



Forum: Metrology – Trade Facilitator Request for support



IVORY COAST

Core Problem:

Legal metrology in Ivory Coast is regulated by a law dating from 1962 and managed by the Ministry of Trade. This law allows the private sector to undertake initial and periodic verification of measuring instruments. The business sectors mainly concerned are weighing, fuel dispensers, storage tanks and transport tankers for hydrocarbons.

Industrial metrology to assist in various quality approaches (ISO 9000, ISO 14000) is not covered by these provisions. In 2001, in order to confront the requirements of international trade, the state therefore equipped LANEMA with reference standards in the fields of temperature, electricity, hygrometry, mass and pressure with the help of donors.

Two engineers were trained in 2002 and two others are being trained in 2004-5. The Ivory Coast is in the process of constructing a laboratory for which certain problems remain:

- The laboratory under construction is not yet operational due to a lack of laboratory benches and services;
- The legislation is not adapted to the requirements of today's international trade;
- The role of the state, of the private sector, of a reference laboratory and of the administrative structure is not clearly defined;
- There are not enough trained staff;
- There is not a system in place for the certification of private sector operators in the type approval process for instruments to be placed on the Ivorian market and for weights cast in domestic foundries;
- For certain quantities, such as dimensions and force, there are no service providers.

Significance of the problem:

The consequences of these problems are:

- The lack of a voice for commercial interests at the level of the state;
- Confusion between legal and industrial metrology;
- Loss of market share for commercial interests;
- Loss of income for the state;
- Difficulties for companies in the dimensional and force fields in their quality approach;
- There is no metrological control of climatic chambers;
- Other analytical and test laboratories have difficulties in assuring their internal metrology due to the lack of a reference laboratory to ensure the traceability of their standards;
- The need to send equipment to Europe, with the associated risks of damage and long periods of unavailability leads large companies to buy double sets of equipment;
- The lack of local expertise leads to financial losses due to the minimal knowledge of the management of metrology in industry;
- The lack of trainers within LANEMA to make industry aware of the management of metrology.

What is needed:

In order to counter these problems, LANEMA's needs are as follows:

Training (the most important issue)

It is important to obtain long (engineer) and short (technician) duration training in different quantities. We are looking for a partnership with schools, technical universities and metrology testing laboratories for the training of:

- National experts on the creation and establishment of a metrology system in industry;
- Consultants for measuring systems and service providers in the field of state approval;
- Type approval experts;
- Techniques for the gauging and calibration of storage tanks and transport tankers;

Traceability and maintenance of standards (very important)

The traceability of reference standards is a problem, due to the principle of "payment after provision of service" imposed by the state. We are looking for a partnership with a reference laboratory such as the PTB or LNE.

Technical assistance in accreditation

We need experts and financial assistance for accreditation in three fields (mass, temperature and pressure) before 2007.

Equipment

- Equipment for dimensional and force measurement (very important);
- Additional equipment for existing fields of measurement;
- IT equipment and software for the automation of calibration systems and for the management of metrological activities (very important);
- Software for the gauging and calibration of storage tanks and transport tankers (very important).

Technical assistance

To enable the setting up of a type approval laboratory, as well as a system for verification and the follow-up of the quality systems and competence of private sector laboratories

Documentation (very important)

The establishment of a specialised testing, metrology and quality library.

Contributions:

The Ivory Coast Government has allocated, in 2004, a budget of 180 million Francs CFA for the laboratory project. This needs to be topped up to better adapt the facilities to metrology and testing.

The state can cover cost for:

- Travel of national experts
- The cost of annual verification of standards on condition that a partnership is signed with a reference laboratory.

Whom to address:

During the Forum:

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After the Forum:

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