, ISO 45001
Masimba	ISO 9001, ISO 14001, ISO 45001
Fossil	ISO 9001, ISO 14001, ISO 45001
Exodus	ISO 9001, ISO 14001, ISO 45001
SHENXIN	ISO 9001, ISO 14001, ISO 45001
Khayah	ISO 14001, ISO 45001, product
St Gobain	ISO 9001, ISO 14001, ISO 45001
Dinson	ISO 9001 and product
PPC	ISO 9001, ISO 14001, ISO 45001, Product
SINO	ISO 9001, ISO 14001, ISO 45001, Product
Zimtile	ISO 9001 and product
Wildale	ISO 9001, ISO 14001, ISO 45001 and Product
Turnall	ISO 9001, ISO 14001 and Product

AREAS OF COLLABORATION



- Collaboration between CIFOZ & SAZ
- Collaboration for the good
- Identification of gaps in standards/Standardisation
- Standardization- Technical Expertise to bridge the gaps
- Discounts- Services + Events





