



**Forum: Metrology – Trade Facilitator  
Request for support**



**NIGER**

**Core Problem:**

- a) In order to have their quality systems certified, our companies are obliged to calibrate their measuring instruments in conformity with normative requirements. Accreditation laboratories also need to have their measuring instruments calibrated by accredited laboratories. However, in Niger there are no accredited calibration laboratories. The fact that this service is not available at the national level raises the costs for calibrations which can hardly be borne by our companies with the risk of hindering the development of industrial metrology and quality.
- b) In Niger, traditional volume measures called TIA are usually used instead of balances for marketing cereals and flours. However this TIA varies from one area to another, and even from one village to another. Moreover, the TIA used for sales is different from that used for purchases. In addition, bags are filled by the TIA, causing the same disparities. These bags will be exported to other countries in the region. In times of globalisation where we use the International System of Units, SI, it is necessary to introduce sale by weight.

**Significance of the problem:**

- a) During an audit within the framework of the UEMOA's quality project (8 countries) financed by the European Union, this difficulty acts as a bottleneck for the introduction and development of a quality system. Our industrial candidates for certification (ISO 9000) and accreditation (ISO 17025) will be confronted with this difficulty which could endanger their quality objectives. This would have a negative impact on the competitiveness of their products on competitive markets with increasing requirements at the national, regional and international level. For exporting companies, this can result in reductions or losses in market share.
- b) The existence of various TIA creates confusion for consumers and peasants, who are the potential victims of speculation by tradesmen, who benefit from the current system. The importer is confronted with additional controls, which increase the duration of his stay and the cost of merchandise. Our country adopted the SI as the national system, so all instruments and methods of measurement must be connected to the SI. Therefore the TIA should be linked to the SI to solve this problem.

**What is needed:**

- a) Construction of a calibration laboratory according to accepted standards, acquisition of certain equipment, preparation for accreditation.
- b) Financial support in the form of a project to carry out the following objectives:
  - Study on the harmonization of the TIA in order to link it to the SI.
  - Design of a national TIA standard.
  - Production and popularisation of working standards at moderate prices.

**Contributions:**

- a) Acquisition of ground for construction, acquisition of certain equipment through the German project on metrology in West Africa, personnel, legal and institutional framework.
- b) Personnel, logistic support.

**Whom to address:**

**During the Forum:**

Mr ISSOUFOU SALIFOU  
DNQM – Ministère du Commerce – Niger

**After the Forum:**

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