

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING ON
TECHNICAL COOPERATION
BETWEEN
THE STANDARDIZATION ORGANIZATION FOR THE COOPERATION
COUNCIL FOR THE ARAB STATES OF THE GULF (GSO)
AND
AZERBAIJAN STANDARDIZATION INSTITUTE (AZSTAND)**

Preamble:

The purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding is to establish cooperation and constructive working relations between the Standardization Organization for the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf (GSO), representing GSO Members, and Azerbaijan Standardization Institute (AZSTAND) (herein after referred to as "the Sides") in order to enhance communication and coordination with a view to boost standardization activities through harmonization of standards, technical regulations and conformity assessment procedures as applied by the Sides in accordance with the international practices as outlined in the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) Agreement of the World Trade Organization (WTO).

Mission of the GCC Standardization Organization:

The mission of GSO is to help the States of the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf (GCC) achieve the objectives set forth in its Charter and in the GCC Economic Agreement by unifying the various standardization activities and following up application and compliance with the same in cooperation and coordination with the standardization bodies in the Member States in an endeavor to develop the production and service sector, foster the intra-GCC trade, protect the consumer, environment and the public health, and encourage the GCC industries and agricultural production that would enhance the GCC economy, maintain the achievements of the Members States and minimize the technical trade barriers as envisaged by the objectives of the GCC Common Market.

Azerbaijan Standardization Institute (AZSTAND)

AZSTAND is a national standardization body of the Republic of Azerbaijan responsible for ensuring the development and application of standards, as well as related services associated with standardization activities and representation in the international organizations in this field.



The main tasks of AZSTAND in the field of standardization are:

- Publication of state standards, specifications, international (regional) and interstate standards, national standards of foreign countries;
- Management and improvement of state fund of normative acts on technical regulation and standardization;
- Dissemination of national and international standards
- Taking measures on protection of consumer market from low-quality, dangerous and counterfeited goods;
- Cooperation with regional and international organizations and standardization bodies of foreign countries.
- AZSTAND is a member body of ISO, Companion Standardization Body (CSB) of CEN, and participates in the Affiliate Country Program of IEC.

With the mutual intention of establishing cooperation, consultation, sharing of expertise and training in the fields of Standardization, Conformity Assessment, Testing and Quality, the Sides have agreed to accomplish the following:

Article 1

Objectives

The Sides seek to accomplish the following goals:

- i- To promote communication between the Sides.
- ii- To promote cooperation and exchange of information about standardization and related activities between the Sides.
- iii- To coordinate stances in regional and international arenas in relation to issues of common interests in the field of standardization and its related activities.
- iv- To promote mutual understanding of the roles, functions and specialization of each Side.
- v- To avoid duplication of work efforts where possible.
- vi- To promote awareness in the field of standardization and related activities.
- vii- Exchange of notifications relating to all new proposed regulations at early stage.
- viii- Facilitate and increase the level of trade exchange between the Sides.

Article 2

Scope of Cooperation

1 - Standardization

- i- The Sides undertake to harmonize, as far as possible, in line with International Standards, the standards of the products and services being traded between the GCC Member States and the Republic of Azerbaijan, with a view to boost their mutual trade.
- ii- Exchanging catalogue of the standards and technical regulations that are published by each Side.
- iii- Exchanging information about the annual programs and plans of standard specifications and technical regulations to be prepared by the standards technical committees of the Sides.
- iv- Exchanging information about the activities of developing standards specifications and technical regulations by each Side.
- v- Considering the standard specifications issued by the Sides as a main reference when preparing standards by the Sides in case similar international or regional standards are not available.
- vi- The Parties in case of necessity will implement national standards of the Republic of Azerbaijan on territory GCC Member States and GSO standards on the territory of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

Article 3

Scope of Cooperation

2- Conformity Assessment (Conformity Certificates and Quality)

- i- Exchanging information by the Sides about the issues that relate to conformity assessment and quality.
- ii- Exchanging laws, regulations and legislation approved or to be approved by each Side in the fields of conformity assessment and quality.
- iii- Working to eliminate the technical barriers that impede enhancement of the trade exchange between the Sides resulting from potential differences in the conformity assessment procedures.

- iv- Both Sides seek to accomplish mutual recognition of their applicable conformity certificates issued by the Sides in accordance with the guides and documents of the specialized international organizations.
- v- Exchange of information about dangerous products or those recalled from the markets of the Sides.

Article 4

Scope of Cooperation

3- Capacity Building and Exchange of Information

The Sides undertake to cooperate in the following fields:

- i- Organizing seminars, workshops, field visits, exchange of experiences, and training courses in the fields of standardization, conformity assessment, and quality.
- ii- Exchange of information about information technology programs and solutions, training programs and awareness campaigns in the field of standardization and related activities including bulletins, periodicals, studies and statistics.
- iii- Exchange of files of national standards specifications or those pertaining to each national standards bodies for the purposes of study and use as guidelines by the staff of the national standards body free of charge but with observation of intellectual property rights.

Article 5

Scope of Cooperation

4- Exchange of Experts

The Sides agree to exchange experts with a view to enhance the objective of the MOU to boost the activities relating to standards, conformity assessment and quality.

Article 6

Expenses

The expenses incurred in connection with the cooperative activities under this MOU will be covered in accordance with the terms mutually agreed upon by the Sides and subject to budgetary availability of the two Sides.

Article 7

General Provisions

- i- This MOU will come into effect from the date of signature and will remain in effect for five years, and is automatically renewable for a similar period or periods unless one of the Sides' requests in writing its termination giving six months' notice.
- ii- Any issues arising from the interpretation or implementation of this MOU will be settled through consultations between the Sides or such other means as they may mutually decide.
- iii- The Sides agree to regularly review this Memorandum of Understanding in order to ensure that it meets its goals, and that MOU may be amended and supplemented by mutual agreement for furthering the cooperation.
- iv- No amendments to this MOU are allowed by the Sides without the prior written agreement of the other Side.
- v- Each Side will designate liaison officer who will be responsible for communication continuation on this MOU.

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 FOR GCC STANDARDIZATION
ORGANIZATION
(GSO)



Mr. Nabil Molla
Secretary-General

FOR AZERBAIJAN
STANDARDIZATION INSTITUTE
(AZSTAND)



Mr. Namig Tagiyev
Acting Director General