

## Introducing the National Quality Infrastructure Project for Nigeria (NQIP) Component 3



# building trust for trade

THE NATIONAL QUALITY INFRASTRUCTURE  
PROJECT FOR NIGERIA

The National Quality Infrastructure Project for Nigeria (NQIP) supports the development of missing standards and quality control bodies in Nigeria, with the overall objective of improving the competitiveness of Nigerian goods and services on the domestic, regional and global markets. Component 4 of 5 focuses on improving the capacity of the Organized Private Sector (OPS) to create and/or support Conformity Assessment Bodies (CABs).

### Strengthening the Organized Private Sector

The NQIP has been working on enhancing the capacity to create and/or support the establishment of Conformity Assessment Bodies. Overall, the NQIP concentrated its activities on the diffusion of the ISO9001, ISO14001 and ISO22000 among the OPS members. Initially, consultations were carried out with the OPSs (MAN, NACCIMA, NASME, NECA, NASSI, NNEW, WEAN, BPW, etc). This was followed by relevant training programmes, which equipped hundreds of national staff with the technical capacities needed to undertake quality assurance tasks. To-date, over 300 professionals are qualified to perform tasks under ISO 9001, ISO 14001 and ISO 22001. With the help of these professionals, 9 local companies are already able to perform certification for businesses.



### What is Conformity Assessment?

Conformity assessment involves a set of processes that show that a product, service, person or system meets the requirements of a standard. Ensuring an efficient and trustworthy conformity assessment process has a number of benefits: It builds confidence between consumers and other stakeholders, such as suppliers. It offers a basis for products or services selection – for the simple reason that products or services bearing a mark or certificate of conformity give more confidence to buyers. Furthermore, it provides a company with a competitive edge in the market.

Conformity assessment services also enhance export and integration in international trade. Harmonizing conformity assessment procedures has far-reaching benefits for international trade by eliminating the costly, multiple demands for testing or certifying products, and related barriers.

### Establishing New Certification Bodies

The NQIP conducted a pre-assessment of the demand for certification bodies (CB) and interest in becoming a CB in Nigeria. The interest and willingness expressed were overwhelming. However, the limited time-frame of the project meant that there was a need to proceed in a selective manner and identify areas of priority. In order to ensure sustainability and visibility, the NQIP applies the method of a parent company (e.g. NECA in the case of NGCL), where an organisation already existing hosts the new certification body. It provides trust, customers or members (data) base, infrastructure, resources, etc. In this respect, the NQIP has been assisting with the development of new certification bodies at IPAN-SOTLAN (ISO 17024), NGCL (ISO 17021) and SON (ISO 17065).

### NQIP in Brief

**Donor:** European Union  
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