



**SEVENTY EIGHTH ORDINARY SESSION OF THE ECOWAS  
COUNCIL OF MINISTERS**

Monrovia, 1<sup>st</sup> – 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2017

**REGULATION C/REG.7/6 /17 ON THE PRINCIPLES FOR ACTION  
AND IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS OF THE ECOWAS  
QUALITY INFRASTRUCTURE**

**THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS,**

**MINDFUL** of Articles 10, 11 and 12 of the Revised ECOWAS Treaty establishing the Council of Ministers and defining its composition and functions,

**MINDFUL** of Article 26(3l) of the Revised ECOWAS Treaty on the adoption of common standards and appropriate quality systems by Member States;

**MINDFUL** of Supplementary Act A/SA.1/02/13 on adoption of the ECOWAS Quality Policy (ECOQUAL) and its implementation framework;

**MINDFUL** of Supplementary Act A/SA.2/07/10 on the adoption of the West African Common Industrial Policy (WACIP) and its plan of action;

**MINDFUL** of Regulation C/REG.19/12/13 on the Adoption of the Regional Quality infrastructure Scheme of ECOWAS;

**MINDFUL** of Regulation C/REG.14/12/12 on the adoption of the ECOWAS Standards Harmonization Procedures (ECOSHAM);

**CONSCIOUS** of the need to protect consumers in the ECOWAS region;

**CONVINCED** of the important role that social responsibility can play in protecting consumers and citizens of ECOWAS;

**CONSIDERING** that the establishment of quality infrastructure at Community level requires for its proper functioning, the respect of a certain number of behavioural principles;

**CONSCIOUS** that the community quality policy cannot be conducted by ignoring the role of the national bodies responsible for standardisation, accreditation and metrology;

**CONSIDERING** that the development of the common market is possible only through the contribution of the economic players in the development of standards, whereby effective enforcement is requested of them;

**DESIROUS** to clearly indicate to stakeholders, the rules of standardization.

**ON THE RECOMMENDATION** of the Meeting of Ministers in charge of Quality of the ECOWAS held in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, on the 21<sup>st</sup> April 2017.

## **ENACTS**


### **CHAPTER I: GENERAL PROVISIONS**

#### **ARTICLE 1: OBJECT**

In order to facilitate the implementation of quality Infrastructure, the present Regulation defines the rules of partnership between community structures, national bodies, the Member States and the ECOWAS Commission in the areas of Standardization, Metrology, Accreditation, Regulation Technique, Conformity Assessment and Promotion of Quality.

#### **ARTICLE 2: PRINCIPLES TO BE OBSERVED**

To ensure the efficient implementation of quality infrastructure at the ECOWAS level, the following principles and rules are to be respected:

- a) Organizations or structures shall work in a harmonious and coordinated manner;
- b) Prevent Conflict of responsibilities or missions;
- c) Provide other structures with information and data useful for the performance of their own tasks;
- d) Participate in all transversal activities in order to bring added value to the work;
- e) Adhere to all networks put in place by ECOWAS to facilitate the execution of missions at the community level;
- f) Avoid participation in work at the international level without prior information of the ECOWAS Commission and without reporting to the Department responsible for quality;
- g) Contribute to any capacity building program developed and implemented at the community level or at the State level;
- h) Follow the work procedures of other structures and organizations;
- i) Ensure the taking into account by the States, of the regional plan for the promotion of quality in the programmes of development;
- j) Ensure that the organizations, regional structures, and national regional structures, work closely with other sub-regional structures in charge of issues relating to standardization, certification, accreditation, metrology, technical regulation, conformity evaluation and promotion of quality;
- k) Encourage Member States to put in place, policy awareness and training in social responsibility for companies; 

- l) Encourage Member States to incorporate quality infrastructure issues into the national development plan;
- m) Encourage Member States and organizations in charge of infrastructure quality activities to take account of gender and in general the objectives of sustainable development.

**ARTICLE 3: TAKING ACCOUNT OF INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS**

The Community Council of Quality shall ensure that all structures operating in the ECOWAS region run their missions in accordance with international guidelines and standards.

**CHAPTER II: WORK PROGRAMS**

The criteria listed below are binding only on regional or national regional bodies mandated by the ECOWAS Commission.

**ARTICLE 4: TRANSPARENCY AND PARTICIPATION OF THE STAKEHOLDERS**

- 1. Regional or national structures shall define their work programs at least once a year. These work programs shall be submitted for review to the Community Council of Quality.
- 2. Other national structures are encouraged to communicate their annual work programs to the Community Council of Quality.
- 3. The Community Council of Quality makes recommendations with the aim of the harmonization of work and the optimal use of available resources.

**ARTICLE 5: CRITERIA OF VALIDITY OF WORK PROGRAMS**

To be taken into account, the work programs referred to in article 4 above shall contain the following for each indicated area of activity:

- (a) The purpose of the program;
- (b) Where appropriate, the stage reached by work in progress;
- (c) If applicable, foreign references used in the work.

**ARTICLE 6: PUBLICATION OF WORK PROGRAMS**

The Community Council of Quality shall establish an appropriate system to ensure the publication and dissemination of activity programs related to the promotion of quality in the ECOWAS region as well as the results achieved, particularly those of regional and national regional structures. *l/k*

- 1. Pursuant to the provisions of Supplementary Act A/SA.1/02/13 adopting of the ECOWAS Quality Policy, the Commission signed Memoranda of Understanding to manage the various components of the quality Infrastructure.
- 2. In order to improve the implementation of operational activities, the setting up of a Regional Quality Body by the Quality Infrastructure Actors is authorized by this Regulation.
- 3. The ECOWAS Commission shall contribute to the establishment of the said Body, which shall be fully responsible for the management of the technical and operational aspects of the ECOWAS Quality Policy.

**ARTICLE 7: PROHIBITION OF CONTRARY POLICY**

No State and no national organization can have policies that run contrary to those defined at the community level by ECOWAS and its authorized agencies.

**ARTICLE 8: RESPONSE OF COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS**

National organizations shall not oppose that a subject of their program of work be treated at Community level in accordance with the rules established by community organizations and undertake no action which could jeopardize the implementation of a decision in this regard.

**ARTICLE 9: COOPERATION BETWEEN SPECIALIZED STRUCTURES**

The Community Council of Quality as well as its components, and the various community structures created by the Regulation C.REG.19/12/13 on adoption of the ECOWAS Quality Regional Infrastructure Scheme shall work with all structures of execution created or mandated by the Commission.

**ARTICLE 10: MEMORANDA OF UNDERSTANDING**

1. Pursuant to the provisions of Supplementary Act A/SA.1/02/13 adopting of the ECOWAS Quality Policy, the Commission signed Memoranda of Understanding to manage the various components of the quality Infrastructure.
2. In order to improve the implementation of operational activities, the setting up of a Regional Quality Body by the Quality Infrastructure Actors is authorized by this Regulation.
3. The ECOWAS Commission shall contribute to the establishment of the said Body, which shall be fully responsible for the management of the technical and operational aspects of the ECOWAS Quality Policy.

**ARTICLE 11: DUTIES OF THE MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY COUNCIL OF QUALITY**

The cooperation between all stakeholders of the quality Infrastructure of ECOWAS shall allow for the achievement of the objectives set by the Commission. To this end each member of the Community Council shall:

- a) Exchange professional and technical information and accept the transfer of know-how and expertise between members except in cases of obligation of secrecy and confidentiality to respect;
- b) Agree to cooperate in order to ensure an effective implementation of the ECOWAS Quality Policy;
- c) Accept, where applicable, to make available to other members, a framework for the completion of specific projects;
- d) Contribute to identify technical problems which may be the object of joint projects;
- e) Contribute to the coordination and harmonization of the training activities at the regional level;
- f) Provide information on the regional resources and services of the regional Infrastructure of quality;
- g) Establish and use communication channels of written and/or electronic information on the services of the regional quality Infrastructure;
- h) Contribute to the interaction between partners to facilitate regional cooperation;
- i) contribute to the success of the capacity strengthening policies at the regional level ;
- j) Ensure the optimal use of resources and services to better meet regional needs;
- k) Contribute to the Organization of the meetings of the Community Council of quality; and;
- l) Participate as far as possible in the activities carried out in the context of the implementation of the quality Infrastructure, including regional conferences, workshops, seminars and exhibitions on topics relevant to the quality policy of ECOWAS.


#### **ARTICLE 12: USE OF RESEARCH CENTRES**

1. Pursuant to Article 7 of the ECOWAS Quality Policy, research institutions will be considered as indispensable partners in deployment and quality infrastructure management activities.
2. Memoranda of Understanding shall be signed with research institutions.

#### **ARTICLE 13: ANNUAL REPORTS**

National organizations with regional focus, signatories of memoranda of understanding give to the Community Council of Quality the annual reports on the activities they have done. The reports are written according to the instructions provided by the Community Council for Quality.

#### **ARTICLE 14: FUNDING**

An enabling rule shall set forth modalities for funding the Community Council for Quality, the Community Committees and the Regional Accreditation System. 

### Chapter III: MISCELLANEOUS AND FINAL PROVISIONS

#### **ARTICLE 15: NOTIFICATION OF THE NATIONAL AGENCIES**

Member States shall list all organizations that operate in all areas related to quality and periodically communicate the list to the ECOWAS Commission at the request of the regional body for quality.

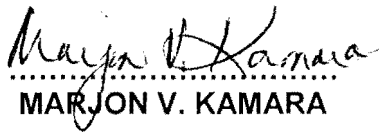
#### **ARTICLE 16: REPEAL/REVIEW**

1. The present text repeals and replaces all earlier contrary provisions.
2. If a Member State wishes to revise this regulation, it shall notify the President of the Commission with reasoned request.

#### **ARTICLE 17: ENTRY INTO FORCE AND PUBLICATION**

This Regulation shall enter into force after its signature by the Chairman of the Council of Ministers and shall be published by the Commission in the Official Journal of the Community within thirty (30) days. It shall also be published by each Member State in its Official Journal thirty (30) days after notification by the Commission.

DONE IN MONROVIA, THIS 2<sup>ND</sup> DAY OF JUNE 2017

  
.....  
MARJON V. KAMARA

THE CHAIRPERSON,  
FOR THE COUNCIL

SIGNED ON THIS 5<sup>th</sup> DAY OF June ..... 2017 AT MONROVIA