

Managing Quality in Nepal

A directory of services for SMEs



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MANAGING QUALITY IN NEPAL

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Companion guide and supplement to the publication, *Export Quality Management: A Guide for Small and Medium-sized Exporters*, country adaptation for Nepal. This publication provides an overview of the country's national quality infrastructure that includes food safety and animal and plant health; it also provides contacts of quality-related service providers in Nepal.

Descriptors: **Nepal, Quality Control, Quality Management, Quality Standards, Technical Regulations, Conformity Assessment, SPS, TBT, Directories, SMEs.**

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Foreword FNCCI

The Federation of Nepalese Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FNCCI) is an apex organization of the private sector in Nepal, which has been advocating for economic growth through private sector development. With the mission of facilitating Nepalese business becoming globally competitive, FNCCI has been working in enhancing and strengthening Nepalese small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) as well as promoting Nepal's international trade and industry.

In today's globalized world, the wall of tariff barriers has been lowered to pave a way for free movement of goods across the borders. But various non-tariff barriers, in the name of quality and standards, are creating hurdles for free trade. It is imperative for exporters and importers to get acquainted with various sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) and technical barriers to trade (TBT) related measures being implemented in the international market as well as domestic market to make their product competitive.

In this connection, FNCCI joined hands with the International Trade Centre (ITC) and Physikalisch-Technische Bundesanstalt (PTB) in bringing out the National Addendum to its flagship publication *Export Quality Management*, which aims to apprise the private sector about the quality infrastructure and its management in Nepal. We believe that this publication would be very useful to exporters and importers to know more about quality and standards procedures, SPS and TBT measures, existing Nepalese policy, rules and regulations on quality and standards, and various institutions involved in this sector.

I sincerely thank ITC and PTB for their support. I also thank all individuals who have been directly and indirectly involved in developing this publication.



Pashupati Murarka
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Foreword by ITC and PTB

Today's competitive global trade environment demands that small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) invest in productivity and quality. Having goods and services that can compete in international markets requires attention to standards and meeting the technical requirements behind these standards. For many SMEs, however, this can be a challenge – especially in view of the growing number of these standards, both public and private.

Governments impose a range of legitimate technical requirements to protect the health and safety of their citizens as well as to safeguard plant and animal life and the environment. Industry associations, multinationals and retailers also develop a range of 'voluntary' private standards to meet the increasingly discerning demands of consumers. ITC surveys of more than 22,000 businesses in over 60 countries, recently launched also in Nepal, confirm that exporters and importers face many challenges related to non-tariff measures. Quality-related technical regulations, sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) measures and related conformity assessment procedures are among the most significant trade obstacles, especially for smaller businesses, which struggle with the cost of compliance and the lack of transparency of both regulations and related procedures.

To ensure that enterprises can remain competitive and participate in value chains, they need up-to-date information about the applicable technical requirements in their target markets. These SMEs must adapt their products and processes to satisfy market requirements and demonstrate compliance with these regulations. They must check whether recognized conformity assessment services are available in their country, or whether they must turn to recognized but more costly foreign certification bodies. Gathering such information is costly and burdensome for small businesses, but necessary if they are to internationalize into regional and global markets.

Given this context, the International Trade Centre (ITC) and Physikalisch-Technische Bundesanstalt (PTB – the National Metrology Institute of Germany) are joining forces with partners in developing countries to help SMEs gain wider access to relevant quality management information. ITC and PTB are working with national partners to develop a series of customized national versions to accompany the ITC/PTB guide *Export Quality Management: A Guide for Small and Medium-sized Exporters*.

National versions are tailored to the needs of each economy. They explain the quality infrastructure and SPS system in the economy; outline local services related to standards, metrology, accreditation and conformity assessment; and point to further information sources on standards, technical regulations and SPS measures in target markets. The national publications also serve as directories, with contacts for quality-related institutions. These targeted documents are published in English and, wherever possible, in the national language of the economy. They are accompanied by a series of training programmes for SMEs to raise awareness and knowledge of how to improve

market access through compliance with standards, technical regulations and SPS measures.

We are confident that this guide will be a useful resource and practical tool for SMEs in Nepal in their efforts to improve competitiveness and increase their participation in international trade.



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This guide, originally launched in 2001, has been customized and distributed to national partners in 15 countries, showing the need to provide relevant information to SMEs wishing to expand their businesses through trade.

ITC updated and published a new edition of this guide with PTB. The methodology to customize and distribute local versions has been upgraded too. This is the first local adaptation of the revised guide. It was done with the support of numerous Nepalese stakeholders, who provided content, advice and peer review. We would specifically like to acknowledge the Nepal Bureau of Standards and Metrology of the Ministry of Industry, and the Department of Food Technology and Quality Control under the Ministry of Agricultural Development of the Government of Nepal.

This publication has been prepared by a group of experts led by Dr. Deva Bhakta Shakya, Senior Food Technologists and former Executive Director of Agro Enterprise Centre of FNCCI. It has been conceptualized by Ludovica Ghizzoni and Khemraj Ramful, International Trade Centre, and reviewed by Daniel Böhme, Physikalisch-Technische Bundesanstalt. Special thanks go to the experts and peer reviewers.

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Contents

Foreword FNCCI	iii
Foreword by ITC and PTB	iv
Acknowledgements	vi
Acronyms	ix
Chapter I An overview of export quality management in Nepal	1
Chapter II Quality infrastructure in Nepal	3
Quality policy	3
Standardization	4
Testing services	12
Certification	17
Inspection services	27
Metrology	27
Accreditation	29
SPS policy or strategy	31
Food safety	33
Animal health	36
Plant health	39
Sector associations	45
Trade promotion organizations	46
Training, consulting, advisory services	47
Standards, technical regulations, SPS measures	49
Annex I Relevant organizations in Nepal	51
Annex II Major national programmes on quality and SPS compliance	59
Annex III Technical assistance from development partners	61
NOTES	63

Tables

Table 1: Classified List of Nepal Standards (as of December 2015)	6
Table 2: ISO Management System Standards adopted by Nepal Council of Standards	7
Table 3: List of Food Product Standards notified by Government of Nepal	10
Table 4: List of Accredited Test Laboratories in Nepal	13
Table 5: Non-accredited Testing Laboratories in Nepal	16
Table 6: Number of Industries with NS marks for Food and Non-food Products	19
Table 7: Scopes of Accreditation for Products Certification by NBSM	20
Table 8: Private subsidiaries/agencies linking international Certifying Bodies in Nepal	23
Table 9: International Organic Certifying Bodies Operating in Nepal	24
Table 10: Domestic Organic Certifying Agents Operating in Nepal	25
Table 11: Collective Marks Registered Products of Nepal	26
Table 12: Calibration Services provided by the Metrology Laboratories of NBSM	28
Table 13: National Standards for Phytosanitary Measures adopted in Nepal by December 2015	40
Table 14: License/Permit requirements from Regulatory Agencies for export of Agricultural Products	44
Table 15: Indicative List of Organizations	47

Figures

Figure 1: Process of Food Standardization	9
Figure 2: Nepal Standards Mark Logo	18
Figure 3: Examples of logos of collective trademarks used in Nepal	26
Figure 4: Functional Structure of SPS National Enquiry Point	50

Acronyms

Unless otherwise specified, all references to dollars (\$) are to United States dollars. The term 'product' ('products') is used to mean both goods and services wherever appropriate and particularly in the chapters on product certification, quality management and ISO 9000.

ADS	Agriculture Development Strategy
APLAC	Asia-Pacific Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation
APMP	Asia Pacific Metrology Program
CAC	Codex Alimentarius Commission
CB	Certification Body
DFTQC	Department of Food Technology and Quality Control
DG	Director General
DoA	Department of Agriculture
DOI	Department of Industry
DAH	Directorate of Animal Health
DoLS	Department of Livestock Services
DPR	Department of Plant Resources
EMS	Environmental Management System
EC	Council of European Union
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of United Nations
FLO	Fair Trade Labelling Organization
FNCCI	Federation of Nepalese Chambers of Commerce and Industry
FSMS	Food Safety Management System
FSQ	Food Safety and Quality
GIZ	German Agency for International Cooperation
GoN	Government of Nepal
GMP	Good Manufacturing Practices
HACCP	Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point
HOTPA	Himalayan Orthodox Tea Producer Associations
IAF	International Accreditation Forum
ICS	International Classification of Standards
IEC	International Electro-technical Commission
IFOAM	International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements (Organics International)
ILAC	International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation
IP	Import Permit

IPPC	International Plant Protection Convention
ISO	International Organization for Standardization
ISPM	International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures
ITC	International Trade Centre
JAS	Japanese Agriculture Standards
JICA	Japan International Cooperation Agency
LGFMAN	Leather Goods and Footwear Manufacturers' Association of Nepal
MOAD	Ministry of Agriculture Development
MOC	Ministry of Commerce
MOLD	Ministry of Livestock Services
MRA	Mutual Recognition Agreement
NABCB	National Accreditation Board for Certification Bodies of India
NAFP	National Accreditation Focal Point, Nepal
NABL	National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories, India
NAHC	National Animal Health Centre, Nepal
NAQO	National Animal Quarantine Organization, Nepal
NAP	National Agriculture Policy
NCC	National Codex Committee, Nepal
NCPA	Nepal Coffee Producers Association
NCS	Nepal Council for Standards
NEPLAS	Nepal Laboratory Accreditation Scheme
NOP	National Organic Program
NORAD	Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation
NPIA	Nepal Pashmina Industries Association
NPL	National Physical Laboratory, India
NPQP	National Plant Quarantine Program
NPQO	National Plant Quarantine Organization
NQCPN	Network for Quality, Productivity and Competiveness, Nepal
NS	Nepal Standards
NSBM	Nepal Bureau of Standards and Metrology
NSPM	National Standards for Phytosanitary Measures
OHS	Occupational Health and Safety
OIE	World Organization for Animal Health
OIML	International Organization for Legal Metrology
PQO	Plant Quarantine Officer
PPD	Plant Protection Directorate

PTB	Physikalisch-Technische Bundesanstalt (Germany's national metrology institute)
QMS	Quality Management System
QSTM	Quality, Standards, Testing and Metrology
R&D	Research and Development
SAARC	South Asian Agreement on Regional Cooperation
SMTQ	Nepal Standard, Metrology, Testing and Quality Forum of Nepal
SMEs	Small and Medium-sized Exporters
SARSO	South Asian Regional Standards Organization
SPS	Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures
SQCC	Seed Quality Control Centre
TBT	Technical Barriers to Trade
UNIDO	United Nation's Industrial Development Organization
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
USDA	United States Department of Agriculture
WB	The World Bank
WTO	World Trade Organization

Chapter I

An overview of export quality management in Nepal

In Nepal, small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) are involved in exporting Nepalese products like handicrafts, handmade paper, felt and woollen goods, carpets, hand woven textiles, pashmina shawls, wood and leather goods, silver jewellery, forest and fibre based industrial products, agro-based produce such as tea, coffee, vegetables, black cardamom and horticulture produces.

Nepalese SMEs are currently facing challenges to compete with imported products in the domestic market as well as in the international markets due to globalization and economic liberalization. Key challenges they need to overcome while accessing international markets are non-tariff barriers to trade, particularly linked with sanitary and phytosanitary measures and other quality standards and technical regulations. The existence of an efficient, effective and internationally recognized quality infrastructure will facilitate Nepalese exports to compete in international markets and help in improving the export performance of the key products/services as envisaged in the Nepal Trade Integration Strategy, 2010 (NTIS) and Trade Policy, 2015, introduced by the Government of Nepal (GoN).

Continuous efforts have been made over the past two decades to enhance quality management in Nepal with the support from international development partners like FAO, JICA, GIZ, NORAD, EC, UNIDO, WB, etc. A sufficient quality management infrastructure is still to be developed both at the public and private sector levels, including standard-setting systems, conformity assessment including testing capability and international recognition of Nepalese conformity assessment services.

Currently, there is no separate national policy on quality in Nepal, which will clearly define the roles and responsibilities of all organizations constituting the national quality infrastructure. However, the Nepal Bureau of Standards and Metrology (NBSM), as one of the Departments of the Ministry of Industry, has been given responsibilities to provide the relevant quality-related services in line with current requirements of the consumers and the suppliers.

The NBSM develops voluntary standards and issues Nepal Standards (NS) quality marks for all products except drugs. It is also entrusted with enforcement authority for technical regulations in the areas other than foods and drugs. NBSM is also mandated to carry out legal metrology related activities to protect the consumers' rights as well as their health and safety. The Bureau also provides calibration services to private and public companies, ensuring that measuring equipment are giving reliable results. As a part of trade facilitation services, NBSM also provides conformity assessment services (inspection, testing, and product and system certification) necessary to provide acceptable evidence that products and services meet the defined requirements.

While NBSM is the National Standards Body, some other government departments are also mandated to set sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) related standards and enforce

specific technical regulations and provide trade facilitation services. Mainly there are four other government departments that are involved in implementing SPS measures:

- Department of Food Technology and Quality Control (DFTQC) - for food law enforcement, mandatory food standards development and food quality certification;
- National Plant Quarantine Program of Department of Agriculture (DoA) - for issuing permits for plant materials import, quarantine inspections and issuing phytosanitary certificates;
- National Animal Quarantine Office of the Department of Livestock Services (DoLS) - for issuing import permits, animal quarantines inspections and sanitary certificates for export of animal products;
- Seed Quality Control Centre (SQCC) under the Ministry of Agricultural Development (MoAD) - for seed variety registration, seed quality inspection and certification; and
- Department of Agriculture, Plant Protection Directorate (DoA/PPD) - for control of pesticides/ chemicals.

International practice of utilizing third party certification bodies to certify products or systems is now slowly being used by Nepalese manufacturers and exporters to give confidence to the importers and market surveillance authorities that relevant requirements are consistently met. However, the public and the private testing and certification bodies within Nepal are very limited and yet to develop their capacity to get accreditation for wide range of products and management system certifications. Until now, products and quality management system certification services are mostly provided by foreign certifying bodies operating from different parts of the world, like Australia, China, France, UAE (Dubai), Germany, India, Singapore, United Kingdom and United States of America.

Nepal has yet to establish its own National Accreditation Board to oversee certification and inspection bodies as well as accreditation of testing and calibration laboratories to demonstrate their competence, with respect to the cross frontier policy of International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC) and International Accreditation Forum (IAF).

As a directory of services for SMEs, this publication, as the National Addendum to the Export Management Guide for SMEs in Nepal on Export Quality Management, will provide readers with an overview about the national quality infrastructure in Nepal, including institutions in the area of TBT and SPS measures. Annexes in this publication list the contact details of relevant organizations in Nepal, major programmes and current technical assistance from development partners with focus on capacity building for SPS and TBT related measures.

Chapter II

Quality infrastructure in Nepal

Quality policy

At present, there is no explicit national quality policy in Nepal, but the quality policy linked with goods manufacturing and trade is guided by the Industrial Policy, 2010 and Trade Policy, 2015 introduced by the GoN. The National Agriculture Policy (NAP), 2004 and Agriculture Development Strategy (ADS), 2015 also provide some policy and strategic guidelines for agricultural products.

Besides developing voluntary standards and enforcement of technical regulations, the government, through the Industrial Policy, 2010, has entrusted NBSM to provide quality certification and monitor quality of the manufactured goods which are using Nepal Standards (NS) marks. The government has also entrusted NBSM with a priority to develop itself as the main national certification agency for export-oriented goods by strengthening and expanding its conformity assessment services and human resources. Furthermore, the GoN has adopted the policy of implementing provisions of the bilateral, regional and multilateral agreements in relation to quality and standards, giving due considerations to the national situation and needs. The NBSM is also encouraging industries to adopt Nepal Standards which are based mostly on international standards.

Similarly, the new **Trade Policy 2015** has prioritized and committed to:

- Introduce effective measures, as a part of import management, in quarantine inspections of goods which could affect health of human, plant, animal and the environment;
- Upgrade and strengthen the existing laboratories for conformity assessment, including for certification;
- Establish multifunctional laboratories/reference laboratories as needed;
- Step up the efforts to set standards of the goods as per prevailing national, regional and international standards for quality assurance;
- Promote fulfilment of private standards set by international level trade institutions;
- Provide assistance to manufacturers/exporters in labelling, packaging and certification of exportable goods as required by international demand;
- Harmonize procedures, standards, policy and legal framework required for quality certification with SAARC member nations and international trading partners; and
- Sign Mutual Recognition Agreements (MRAs) at bilateral and regional levels for the cross border and international recognition of compliance to standards.

The National Agriculture Policy, Agriculture Development Strategy and National Drug Policy, 1995, have also been giving emphasis on quality assessment, regulatory control in

the production, import, export, storage, sales and distribution of agricultural and pharmaceutical products including veterinary drugs.

Standardization

As per the **Nepal Standards (Certification Mark) Act, 1980**, the **Nepal Council for Standards (NCS)** is the governing body for Quality and Standards related activities in Nepal.

The functions of the NCS with regards to the standardization specified in the Act are to:

- Determine standards in relation to any goods, process or services, amend or cancel standards which have been prescribed;
- Recognize standards prescribed by any local or foreign institution;
- Grant recognition to any governmental or non-governmental laboratory for the purpose of determination of standards or tests, or suspend or cancel recognition which has once been granted;
- Prescribe the design and format of the certificates of legal standards, and of the certification mark; and
- Prescribe fees for certificate of standards and certification mark and for services.

For performing its functions, the NCS could form committees or sub-committees of its members or of other persons as per requirements. The NBSM works as the secretariat to the NCS and has the responsibility of developing and promoting use of Nepal Standards.

Other main duties and responsibilities laid for the NBSM are to:

- Issue licenses for the use of certification marks or certificates of standards after standards have been prescribed by the Council;
- Inspect or arrange for inspection in connection with promotion of the standards of any goods, process, or service, and provide technical advice and directives;
- Carry out necessary surveillance in the market;
- Provide certification, testing facilities, calibration and laboratory accreditation services;
- Appoint or designate inspectors;
- Conclude agreements prescribing necessary conditions before issuing licenses;
- Renew, suspend or cancel licenses; and
- Carry out information dissemination, training and international relations on standardization, metrology and quality control, certification and laboratory accreditation.

There is a separate standard formulation section within NBSM, which forms technical committees, sub-committees as required and prepares the draft standards. The standardization process passes through following stages:

- Proposal stage
- Preparatory stage
- Enquiry stage
- Approval stage
- Publication stage

Any stakeholders can put forward a proposal for standards formulation. For the preparation of any standards, a technical committee is formed under the convenorship of the Director General of NBSM. Members of each standard committee are from amongst regulators, academicians, private sectors, consumer forums, etc. After approval of each draft standards from the NSC, it is adopted as a Nepal Standards.

The NBSM is a member of the International Organization for Standardization (ISO). It became its correspondent member in 1991 and a full member in 2014. It also became an affiliated member of the International Electro-technical Commission (IEC) in 2001.

As of December 2015, the NCS had approved 880 Nepal Standards (including 15 standards related to management systems). These standards include process standards, product standards, guidelines and vocabularies. Besides technical committees, sub-committees and working groups are also formed as and when required while drafting standards. The following classified list, as per the International Classification System (ICS), provides a number of the Nepal Standards available (Table 1).

The current list includes a small number of standards for products of export interest like steel products, woollen carpets, lentils, spices, tea, coffee and others. Since the major trading partners of Nepal are India and EU countries, special emphasis has been given to adopt or harmonize Nepal Standards with the standards of these trading partners. And nine more standards are in the process of adoption which includes standards for bitumen, HDPE pipes, essential oil and glassware.

The NBSM started using NS/ISO numbering for standards adopted from ISO standards since 2003. At the end of December 2015, there were 81 such adopted standards as given in the below table.

Table 1: Classified List of Nepal Standards (as of December 2015)

ICS No.	Topical Area	Total Nepal Standards	Internationally harmonized Nepal Standards
1	Generalities. Terminology. Standardization. Documentation	35	6
3	Services. Company organization, management and quality. Administration	18	10
	Transport. Sociology	1	
7	Mathematics. Natural sciences	14	3
11	Health care technology	5	3
13	Environment. Health protection. Safety	65	8
17	Metrology and measurement. Physical phenomena	3	
19	Testing	125	20
21	Mechanical systems and components for general use	9	
23	Fluid systems and components for general use	20	3
25	Manufacturing engineering	2	
29	Electrical engineering	22	
39	Precision mechanics. Jewelry	1	1
53	Materials handling equipment	1	
55	Packaging and distribution of goods	24	
59	Textile and leather technology	17	
61	Clothing industry	8	
65	Agriculture	9	
67	Food technology	227	15
71	Chemical technology	106	12
73	Mining and Minerals	2	
75	Petroleum and related technologies	5	
77	Metallurgy	30	
79	Wood technology	10	
81	Glass and ceramics industries	2	

83	Rubber and plastics industries	20	
85	Paper technology	6	
87	Paint and color industries	18	
91	Construction materials and building	59	
93	Civil engineering	1	
97	Domestic and commercial equipment. Entertainment. Sports	15	
		880	81

(*Computed from the list available from NBSM Website: <http://www.nbsm.gov.np>)

Management System Standards of ISO

So far, the NCS has adopted ten ISO Management System Standards related to Quality Management System, Environmental Management, Food Safety Management System and Energy Management System, as given in the table below.

Table 2: ISO Management System Standards adopted by Nepal Council of Standards

Standard No.	Title of Standards
NS/ISO 9000: 2000:2059	Quality Management System fundamental and Vocabulary
NS/ISO 9001:2000:2059	Quality Management System Requirements
NS/ISO 9004: 2000:2059	Quality Management System Guidelines for performance improvements
NS/ISO 14050:2002: 2063	Environmental Management System– Vocabulary
NS/ISO14001:2004:2063	Environmental Management System –Requirements with guidance for use
NS/ISO14004:2004:2063	Environmental Management System– General guidelines on principles, systems and support techniques
NS/ISO 22000:2005:2064	Food Safety Management System – Requirements for any organization in the food chain
NS/ISO/TS 22003:2007:2064	Food Safety Management System – Requirements for bodies providing audit and certification of food safety management systems
NS/ISO 22004:2005:2064	Food Safety Management System – Guidance on the application of ISO 22000:2005
NS/ISO 50001:2011/2069	Energy Management System-Requirements with guidance for use

The NBSM is also responsible for the enforcement of technical regulations on some products of importance in terms of protecting public health and safety as needed.

The NBSM publishes Nepal Standards and sells them according to a pricing system. Prices are set according to categories of standards based on number of pages.

A new Nepal Standards Act have been drafted as a Bill to consolidate and amend the existing laws relating to the Nepal Standards but it is still in process of getting through the Parliament for its implementation.

The NBSM, as per the Nepal Standards (Certification Mark) Act, 1980, has notified Nepal Standards of 12 non-food products as technical regulations (mandatory) in the interest of the consumer welfare, safety and health of people of Nepal. The technical notification notified earlier for corrugated galvanised Iron Sheet has been withdrawn recently.

List of products requiring to follow technical regulations	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ordinary Portland cement (OPC) • Pozzolana Portland cement (PPC) • Pozzolana Slag Cement (PSC) • Galvanized Iron Wire • Iron Rod (Deformed Bars) • Dry Cell and Batteries 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LPG Cylinders • LPG Valve • LPG Regulators • Corrugated Galvanized Iron Sheets • Composite Cylinders • PVC Cables

Other agencies involved in development and implementation of technical regulations in Nepal are:

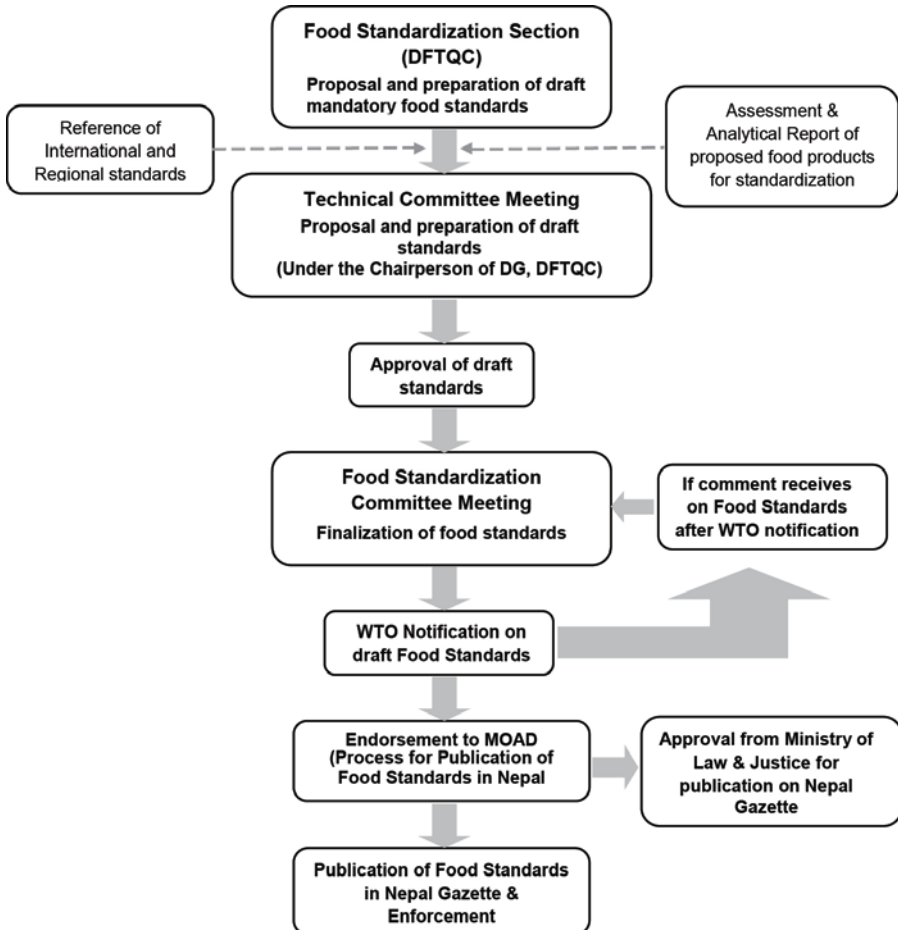
- Department of Food Technology and Quality Control (DFTQC) - for Mandatory Food Standards
- Department of Agriculture (DoA) - for standards on phytosanitary measures (plant quarantine) and pesticide regulations
- Department of Livestock Services (DoLS) - for standards on Sanitary Measures (Animal Quarantine) and animal/animal products related technical regulations
- Department of Drug Administration (DDA) - for Drug standards /regulations, etc.
- Seed Quality Control Centre (SQCC) - for enforcement of Seed law and Regulations

As per the Food Act, 1967 and Food Rules, 1970, the DFTQC under the MoAD, has a legal mandate to develop and enforce technical regulations (mandatory standards) and SPS measures related to food products.

The Food Standards Fixation Committee, constituted by the GoN, as provisioned in Food Rules, 1970, is responsible for setting mandatory standards (technical regulations and some SPS Measures) for food products. This Committee approves and recommends

specific food standards and horizontal standards for gazette notification by the government. The process of food standards preparation and adoption is outlined in Figure1.

Figure 1: Process of Food Standardization



Source: *DFTQC Working Guidelines*

The specific standards cover major food products like dairy, cereals and cereal products, fats and oils, spices/condiments, fruits and vegetable products, confectioneries, processed drinking water, etc. Whereas the horizontal standards cover food additives, vitamins,

minerals and food labelling of pre-packaged foods and contaminants (chemical, microbial, radioactive, mycotoxins and heavy metals).

By the end of 2015, the government has made mandatory products standards for 111 food commodities and similarly several horizontal standards have been adopted (Table 3). These standards are readily available in the website <http://www.dftgc.gov.np> or <http://www.spsenquiry.gov.np>.

Table 3: List of Food Product Standards notified by Government of Nepal

Food Group	No. of Food commodities in the group
Milk & Milk Products	18
Fat & Oil	16
Fruits & Vegetable Products	17
Spices & Condiments	22
Tea, Coffee and their Products	4
Salt	2
Cereal, Pulses & their Products	24
Processed Drinking Water	1
Sweetening Agent	3
Sweet and Confectionary	3
Luncheon Meat	1
Total	111

In addition, the government has also laid down mandatory horizontal standards for 11 Class II preservatives and 10 heavy metals in food products. It had also developed and enforced 5 standards for poultry feed and 1 for animal feed.

Standards for four commodities i.e. ice-cream, packaged drinking water, mineral water and fresh ginger, have been approved by the Food Standardization Committee and will be implemented after notification in the Nepal Gazette.

The Department of Drug Administration (DDA) of the Ministry of Health and Population is the principal drug regulatory authority of the Government of Nepal. It was established with an objective to enforce the Drug Act, 1978. The regulations made under the Drug Act aims to:

- Prohibit the misuse or abuse of drugs and allied pharmaceutical materials (including veterinary drugs) as well as the false or misleading information relating to efficacy and use of drugs; and
- Control production, marketing, distribution, export-import, storage and utilization of those drugs which are not safe for use, efficacious and of standard quality.

The DDA has been functioning for ensuring the safety, efficacy and quality of drugs made available for use, as guided by several regulations and code of practices including Drug Standards Regulation, 1986 and Code of Drug Manufacturing, 1984. The standards for the pharmaceuticals are prescribed by the Drug Advisory Council as “Nepal Pharmacopia”. More information is available in the website of the DDA - <http://www.dda.gov.np>.

The Seed Quality Control Centre (SQCC) was established in 2002 as the secretariat for the National Seed Board and to act as the regulatory authority to enforce the Seed Act, 1988 (amendment in 2010) and Seed Rules, 2012. The SQCC is accordingly responsible for ensuring availability of quality seed to farmers by enforcing the quality control mechanisms in seed and quality standards determination and management; providing seed testing services and seed certification to the clients. More information is available in the website of SQCC - <http://sqcc.gov.np/en/>.

The NBSM represents Nepal as the member of South Asian Regional Standards Organization (SARSO). The head office of SARSO is in Dhaka, Bangladesh. Currently, harmonization of standards is in progress in some product areas like building materials, food and agricultural products, jute and textile products, chemical and chemical products and electric and electronics. The following seven standards are expected to be adopted as SAARC standards soon:

1. Refined Sugar- Specification
2. Biscuits - Specification
3. Hessian
4. Cotton Drill - Specification
5. Cotton Twill – Specification
6. Jute Twine – Specification
7. Code of hygienic practice for dairy sector

Once SAARC standards have been finalized, they would supersede the national standards. There is a provision of South Asian Conformity Mark as well.

Every year, the NBSM celebrates World Standards Day on October 14, amidst special function where recognitions are given to the best performing industries amongst the NS Mark Licensees. Occasionally, both the NBSM and the DFTQC organise quality/standards sensitisation workshops/seminars for creating awareness amongst the industries and consumers.

Testing services

Testing services are provided by the public institutions and some private companies, as well as by research laboratories. Due to the weak infrastructure and capacity shortage, Nepalese laboratories provide testing services to limited products on limited parameters. Many important and critical tests are being done abroad, for example in India and elsewhere.

The NBSM is the responsible government entity to adopt the internationally acceptable conformity assessment procedures. It has also harmonized standards used by the major trading partner countries in cases of some specific products.

There are only four public and one private testing laboratory that have been accredited so far. Products and scope of tests accredited for these laboratories are as given in Table 4a and 4b below.

Table 4: List of Accredited Test Laboratories in Nepal**4a. Government Laboratories:**

Laboratory	Group of products, materials or items tested	Specific tests or types of tests performed	Accreditation
Nepal Bureau of Standards and Metrology	Water (mineral water, bottle packed processed drinking water, natural spring water, tap water, ground water)	pH, TDS, Chloride, Total Hardness, Iron, Manganese, Cadmium, Chromium, Nickel, Copper, Zinc, Lead	National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories (NABL) accredited according to ISO/IEC 17025-2005 requirements
	GI Wire	Mass of Zinc Coating and Uniformity	
	GI Pipe	Mass of Zinc Coating and Uniformity	
	Instant Noodles	Moisture, Total ash, Acid Insoluble ash, Gruel Content, Total Protein, Acid value of extracted fat, Peroxide value of extracted fat, acid value of pocket oil and peroxide value of pocket oil	
	Refined Vegetable Oil- Mustard oil, Soya Oil, Sunflower Oil and Palmoline oil	Moisture Content, Free fatty acid, saponification value, peroxide value, Iodine value, Refractive index and specific gravity	
	Refined vegetable Fat	Moisture Content; Free fatty acid, Peroxide value, melting range , BR Reading	
	Cement: Ordinary Portland Cement, Portland Pozzolana Cement; Portland Slag Cement	Loss of Ignition, Insoluble residues, Silica, Calcium Oxide, Magnesia, Alumina oxide, Iron Oxide , Sulphuric anhydrides , Aluminum Oxide/ferric oxide, Lime saturation factor, Tricalcium aluminate	
Department of Food Technology and Quality Control	Oils and Fats	Free Fatty Acid, Refractive Index, Acid value and Peroxide value	NABL accredited according to ISO/IEC 17025-2005 requirements
	Processed fruits and vegetables	Soluble solid content, acidity	
	Spices and condiments	Volatile oils	

	Tea and Coffee	Total ash, Water content	
	Cereal and cereal products	Moisture, Protein	
	Extracted honey	Moisture, Acidity as Formic acid	
	Raw and Pasteurized Milk	Fat Content	
	Milk Powder	Moisture, Protein, ash content, Fat	
	Processed water	pH, Hardness, alkalinity, Chloride content, Metal by AAS, Calcium, Copper, Iron, Manganese, Zinc	
Central Seed Testing Laboratory of Seed Quality Control Centre	Seed materials	Sampling, Purity and other seed determinations, germination, Moisture Content, Weight determination	International Seed Testing Association, as per its constitution

4b. Private Laboratory:

	Group of products, materials or items tested	Specific tests or types of tests performed	Accreditation
Zest Laboratories (P)Ltd.	Drug & Pharmaceutical Albendazole Tablets, Amoxicillin, Chloramphenicol Capsules, Ciprofloxacin HCl Tablets, Cotrimoxazole Tabs, Dihydroartemisinin, Efavirenz; Frusemide Tablets, Hyoscin Butylbromide, Isoniazide, Lamivudine, Metformin Hydrochloride, Metronidazole Tablets; Nevirapine; Ofloxacin Tablets; Oral Rehydration Salt, Paracetamol Tablets, Piperazine, Tetraphosphate; Tetracycline, Tinidazole Tablets & Zinc Sulphate,	Average Weight/ Volume, Weight/ Volume Variation, Assay, Dissolution, Disintegration Test, Friability test, pH Uniformity of content	NABL accredited according to ISO/ IEC 17025-2005
	Food Products Green Tea, Tea, Flour, Edible oil, edible ghee, Honey, Salt and Sugar	Moisture Content, Peroxide value, Alkalinity of soluble Ash, Water soluble ash, Water Extract, Acidity as Formic Acid, Total ash, Moisture Content, Acid value,	

		Iodine value, Hydroxy Methyl Furfural	
	Drinking Water	Iron, Ammonia, Chloride, pH, Zinc, lead, Arsenic, Cadmium, Manganese, Total Dissolve Solids; Conductivity, Total Hardness, Calcium, Microbial Contamination	

The NBSM is initiating processes for expanding scopes of tests for iron articles in construction and building material laboratories; for wheat flour, biscuits and cookies and beer in chemical and food laboratories and fibre and fabrics in textile laboratories. The chemical laboratories of the DFTQC have also started a process of accrediting more test parameters.

Apart from the above accredited laboratories of the government, the Central Seed Testing Laboratory of SQCC is also accredited to the ISTA Seed Testing Laboratory Accreditation Standards with a scope of accreditation for sampling, purity and other seed determination, germination, moisture content, and weight determination of seed materials in May 2012. SQCC is completing the process of renewal of accreditation and planning for increasing the scopes of accreditation.

The private sector laboratory, the Zest laboratories P. (Ltd), is in the process of expanding its scopes in the area of microbiological testing of food, medicines and medical consumables.

The following laboratories of the NBSM and the DFTQC are also providing test services in Nepal. However, all of these laboratories are yet to be accredited.

NBSM	DFTQC
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Electrical Testing Laboratory • Paper Testing Laboratory • Pipe Testing Laboratory • Textile Testing Laboratory • Leather Testing Laboratory • Microbiological Laboratory • Mechanical Testing Laboratory • Metrology Laboratory (for parameters other than mass) • Environmental Testing Laboratory • Gold and Silver testing Laboratory 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Microbiology Laboratory • Food and Feed Laboratory (excepting for the current accredited scopes) • Instrumental Laboratory • Food Contaminants/Additives laboratories • Reference Laboratory • R&D Laboratory • Regional Food Laboratories five places • Food Quarantine Laboratories in four places

There are about twenty non-accredited testing laboratories - both from the public and the private sector, providing conformity assessment services in Nepal. These testing laboratories provide test services for different commodities as in the table below.

Table 5: Non-accredited Testing Laboratories in Nepal

Status	Organization/Institution	Test services provided for
Govt.	National Medicine Laboratory	Drug
Govt.	National Academy for Science and Technology	Water Quality, Environmental radioactivity, radiation doses
Govt.	Department of Plant Resources	NTFP products - phytochemical screenings, pharmacological tests, extractive values, toxicity tests, essential oils etc.)
Govt.	Department of Mines and Geology Laboratories	Chemical and physical analysis of geological samples, coal; Petroleum products, metallic and non-metallic trace elements, etc.
Govt.	Department of Ground water	Water
Govt.	Department of Drinking Water and Sewage	Water and waste water
Govt.	National Forensic Laboratory	Forensic testing
Govt.	Regional Laboratories of Department of Agriculture	Soil, Seed, fertilizers, pesticides
Govt.	Laboratories of Nepal Agricultural Research Council	Soil, seed, pesticide, fertilizers, food and plant quarantine related tests
Govt.	Central and Regional Veterinary Laboratories of Directorate of Animal	Veterinary drugs/residues; and animal quarantine related tests, Avian Influenza

	Health	Type A Antibody Detection, Brucellosis and salmonella investigations
NGO	Environment and Public Health Organization (ENPHO)	Water/waste water, Soil/ composts, food and feed and; air pollutants
Private	National Research Foundation	Pharmaceuticals and other chemicals
Private	Water Engineering and Training Center	Water and waste water, Food and other chemicals.
Private	Nepal Environmental Scientific Services Pvt Ltd (NESS)	Water/Waste Water, Food products, liquors, soil, fertilisers, pesticides, rocks and minerals, fuels, air/noise pollution, cement, solid wastes, etc.
Private	Soil Test Pvt. Ltd	Soil, Water, Cement, aggregates and other chemicals
Private	CEMAT Water Lab Pvt. Ltd.	Water/Waste water, Air quality, Rock and Minerals, Food and Beverages, Soil and Composts, Coal and Salt and biological tests
Private	Astha Lab Pvt. Ltd	Water, food and other chemicals
Private	Seam-N-Lab (Nepal Batabaraniya Sewa Kendra)	Water, food and other chemicals
Private	Zest Laboratory Pvt Ltd	Pharmaceuticals/Drugs, Medical consumables, Microbiological tests of Medicines ,Food and Water

Certification

As the national certification body of Nepal, NBSM is providing various types of certification services. It is the sole agent for product certification against Nepal Standards.

In pursuance of the provisions of the Nepal Standards (Certification Marks) Act 1980, the NBSM has established an Inspection and Certification Section to award licenses to industry to apply NS Mark on those products which conform to national standards and carry out inspection and certification work for product/process/services with the introduction of the certification scheme.

A working manual has been developed to introduce and implement the Nepal Standards Certification Marks Scheme, making reference to ISO/IEC 17065:2012-General requirements for Certification Bodies for products, process and services. Inspection and certification for product/process/services are carried out as per the operating procedures and instructions set in the working manual.

Product Certification: The NBSM has been implementing voluntary product certification activities for more than three decades. Accordingly, domestic industries are being provided with the license to use the Nepal Quality Certification Mark – "NS" in their products (Figure 2).

Figure 2: Nepal Standards Mark Logo



NS is being taken as the third party quality assurance mark between the producer and the consumer. The process adopted for product certification is briefly outlined below, and details could be found on the website of the NBSM – <http://www.nbsm.gov.np> .

1. **General:** The NBSM operates one or more certification scheme(s) covering its certification activities including surveillance of production or with the assessment and surveillance of the client's management system, or both as per General Guidance on the development of schemes given in ISO/IEC 17065: 2013, in combination with ISO/IEC Guide 28 and ISO/IEC Guide 53. The requirements against which the products of a client will be evaluated are those contained in specified standards and other normative documents.
2. **Filing of the application** to the NBSM with all the necessary information to complete the certification process in accordance with the relevant certification scheme and as per the procedure for application for certification mark license and guidelines for closure of applications.
3. **Application reviewing** by the NBSM as per the procedure for application review.
4. **Evaluation by the NBSM** as per:
 - a) Procedure for preparation for preliminary factory evaluation
 - b) Procedure for preliminary inspection I for product certification
 - c) Procedure for preliminary inspection II for product certification
 - d) Procedure for calculation of man days for technical audit
 - e) Procedure for Procedure for surveillance inspection of factory

5. **Reviewing for a certification decision** as per procedure for review and grant of certification and procedure for management of impartiality.
6. **Certification decision** as per the procedure for review and grant of certification.
7. **Certification documentation.**

The NBSM issues licenses to manufacturers to use Nepal Quality Certification Mark (NS) on their products after inspections of manufacturer's premises, operational manuals/standard operating procedures, labels and samples of product. Inspectors from NBSM carry out inspections on an ongoing basis to ensure conformity to standards. By the middle of 2015, the NBSM has granted around 281 licenses to almost 140 industries to use NS Marks for 58 products (Table 6).

Table 6: Number of Industries with NS marks for Food and Non-food Products

Food/feed Product	No. of Industries	Non-Food Product	No. of Industries
Mustard Oil	1	HDPE Pipes	23
Maida	1	PVC Pipes	7
Poultry Feed	1	OPC Cement	29
Biscuits	2	PSC Cement	9
Beer	3	PPC Cement	39
Vegetable Ghee	10	PVC Cable	21
Squash of fruits	1	Paints , Emulsions, Primers	46
Curry Powder	1	LPG Cylinder	3
Tomato Ketchup	1	LPG Regulators	4
Soya Oil	11	LPG Cylinders	3
Jam , Jelly	1	GI Sheets, Galvanized mild steel	9
Instant Noodles	4	Galvanized Mild steel wires	6
Sweetened Condensed Milk	1	Iron Bar	18
Mineral water	4	Water Storage tanks	4
Palmoline	1	Dry cell battery	2
Rice	2	Cast Iron Pipe	2
Chili Powder	1	Pressure Cooker	1
Cumin Powder	1	Bitumen Emulsion	1

Coriander	1	Power Transformer	1
Sunflower Oil	2	Electric Cable	5
Wheat Flour	1	Others	8
Total	51		230

(Source: NBSM website)

The compliance and competence of NBSM of product certification against international standards have been demonstrated by its accreditation from the National Accreditation Board for Certification Bodies (NABCB), India, since 2014. By December 2015, thirteen products have been covered under the scope of accreditation for product certification and scopes for accreditation as given in Table 7, and the NBSM had started product certification accordingly.

Table 7: Scopes of Accreditation for Products Certification by NBSM

IAF Scope	Products covered under the Scope
IAF 03: Food products, beverages and tobacco	Instant Product Noodle, Poultry Feed, Wheat Flour and Biscuits
IAF 14: Rubber and Plastic Products	HDPE Pipe and PVC Pipe
IAF 16: Concrete, Cement, Lime, Plaster etc.	Cements: Ordinary Portland , Portland pozzolana and Portland slag
IAF 17: Basic Metals and Fabricated Metal Products	GI Pipe, Steel Bar for concrete reinforcement and CGI sheet for roofing purpose
IAF 19: Electrical and Optical Equipment.	GI Wire

Management System Certification

As there is no authoritative agency to maintain data on the number of ISO Management System Standard certified companies and also keep record of the number of certifying bodies and their operation in Nepal, it is very difficult to ascertain the exact number of companies/organizations receiving and renewing different management system certifications. However, the total number of certificates issued by certification bodies that have been accredited by members of the International Accreditation Forum (IAF) for Nepal have been reported as 117 in 2014 in the ISO Survey of Management System Standard Certifications – 2014. It includes 97 QMS - ISO 9001:2008 certificates; five ISO 14001:2004 certificates and five ISO 22000:2005 certificates. Most of the companies/organizations have received the management system certificates from foreign certification bodies, directly or through local affiliated private organizations. Trends of

certificates issued in Nepal till 2014 could be observed in the ISO webpage: <http://www.iso.org/iso/iso-survey>.

The NBSM has also started certification services for Quality Management System (QMS) ISO 9001:2008 after obtaining accreditation from NABCB, India, in 2013. Scopes of accreditation are covered for:

- Pulp, paper and paper products
- Basic metals and fabricated metal products
- Machinery and equipment
- Manufacturing not elsewhere classified (restricted to Code DN 36.2 only)
- Wholesale & retail trade
- Public administration

By the end of 2015, nine different domestic industries (construction, cement and gas regulators, jewelleryes) have been certified by NBSM.

The process of getting Management System Certification against ISO 9001:2008 from NBSM is outlined below:

Process of initial Certification and Certification Cycle

1. Submission of application by client (can get through <http://www.nbsm.gov.np>) online
2. Review of application
3. Agreement on General Terms and Condition on Certification, if application accepted
4. Payment by client
5. Stage I Audit
6. Response to areas of concerns by client, if any
7. Stage II Audit
8. Corrective actions by clients
9. Evaluations of the corrective actions and closing of non-conformities
10. Review of audit report
11. Decision on certification
12. Surveillance Audit 1 (annual).
13. Surveillance Audit 2 (annual)
14. Recertification

As a part of transparency obligation under the TBT Agreement, the NBSM has also adopted a clear process of complaint handling and process of Appeal handling.

The Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) system (based on Codex) has been adopted and implemented by about 20 industries with certification system conducted by the competent international system certifying bodies. The NBSM has also initiated providing HACCP certification and so far one industry (Swastik Oil Industries Pvt. Ltd.) has received such certificate from NBSM.

In addition, some industries (dairy, distilleries, edible oil, instant noodles, tea, fruit drinks, etc.) have also internalized the HACCP system and are gearing for the adoption of HACCP. Some food industries manufacturing products like instant noodles, cereal based fortified blended foods, fruit drinks, tea and dairy have also opted for ISO 22000:2005-Food Safety Management System (FSMS) certification.

In addition to the above certifying bodies, about a dozen more international certifying bodies (CBs) are reported to be operating in Nepal directly from their countries or through their regional or India based subsidiaries for QMS, EMS, FSMS, HACCP, OHS certifications and pre-shipment inspections, CE Marking. Some of the foreign certifying bodies reported to have been operating in Nepal are:

- BSI Certificate Ltd, UK
- Det Norske Veritas Certification BV (DNV), The Netherlands
- Exova BMTRADA Certification System, UK
- International Certification Services (ICS), India
- Intertek Labtest Ltd, US
- MS Certification Services Pvt Ltd
- SGS Societe Generale de Surveillances SA, US
- NSF International, US
- Quality Austria
- SAI Global Certification Services, Aus
- Silliker Global Certification Services Pvt. Ltd
- TQ VISION
- TUV Sud America Inc., US
- United Registrar of Systems (URS) Ltd, UK
- Universal Quality Standard Registrar (UQSR)-Multinational

There are only a few private agencies operating within Nepal linking with internationally accredited international certifying bodies (CBs) in different countries. Although it is not a complete list, details of some of these private agencies are presented in Table 8.

Table 8: Private subsidiaries/agencies linking international Certifying Bodies (CBs) in Nepal

Private Agencies operating within Nepal	Type of System Certification	International certifying bodies (CBs) Linked	Services Provided
Universal Quality Standard Registrar (UQSR)	ISO 9001:2008 HACCP; ISO 22000: 2005; GMP; CE Marks	(De System) Dubai Accreditation Board(DAC) ,IAF, JAS/ANZ	Certification, Lead audit trainings; Internal Auditor's training, Awareness Trainings, Health and Safety Trainings
National Certificate and Management Nepal (NATCM)	ISO 9001:2008 ISO 14001:2004 ISO 22000:2005 CE Marking	UK based Exova-BIMTRADA Certification accredited by UKAS	Internal Auditor training on ISO 22000:2005; System certification and Product certification, Lead Auditor Training
Soft Tech C.I Pvt. Ltd	ISO 9001:2008 ISO 14001:2004 ISO 22000:2005 HACCP	UK based Exova-BIMTRADA Certification accredited by UKAS	Management Consultancy, Training; facilitation in obtaining quality system certification
United Registrar of Systems (URS) Ltd, Nepal	ISO9001:2008 ISO22000:2005 ISO14001:2004 HACCP	URS (UK) holds multiple accreditation, i.e. UKAS-UK, NABCB, DAC, SINCERT	Lead auditor training , Internal Quality auditor' training; and certification
Quality and Environmental Management System Services Pvt. Ltd			Management system certification Consultancy

There are several international CBs operating for the Organic certification of Nepalese agricultural products, which are authorized by EU, US, Japan for their import of organic products from Nepal and also recognized by IFOAM for Nepal (Table 9).

Table 9: International Organic Certifying Bodies Operating in Nepal

Accredited Certifying Body/Agent	Authorization /recognition for operation from Nepal	Scope of Certification
CERES GmbH German	USNOP JAS EC 834/2007	Organic agricultural products, organic processed foods and organic feeds
Control Union Certifications B.V. Netherlands	EC 834/2007 JAS	Organic agricultural products and organic processed foods
Ecocert International, Germany	EC 834/2007 USDA NOP	Organic agricultural products and organic processed foods
IMO INST FUR MARKTÄ-COLOGIE CH Switzerland; &IMO Control Private Limited (IMO India)	USDA-NOP EC 834/2007	Organic agricultural products, organic processed foods and organic feeds
Lacon GmbH Germany	USDA-NOP EC 834/2007 JAS	Organic agricultural products and organic processed foods
Biocert International PVT Ltd. India	USDA-NOP JAS IFOAM Basic Standards India NOP	Crop production, Grower groups, Input manufacturing, livestock, Processing & handling, Wild products
NASAA Certified Organic Pty. Ltd Australia	USDA-NOP JAS IFOAM Basic Standards	Aquaculture, Certification Transference, Crop production, Grower groups, livestock, Processing and handling, Wild products, Organic agricultural products, organic processed foods, organic feeds and organic livestock products
Organic Food Development & Certification Center of China	EC 834/2007 IFOAM Basic Standards	Aquaculture, Certification Transference, Crop production, Grower groups, Input manufacturing, livestock, Processing
OneCert - NOP USA	US-NOP EC 834/2007 JAS NOP India	Crops , wild crops, Livestock and handling operation

Organic certification is mostly demanded by producers of tea, coffee, spice production & processing industries and exporters who are exporting their products to the United States of America, EU, and Japan.

There are some domestic third party certifying agencies operating for organic certification of some specific organic agricultural production, wild production, processing and inputs for production in Nepal including coffee as listed in Table 10.

Table 10: Domestic Organic Certifying Agents Operating in Nepal

Certifying Agent	Affiliated	Scope of Certification
Organic Certification Nepal Pvt. Ltd.	Affiliated with the Certification Alliance Bangkok	Third Party Certification Body for organic agricultural production, wild production, processing and inputs for production in Nepal.
The Himalayan Bio-organic Agriculture Center Nepal (HIMBOAC-NEPAL)		Third Party Certification Body
Coffee Co-operative Union Ltd.		Third Party Certification Body for Organic Coffee

Collective trademarks

Many SMEs in Nepal started joint marketing of their products as they realize the benefit from economies of scale, broader brand name and quality recognition using collective trademarks.

So far, four collective trademarks are in use to distinguish certain valued characteristics common to the products of the member entrepreneurs/artisans of an association/cooperative and are registered in the trademarks registry of the Department of Industry with the owners of such marks as the commodity association (Table 11).

The use of collective mark by the commodity association is not for commercial purposes, but to advertise and promote the products/services of its members who sell their products under the collective seal.

Figure 3: Examples of logos of collective trademarks used in Nepal**Table 11: Collective Marks Registered Products of Nepal**

Product	Registered in Nepal	Owners
Nepal Coffee	2009	National Tea and Coffee Development Board (NTCDB)
Chyangra Pashmina	2011	Nepal Pashmina Industry Association (NPIA)
Locally manufactured footwear	June 2014	Leather Goods and Footwear Manufacturers' Association of Nepal (LGFMAN)
Nepal Tea	July 2015	National Tea and Coffee Development Board (NTCDB)

The collective trademark of 'Chyangra Pashmina' has been registered in 44 countries including 27 countries in the EU. Efforts are underway to register other collective trademarks in other export destinations as well. The NPIA is issuing "Chyangra Pashmina" marks to the manufacturers and exporters after test of quality parameters like fibre diameter, wool purity and microscopic examinations by the NBSM.

Cardamom Entrepreneurs Association and Nepal Carpet Exporters Association & Central Carpet Industries Association (jointly) have applied for collective trademarks for 'Big Cardamom' and 'Nepali Hand-knotted carpets' respectively in DOI, and are waiting for the approval from the department.

The Fair Trade Group Nepal, a member of World Fair Trade Organization (WFTO), is also active in promoting a range of fair trade products from handcrafted paper, copperware to natural cosmetics and organic food and spices (tea, coffee, fruits, processed dry grains, beans and pulses, spices), produced mostly by marginalized populations across Nepal.

Fair Trade Certification has also been introduced in Nepal since 2003. Kanchenjunga Tea Estate was the pioneer member of Transfair Germany and was certified as Fair Trade Labelling Organization (FLO) producers in that year. A few more SMEs have also been using FLO certifications.

Inspection services

Public authority

One of the functions and responsibilities of the NBSM is to carry out inspection and supervision activities on industrial production and processes for the purpose of demonstration of compliance with technical regulations (mandatory products) and for lot certification, as a part of contractual agreement for verification requirements.

The NBSM also provides consignment inspection and the attestation services to the government agencies as technical support to regulatory work like market monitoring, and addressing consumer complaints. NBSM inspects those products which are mandatory to comply with Nepal Standards when the products come to the entry point. It also conducts post surveillance of NS certified products.

Private inspection bodies

A few foreign certification bodies like Intertek Ltd, SGS, ICS, Bureau Veritas and TUV are operating in Nepal for pre-shipment inspection and certification.

Metrology

The NBSM is the national metrology institute of Nepal mandated to maintain the traceability of measuring equipment to SI Unit. The legal instrument to regulate legal metrology is Standards Weight and Measurement Act, 1968 and Standards Weight and Measurement Rules, 1970. Under these rules and regulations, NBSM is also responsible for ensuring establishment and proper functioning of a credible measuring system, including setting regulations for the legal application of metrology, developing standards for measurement and calibration, preparing regulation for weighing and measuring instruments used by producers, testing laboratories and the general public.

The Metrology section at NBSM is responsible for the verification of weights and measures as well as weighing and measuring instruments, which are being used in trade and industry. Currently, the traceability of measuring equipment to SI Unit is maintained with the help from other agencies like the National Physical Laboratory (NPL) of India and Physikalisch-Technische Bundesanstalt (PTB), the National Metrology Institute of Germany.

The NBSM is a corresponding member of the International Organization for Legal Metrology (OIML) and member of Asia Pacific Metrology Program (APMP) since 1982.

Besides its Metrology section in the central office, NBSM has eight regional offices which provide legal metrology services covering the entire country. These services include verification of weights and measures as well as weighing and measuring instruments, which are being used in trade, industry and transport. The regional offices are in Biratnagar, Janakpur, Birgunj, Kathmandu, Pokhara, Butwal, Nepalgunj and Dhangadhi.

NBSM is also providing industrial metrology services through its Metrology Laboratories. NBSM has scientific metrology laboratories providing calibration testing services as indicated in the following Table.

Table 12: Calibration Services provided by the Metrology Laboratories of NBSM

Laboratory	Calibration Services
Mass	from 1mg to 20 kg
Temperature	from 0 ^o C to 1000 ^o C
Pressure	From 0-120 bar by pressure dial gauge method
Length	For micrometre screw gauge from 0 to 25 mm, for Vernier calliper from 0-100mm.
Volume	Up to 2 litres for glassware and piston pipettes

In the present context, only mass laboratory has acquired the international accreditation from the National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories (NABL), India, for 1 mg to 1 kg for F1 class Conventional Mass Measurement. Also, one set of E2 Class (1 mg to 1 kg) is traceable to the PTB of Germany.

Calibration of volumetric measurements, temperature, force and pressure is still dependent on Indian calibration laboratories like DVG Labs & Consultants Pvt. Ltd, and Emma tech Calibration.

The Scientific Metrology Laboratory of the NBSM has participated in different inter laboratory comparisons such as SAARC–PTB/Germany inter laboratory comparison program for Mass and Temperature.

In Nepal, most of the calibration services for temperature, pressure, time, physical/electrical instruments, humidity, time, pH/Conductivity etc. for domestic laboratories and industries are virtually non-existent and most of the industries/laboratories and other establishments requiring calibration services have to depend in neighbouring countries. However, recently one new private company, "CALTECH Pvt. Ltd", has started providing site calibration services for pressure, temperature, humidity as well as for instruments of electrical measurements, pH/Conductivity, time, speed, light, etc. This company is yet to get accreditation for its calibration services; however it has initiated a process of applying for the accreditation from an international accreditation body.

Accreditation

A **National Accreditation Body** still has to be established in Nepal. Nevertheless, the draft Bill on Nepal Accreditation Council Act, 2014 to establish **Nepal Accreditation Council** for accreditation of conformity assessment (testing, certification and inspection) bodies, is at the Parliament for approval.

Even though there isn't any Accreditation Body in Nepal, NBSM has been implementing a laboratory recognition scheme called "Nepal Laboratory Accreditation Scheme (NEPLAS)". The criteria for the recognition utilized for recognition scheme is ISO/IEC 17025:2005. Under this scheme, 12 laboratories have been recognized and accredited by NEPLAS Board headed by the Director General of the NBSM. Even though there is no international recognition, the scheme has been widely recognized within the country.

Currently, Nepal is relying on the relevant cross-border accreditation bodies for international accreditation of conformity assessment services. As stated in the certification section, Management System Certification Services of NBSM is accredited by NABCB India since 2013. The NABCB has also accredited NBSM for granting Product Certification to 13 products.

Similarly, Mass Laboratory and Chemical Laboratory of the NBSM have been accredited by NABL India in 2014 and 2015 respectively.

By the end of December 2015, the following laboratories have been accredited by NABL India:

- Zest Laboratories Pvt. Ltd., Bhaktapur
- Chemical Laboratory of Central Food Laboratory of the DFTQC
- Food and Chemical Laboratories of the NBSM
- Central Seed Testing Laboratory of SQCC

Zest Laboratories Pvt. Ltd is the first laboratory of Nepal to receive accreditation. It has received accreditation from NABL, India, in 2011 for chemical testing of medicines, water and allied products. Accredited parameters and group of products for test by the Zest

Laboratories are given in Table 4b. It is also expanding its accreditation scope in the field of biological and mechanical from this year once the accreditation process is completed.

In September 2012, the Central Food Laboratory of DFTQC has received international accreditation from NABL for 27 test parameters for chemical testing of food and agricultural products and water (Table 14) .The DFTQC is also expanding the scope of its accreditation. Its laboratories regularly take part in international proficiency testing (PT) programs as a requirement for international accreditation.

Similarly, chemical laboratories of the NBSM have also been accredited by NABL for around 50 test parameters/scope of accreditation for specific chemical testing of following seven groups of products, refined vegetable oils and fats, water and GI wires (as enlisted in Table 4a).

Only mass laboratory has acquired the international accreditation from the National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories (NABL), India for 1 mg to 1 kg .The scope extension of accreditation for the calibration of mass from 2 kg to 20 kg is in final stage. The laboratory is planning to obtain accreditation for electronic balance calibration up to 1 kg. All mass calibration services have traceability through NPL of India.

As Nepal has yet to establish their National Accreditation Board, it has not been able to take membership from the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC) and International Accreditation Forum (IAF), as well as could not enter into bilateral agreements with other countries. However, Nepal has been successful in establishing a National Accreditation Focal Point (NAFP) in the NBSM for NABCB, India, through a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the two institutions in 2014.

Similarly, NBSM has signed a MoU with NABL, India, in 2015 to use the same NAFP in NBSM for the NABL as well. The main function of NAFP is to facilitate accreditation process to those conformity assessment bodies which would like to get accreditation from the Indian Accreditation Bodies.

NAFP is operational from March 2015 and has started facilitating accreditation of Nepalese laboratories, certification and inspection bodies and preparing qualified human resources for an accreditation body to be established in the future.

Apart from these arrangements, there are regional level agreements on the mutual recognition of conformity assessment. Once ratified by all the member countries of South Asia, they will assist to recognize each other's conformity assessment activities.

SPS policy or strategy

Realizing the importance of the protection of human, plant, and animal life and health in agricultural trade, the need to meet obligations for science-based risk assessment under the WTO Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS) in international trade, Nepal has also started enforcing many SPS measures. These measures applied by Nepal are gradually complying with the provisions of the WTO Agreement on SPS.

There are **four key organizations** responsible for **enforcement of SPS measures in Nepal**:

- Department of Food Technology and Quality Control under the Ministry of Agriculture Development (MOAD) - for food quality and safety.
- Animal Quarantine Section under the Department of Livestock Services/MOLD - for animal health and livestock service.
- National Plant Quarantine Program (NPQP) under the Plant Protection Directorate (PPD) of the Department of Agriculture (DOA)/MOAD- for phytosanitary measures to protect the plant diversity and health of plants.
- Seed Quality Control Centre (SQCC) under MOAD – for seed varietal registration, quality standards and monitoring.

There is no specific umbrella national SPS policy and strategy that adequately covers the SPS institutions, allocating their roles, responsibilities and long-term funding. However, the National Agriculture Policy (NAP), 2004 and Agriculture Development Strategy (ADS), 2015, introduced by the GoN provides guidance and action plans to some extent for the establishment, operation and maintenance of the SPS institutions.

NAP 2004 has specifically made the following commitments:

- Regulate the use of pesticides to minimize their effects on water and environment;
- Control the use of veterinary medicines and hormones to protect human and animal health;
- Develop technical regulations and standards to control food quality and certify food products;
- Regulate private agricultural laboratory services and high-quality product processing services;
- Mobilize local bodies for conformity assessment and certification of products and processes; and
- Provide necessary support for organic certification.

NAP also recognizes the need for updating regulatory services relating to agricultural products (food, plant and animals and their products) as per the provisions of international treaties and agreements as well as the national requirements.

In September 2015, the GoN approved a new twenty years Agriculture Development Strategy (ADS) for the period between 2015 and 2035, which identifies SPS related problems emerging from changes in the marketing system. It includes improvement of quality, safety and certification for safe, quality and fair trade. It also identifies need of national food safety authority whose regulatory capacity encompasses the whole food chain to ensure safe and quality food products.

ADS prioritized the following activities directly linked with fulfilling SPS measures that facilitates/promotes entry of Nepalese agricultural products in international markets:

- Adoption and implementation of internationally compatible food quality and safety standards through enactment of a modern Food Act with the formation of an independent Food Authority to issue SPS standards (Food Safety and Quality, FSQ) by a simplified procedure such as those of the Codex Alimentarius and promotion of private sector quality laboratory services.
- Adoption of legislation for establishing National Accreditation Body and for accreditation of certification bodies and national laboratories for FSQ certification and joining of ILAC/APLAC for international recognition of the National Accreditation Body
- Strengthening and upgrading to internationally accredited level the laboratories under DFTQC, DoA and DoLS.
- Strengthening the capacity of the DFTQC, for the formulation of FSQ standards, enforcement of FSQ standards and public awareness; and decentralizing DFTQC by establishing food quality control regional laboratories in all five regions; and establishing food quality regulatory offices in all the districts.
- Strengthening the capacities of PPD and NPQP for preparing quarantine pest and disease risk lists, and preparing and disseminating accepted SPS management system for these risks minimization, introducing surveillance systems and developing standards for phytosanitary measures for different crops, consistent with international standards for phytosanitary measures (ISPM).
- Strengthening surveillance programs by adopting One Health Approach for animal health through capacity enhancement of the National Animal Health Center (NAHC) for TAD surveillance, diagnostic and response and improved diagnostic capacity and testing.

Food safety

DFTQC is the apex government organization (National Food Authority) responsible for the enforcement of Food Act, 1967 and Regulations, 1970.

Main SPS related functions of DFTQC

- Food safety policy and regulation formulation
- Market, supermarket and industry inspection
- Food industry licensing
- Food export import inspection and certification
- Food standardization
- Hotel, restaurant and eateries inspection
- Food monitoring with rapid response team
- Consumer awareness program
- Food laboratory services and quality certification
- Food technology development and training
- Food based nutrition and recipes development
- Functioning and coordination of SPS National Enquiry Point

DFTQC sets technical regulations and SPS measures (otherwise known as mandatory standards) for food and food products as per the Food Act, 1967. Its Food Quality Control division, Regional Food Technology and Quality Control Offices and Central Food Laboratory are directly linked with the regulatory work.

DFTQC has five regional Food Technology and Quality Control offices (Biratnagar, Hetauda, Bhairawa, Nepalgunj and Dhangadhi), Food Quarantine Labs at four Custom Points (Kakarvita, Birgunj, Mahendranagar and Tatopani/Kodari) and Tribhuvan International Airport, Kathmandu.

The Food Quality Control Division of the DFTQC is responsible for the enforcement of Food Act/Regulation and ensuring the safety and quality across food supply chain including industrial/market/hotels/restaurants inspections, sample collection and legal actions; recommendation of food industry establishment, issuing and renewal of licenses; updating and reviewing of existing mandatory food standards/technical regulations; development of new food standards; export/import inspection and certification and issuing import permit for some specified products. This division is assisted by central/food quarantine laboratories, all regional food quality control offices and district food inspection units.

Laboratory sections of the Central Food Laboratory

- Food and Feed Laboratory
- Microbiological Laboratory
- Instrumental Laboratory
- Food Contaminants and Additives Laboratory
- R&D Laboratory
- Reference Laboratory

These laboratories and the laboratories of regional food quality control offices along with quarantine laboratories are providing services for testing sample of products received under different functional activities. However, only food and chemical testing laboratories have been accredited for some specific parameters for a few products as reflected in Tables 4 and 14.

Nepal is a member of Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC) since 1974. The **National Codex Committee (NCC)** has been established since 2004 with four specific functions:

- Promoting the harmonization of national food standards in compliance with Codex;
- Providing the comment and suggestion on issues of Codex;
- Participating in Codex Committee; and
- Advising the GoN on matters related to adoption of international standards.

DFTQC is designated as the secretariat of NCC. Since 2013, NCC had formed four technical sub-committees to extend technical support to the NCC in harmonization of the related standards and guidelines for:

- Meat and Meat Products;
- Pesticide Residues;
- Tea, Coffee and Spices; and
- Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification

So far, DFTQC has actively participated in Codex standard preparation for milk powder, honey, ginger, instant noodles, and Pesticide Residues.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives issued Directives on “Export-Import Inspection and Quality Certification System in Nepal” in 2006 to fulfil transparency requirement under the SPS Agreement and to protect the human, plant and animal life and health in the country. Details could be seen in the webpage: (<http://www.spsenquiry.gov.np/uploads/files/Text%20of%20Notification%20NNPL5%20Exp%20Imp%20Dir%20for%20Food.pdf>).

In case of the export certification for Food Safety and Quality, the GoN has issued a directive, which calls for a voluntary system, where the producers and exporters have a

choice to be certified under this system either through the DFTQC or any other competent and authorized agency for certification. Presently, as the DFTQC is not yet internationally accredited for issuing product and management system certificate (HACCP, ISO 22000 etc.), it is engaged in facilitating food testing and issuing export certification for the exporters when any importing country makes it mandatory to have certificates from National Food Authority.

In the meantime, through the above directives, the GoN has adopted a mandatory system of import certification for the import of food products, plants, plant products, live animals, livestock products and inputs for livestock in Nepal. This import certification system is adopted to clarify the procedural matters of the said acts, regulations and guidelines. The GoN has so far adopted mandatory system of import certification/permit for the import of following products:

- Milk products
- Fat & Oil
- Processed Drinking Water
- Fruit juice and beverage

Steps to follow with the import certification/permit

- Application for import permit of food and food products:
- Requirements:
 - Application with name and address of the owners/major shareholders
 - Registration number of the firm/validity of the registration
 - Brief description of the commodity to be imported
 - Name of the commodity/brand name
 - Exporting country
 - Name and address of the processors
 - GMP/ HACCP/ ISO 9000 certification of the processing unit (if existing)
 - Copy or print of the label of the product
 - Quality certificate issued by authorized institution of the exporting country for the consignment to be imported
 - A copy of the analysis report of the sample or a well-protected pack of sample
 - Copy of inspection report, issued by the authority of the government of exporting country or any agency accredited by it
 - Copy of the license of the manufacturing unit issued from the government authority of the exporting country or any agency accredited by it

- Copy of export certificate document issued by accredited authority of the exporting country of agency accredited by it
- Processing of the application and issuing import permit
- Provision of withdrawal of permission
- Inspection and certification of food consignment at custom points

Application can be downloaded from website: <http://www.dftqc.gov.np> and submitted along with postal stamp of Rs.10. The applicant should follow the Food Act & Rules set by the GoN for the label.

Animal health

The Directorate of Animal Health (DAH) of the Department of Livestock Services (DoLS) is designated by the GoN as the National Veterinary Authority responsible for providing animal health and livestock regulatory services by adopting the Animal Health and Livestock Services Act, 1998 and Animal Health and Livestock Services Rules, 1999. The DAH is providing services through its national program offices, six veterinary laboratories, and twenty three animal check posts at land borders. In addition, it has also got two national level laboratories for investigation of avian disease and epidemic disease like foot and mouth disease (FMD). The DoLS is also enforcing Animal Slaughter House and Meat Inspection Act, 1999, and its Animal Slaughter House and Meat Inspection Rules, 2001 through DAH.

Some other specific functions of the DAH which are directly linked with SPS measures are:

- Control and eradicate epidemic animal diseases;
- Provide animal disease diagnostic services;
- Conduct survey and surveillance of animal diseases;
- Apply quality control system in vet. medicines and vaccines;
- Provide animal quarantine services effectively;
- Control zoonosis diseases;
- Activate Slaughterhouse and Meat Inspection Act and assist in the establishment and running of slaughterhouse by private sectors;
- Modernize the animal health services according to the standard of OIE and WTO.

National animal quarantine standards (Standard operating procedures, health certification) are formulated by National Animal Quarantine Office (NAQO) in line with the World Organization of Animal Health Standards and sent to MoLD through DoLS for notification and approval.

Under the Animal Health and Livestock Services Act, 1998, and Animal Health and Livestock Services Rules, 1999, there is a mandatory requirement of the import/export permit for the import or export of live animals, animal products or production materials. The

competent authority for the animal quarantine services is the NAQO. Procedures laid down for issuing permits, inspections and certifications are briefly highlighted below:

Two different procedures are followed for examining the livestock and livestock products:

- Procedure for examining livestock
 - Conducting physical and clinical examination
 - Conducting laboratory examination
 - Conducting other complex examination if required
- Procedures for examining livestock products
 - Examining whether the products are at par with the certificate
 - Examining labels, packaging and weight etc.
 - Examining unsealed products – in case of products are not sealed, thorough examination will be carried out

Animal quarantine services for export permit/certification

While exporting livestock or livestock products, the exporters should do the following:

- Application to be filed for issuing export permit at the NAQO in a given format. The application must include types, species and breed origin, number of animals and custom point through which exports are made and possible date of export.
- Health certificate and certificate of exportable quality should be received from the NAQO after inspection/examination.
- The transportation vehicle to be used for export of such product should be disinfected.

Upon satisfaction after inspection/examination by NAQO, sanitary certificate is issued by authorized veterinary office for exporting animal, animal products and production materials. The validity of certification remains for 10 days from the date of issue.

Quarantine services for import permits/certificate and inspection

While importing livestock or livestock products, the importers should do the following for getting import permits:

- Application to be filed for getting import permits at the NAQO in a given format. The application must include particulars of animal/animal products (identity marks, number and weight, type of animals/products) and should be submitted to the NAQO while importing.
- The transportation vehicle to be used for import of live animal or animal products should be disinfected.

- Fulfil other conditions required.
- Consignment passing through the quarantine must tally with the description in the import permit.
- Special information specified for the production, export, import and sale of biological products must be submitted by the application in case of specified biological products.
- When livestock products are examined, random sample of 10% of the shipment is taken for examination.
- The NAQO provides certificate of clearance to the relevant importer after receiving the result of quarantine examination.

Quarantine certificate for imported item

- The animals, animal products and production materials being imported should come through the process of animal quarantine. Upon completion of the quarantine process for the animal, the quarantine officer should make available a quarantine certificate in the prescribed format as soon as possible.
- The imported animal products and production materials after being examined by the quarantine officer shall be released if found appropriate.
- The quarantine officer examines, identifies and releases the healthy animal after the quarantine process when imported with sanitary and vaccination certificate against the diseases, which are prevailing in Nepal.
- Imported animals not complying with the documents of identification, vaccination, and sanitary certification, or found sick shall be detained in the quarantine place or holding yard during the period as specified in the regulation. Feeding and maintaining the animals during the period in quarantine is the responsibility of the importer.
- The quarantine officer will arrange for vaccination against the specified diseases upon the payment of fees by the importer and release the animals that completed the prescribed quarantine period.

Restrictions or prohibition on import

The GoN restricts the import of animal, animal products or animal production inputs found with specified diseases by a notification published in the Nepal gazette based on risk analysis. In addition, the GoN also prohibits the entry of animal, animal products or animal production on following emergency conditions:

- If imported from the outbreak area of contagious diseases;
- Death of any animal due to contagious diseases; or
- The vehicle used in transportation is contaminated with contagious disease.

Nepal is also a member of World Animal Health Organization (OIE) since 1998 and is actively involved in OIE Regional Commission for Asia, Far East and Oceania. For different purposes Nepal has several focal points but for the animal production food safety, the Veterinary Public Health Office of DoLS has been designated as the focal point.

Plant health

The Department of Agriculture (DOA) has the overall responsibility to enforce the Plant Protection Act, 2007 and the Plant Protection Regulation, 2010 to ensure plant protection from pests, diseases and weeds. The National Plant Quarantine Program (NPQP) under the Plant Protection Directorate (PPD) of the DOA is the designated implementing agency for plant quarantine inspection and certification and is actively engaged in implementing phytosanitary measures to protect the diversity and health of plants.

National Standards for Phytosanitary Measures (NSPMs) and operational guidelines are prepared by NPQP and with the endorsement from the National Plant Protection Organization (NPPO); the National Plant Quarantine Committee gives final approval of the draft standards. After completing the process of WTO -SPS notification, the approved standards will be notified in the Nepal Gazette for its adoption.

So far 33 draft national standards and guidelines for phytosanitary measures have been prepared, out of which 16 NSPMs have been approved and the rest are in the process of WTO notification, subsequent approval and adoption. Approved NSPMs are as listed in Table 13.

So far the GoN has notified the quarantine of diseases and pests of 18 commodities through Nepal Gazette (Apple, Citrus, Potato, Garlic, Ginger, Banana, Coffee, Pumpkin, and Bottle gourd, Cucumber, Radish, Gerbera, Carnation, Cabbage, Cauliflower, Hot Chilly, Tea and Cardamom).

The NPQP has one central office along with five regional offices (Regional Plant Quarantine Offices-RPQO) with plant quarantine laboratories (in Kakarvita, Birgunj, Bhairawa, Nepalgunj, Gaddhachauki) for conducting pre- and post-entry inspections, issuing of Entry Permit (EP) and Phytosanitary Certificate (PC). It also has seven land border Plant Quarantine Check-Posts (PQCP) and two land border Plant Quarantine Sub-Check Posts (PQSCP) for quarantine inspection along the borders with India and China. There is one Plant Quarantine Checkpost at the Tribhuvan International Airport (TIA) as well. All these Sub/Check-posts issue EP and PCs.

Table 13: National Standards for Phytosanitary Measures adopted in Nepal by December 2015

S.No.	Title/Scope
1.	Framework for pest risk analysis
2.	Pest risk analysis for quarantine pests including analysis of environmental risks and living modified organisms
3.	The use of integrated measures in a systems approach for pest risk management
4.	Pest reporting
5.	Guidelines for a phytosanitary import regulatory system
6.	Pest risk analysis for regulated non quarantine pests
7.	Guidelines for inspection
8.	Guidelines for the determination and recognition of equivalence of phytosanitary measures
9.	Establishment of pest free areas for fruit flies (Tephritidae)
10.	Diagnostic protocols for regulated pests
11.	Recognition of pest free areas and areas of low pest prevalence
12.	Methodologies for sampling of consignments
13.	Categorization of commodities according to their pest risk
14.	Design and operation of post-entry quarantine stations for plants
15.	Systems approach for pest risk management of fruit flies (Tephritidae)
16.	Integrated measures for plants for planting

Procedural steps for getting Entry Permit for import and Phytosanitary certificates for export are briefly outlined below:

1. Procedure for getting Phytosanitary Certificate for Export Purpose from NPQP and PQCP/PQSCPs

Submission of application by exporter: A person desire of exporting plant or plant products has to file an application in the designed format to the Plant Quarantine Office (NPQP/RPQO/PQCP/PQSCP) for obtaining a certificate for export. The application shall be accompanied by the following documents:

- Copy of firm/company registration certificate
- Copy of PAN/VAT registration certificate
- Invoice (original copy)
- Phytosanitary requirements of importing country
- Certificate of Origin wherever applicable
- Recommendation letter from the concerned institution related to the commodity concerned (e.g. if it is wood crafted material, recommendation from the Department of Archaeology is required; in case of forest products, the Department of Forestry; for CITES listed plants, the Department of Plant Resources; etc.)
- Packing list with details
- Application fee: NRs 100 per consignment
- For research purposes, demand documents of concerned organization (such entry permit can be issued from the NPQP only).

Verification of documents: PQO verifies the application and attached documents. The eligible application will be registered.

Inspection for Health Testing: The PQ Inspector shall draw a sample from the consignment to be exported. The recorded sample will be either examined by PQO or sent to the regional office or Plant Protection Laboratory. Such samples are recorded in the Export Inspection Register, and PQO examines these samples or may refer them to the GoN notified laboratory to ascertain that such plant & plant products are free from pest and pathogens and the results are reported in the designed format.

Issuance of PC: Maintaining the record, a PC will be issued by the PQO once the examination result is satisfactory. In case any live infestation/infection is noticed in the samples, the Phytosanitary Certificate (PC) will not be issued. If the exporter desires, re-examination of the consignment will be done after suitable treatment and a PC will only be issued if found free from pest/disease. If conditions of fumigation/ treatment of exportable material are specified by the importing country, it will be done as per the import requirement so that it can be endorsed in the PC.

2. Procedure for Entry Permit/Consignment release

Submission of Application by Importer/Agent: For the Entry Permit (EP) the importer has to file an application in the designed format to the PQO along with the following documents:

- Copy of Firm Registration Certificate/copy of citizenship/passport of the importer (in case of individual)
- Copy of PAN/VAT registration certificate
- Invoice of exporter
- Request Letter for Entry Permit

- Application Fee NRs 200 per consignment
- Recommendation from the concerned institution e.g. Seed Quality Control Center (SQCC) for seeds, DOF/DPR for forest species/NTFPs
- In case of commodities for research purpose, recommendation from NARC is the must

Verification of Application: Inspector verifies the content of application paying special attention to commodity, quantities, country of origin and identity of importer.

Issuance of Entry Permit: After proper scrutiny of the application, the import permit is issued by designated and authorized PQO.

If any person or body, showing a reason for not being able to obtain the import permit beforehand, makes an application, accompanied by the necessary documents as referred above, at the point of entry for the entry permit, the Chief of Office may, if the reason for not being able to obtain the permit beforehand is found reasonable, issue the permit at the point of entry, upon collecting the fees of one thousand rupees.

Application to be filed for examination/inspection and treatment at entry points:

After the arrival of consignments at the entry point, the importer has to file the inspection form along with declaration format to the PQO at the entry points along with following documents:

- Original copy of the EP issued.
- Original PC of the imported consignments from the exporting country
- Other trading documents related to imported consignments

Whenever necessary, the importer has to unload cargo, open bags and re-load consignment for taking samples and inspection.

Documents for checking: Inspector verifies all documents delivered by importer. Essential documents are:

- Original PC, a serial number given by National Plant Protection Organization of the exporting country and documents attached
- Entry permits (EP), if applicable
- Trade documents (freight documents, contract between exporter and importer and invoice and Letter of Credit)

Identity Checking: Identity checking is to verify that consignment consists of material as indicated in the EP/PC and other import documents, quantity in consignment and information of the carrier vehicle/containers, etc.

Visual Inspection: Apart from the commodity, the inspector shall also visually inspect the transport vehicle, packages and containers to see any:

- Presence of loose soil, plant debris and weeds;
- Possible infestation of living pests or indications for invisible infestations;
- Symptoms of diseases in plant material;
- Packaging material of plant origin containing loose soil, plant debris, insect infestation or disease symptoms or signs, etc.

Sampling and Laboratory Analyses: In case of detection of any living pests or fresh traces of insects, samples shall be taken of living specimens, leaves, parts of plants, packaging material for laboratory inspection to examine any quarantine pests. Similarly, when the commodity shows signs of any disease, representative samples will be drawn for laboratory inspection. The duly drawn samples are recorded in the Import Certification Register and examined in its laboratory or referred to any Regional PQO/Regional Plant Protection Laboratory or a recognized laboratory approved by the GoN.

Release Order: If the result is satisfactory, the consignment under inspection is authorized to be released.

Nepal is the signatory member of the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) since 2006. The Convention extends to the protection of natural flora and plant products from damages by pests/weeds and plant diseases. The provisions of the Convention cover conveyances, containers, storage places, soil and other objects or material capable of harbouring plant pests. The GoN has designated PPD as the NPPO and official contact point for the IPPC. Currently, the NPPO is having responsibilities of conducting and implementing Integrated Pest management (IPM) programs, pest survey and surveillances, pesticide management, pest diagnostic services, pesticide residue analysis, emergency plant protection services, bio-pesticide promotion, besides fulfilling its obligations to IPPC.

A website <http://www.npgpnepal.gov.np>, is available for the access of information on Plant Quarantine Programme, management of web based Phytosanitary Database System with pest information and Plant Quarantine networking.

Table 14 provides the list of export–import of products for which export or import permits/licenses are required. The table also gives some information on application fee, license fee, and maximum processing time of issuing permits/licenses. More detail information can be accessed through Nepal Business License e-Portal of the GoN (<http://www.licenseportal.gov.np>).

Table 14: License/Permit requirements from Regulatory Agencies for export of Agricultural Products

Agency	License/ permit/ analysis	Purpose	Application Fee (Postage Stamp)	License fee	Max. processing time	Validity
DFTQC	Analysis report of Food Product	To make legal provisions to maintain proper standard of foodstuffs and to prevent any undesirable adulteration and regulate and control import and export of food items to maintain health and convenience of the general public	Rs. 10	According to the types of food product/ parameters	2-10 days	NA
DPR	Export Permission Letter for Plants	For clearance certificate and seal for export and for due analysis and identification of the product. Regulate over exploitation of certain plant species and promoting trade in plants and plant products by adopting appropriate measures for their effective control.	Rs. 5	Rs. 350 per sample for test and Rs. 300 for recommendation for export	7 days (light facilities permitting)	expires after export is done
NPQP/PPD/ DoA	Phytosanitary Certificate	Preventing the introduction, establishment, prevalence and spread of pests while exporting plants and plant products, promoting trade in plants and plant products by adopting appropriate measures for their effective control; certify for export purpose.	Rs10	Rs. 100*	1 day	max. 3 months
SQCC	Permission for import/export of seeds	To ensure providing the seeds of quality-standards in a well-planned manner and of high quality standards; maintain seed standards and purity, preservation of varietal source; regulate import/ export of seeds.	No fee	Rs. 100	7 to 30 days (depends upon the inspection time of seeds)	2 years

Pesticide Registration and Management section, PPD/DoA	Pesticide Resellers	Registration and Managing the selling and storage of pesticides for public safety	No fee	Rs.500	40 days	2 years
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The Department of Archeology needs to issue permissions for the export of wood carvings and other materials of historic values before issuing of PC and Department of Forestry has to recommend for the export of forest and non-timber forest products before issuance of PC.

(Source: Nepal Business License e-Portal - <http://www.licenseportal.gov.np>)

Sector associations

The Federation of Nepalese Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FNCCI) is an apex organization of the Nepalese private sector. It was established in 1965 with the aim of promoting business and industry while protecting the rights and interests of business and industrial communities.

FNCCI has been playing a key role in promoting business and industry in the country and is helping its members to improve their productivity, quality and explore domestic and international markets by providing information, advisory, consultative, promotional and representation services, organizes training/workshop/seminar related to quality and productivity.

FNCCI also represents private sector organizations in various legal committees/boards/councils at national level related to quality and standardisation particularly in the Board of Trade, Nepal Council for Standard; Food Standards Fixation Committee; Industrial Promotion Board, National Plant Quarantine Committee and many steering committees of the quality promotional programs and projects.

More than two dozen existing commodity/sectoral associations are in the network of the FNCCI which need technical supports for fulfilling requirements of TBT and SPS measures. Periodically, the FNCCI is organising many awareness/advocacy programs in the form of seminar/workshops and trainings on quality, product and management system certification and other SPS and TBT requirements at different parts of Nepal.

Some specific commodity associations like:

- Nepal Pashmina Industries Association (NPPIA)
- Himalayan Orthodox Tea Producer Associations (HOTPA)
- Cardamom Entrepreneurs' Association
- Central Carpet Industries Association
- Nepal Carpet Exporters Association
- Leather Goods and Footwear Manufacturers' Association of Nepal (LGFMAN)
- Nepal Coffee Producers Association (NCPA)

are currently actively advocating for creating relevant quality infrastructures and improving production management system of their members by introducing code of practices and introducing collective trademarks. Seed Entrepreneurs Association of Nepal (SEAN), and Nepal Herbs and Herbal Products Association (NEHHPA) are also involved in creating relevant quality infrastructures and quality advocacy.

Trade promotion organizations

The Ministry of Commerce (MOC) is the main government line agency which is involved in formulation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policy and plan and promotion programmes relating to export including export promotion. It is also involved in liaison, coordination, negotiation, agreement and commitment with multilateral trade organizations including WTO.

In line with the Trade Policy, 2008 and Nepal Trade Integration Strategy (NTIS) 2010, the Ministry is extending its program supports to the NBSM, DFTQC, NPQP and many other sectoral associations, directly or indirectly dealing with quality, standards, conformity assessment, through Enhanced Integrated Framework (EIF) projects like Enhancing Nepal's Trade Related Capacity (ENTReC) Project and bilateral projects like Standard, Metrology and Testing of Quality (SMTQ) Project.

Currently funds are available as the aid-for trade package bilaterally/multilaterally (from Germany, Norway, USAID, EU and the World Bank) and also through EIF and Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF). MOC is directly executing two projects, i.e. Nepal Enhanced Capacities for Trade and Development (NECTRADE) Project and EC-WTO Technical Assistance Project to improve the capacity of MOC and sectoral agencies/associations (like tea, medicinal and aromatic plants, pashmina) for:

- Negotiation and compliance with SPS requirements of trading partners; and
- Strengthen national SPS, TBT related organizations in terms of quality infrastructure and standardization.

Some details about the past and ongoing program supports from the development partners are listed in Annex III.

A new Trade Policy, 2015 has also been announced recently with commitment for program priorities towards fulfilling the obligations of SPS and TBT Agreements required for promoting export trade.

The Trade and Export Promotion Centre (TEPC) established by the GoN in 2006 as the national trade promotion organization (NTPO), is another organization having roles and responsibilities to promote Nepalese foreign trade in general and export trade in particular. Two of its prime functions are linked with quality promotion particularly advocacy for technical assistance with national and international organizations for improving quality/standard of exportable products and simplification of the procedures relating quality control for export transaction. It is also providing assistances to SMEs for their product market tests and quality certifications, trade fair organization and participations.

Training, consulting, advisory services

A few business member organizations (BMOs), professional associations and private institutions are providing training, consultancy and advisory services to existing and potential small and medium exporters and test Laboratories.

The table below gives an illustrative list of organizations involved in providing above mentioned services (Table 15).

Table 15: Indicative List of Organizations

Type of Organization	Organization Name	Type of Services
Business Member Organizations/ Commodity Associations	Federation of Handicraft Associations of Nepal (FHAN)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organizing training, exposure visits and trade fair and giving opportunities to its members to participation in international trade fairs Operating "Nepal Handicraft Testing Laboratory" in technical collaboration with the NBSM for testing gold and silver jewelry for cadmium using non-destructive method of analysis and issuing test certificates
Umbrella organization of business in Nepal	Federation of Nepalese Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FNCCI)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conducting, on a regular basis, trainings, workshops, seminars on chamber

		<p>management, publication, information exchange, documentation, industrial relation, productivity, entrepreneurship, quality management, environment, etc.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing "One Stop" service to its members
Professional Association for managers, entrepreneurs, practitioners, consultants, academicians	Network for Quality, Productivity and Competitiveness – Nepal (NQPCN)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing specific quality consulting and training • Organizing Seminars • Learning and sharing • Communique Publication. • Organizing National and International Conferences and advocacy
Professional Associations/Forums	Nepal Food Scientists and Technologists Association (NEFOSTA) and SMTQ-Forum-Nepal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quality counselling, organizing food safety awareness programs • Organizing quality and standard related workshop/conferences • Quality advocacy
Private Training, Consultancy Services and Certifying Agencies	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. National Certification and Management Nepal (NATCM) 2. Universal Quality Standards Registrar (UQSR) 3. Soft-Tech C.I. Pvt.Ltd 4. Quality & Environmental Management Service Pvt.Ltd.'(QEMS) 5. Management Training Environmental Engineering Consultancy (MTEEC) Pvt. Ltd 6. URS Nepal 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training (Lead Auditors, Internal Quality Auditing) • Counselling visits • Product and Management System certifications

Currently, the **SMTQ Forum Nepal** is the only non-governmental and non-profit making company registered in 2008 which is solely involved in Quality and the TBT and SPS related activities. It serves as a national level working group of Nepalese experts that is expected to interlink and facilitate coordination among different organizations or units that

are engaged in quality infrastructure; work and advocate for the establishment of unified and internationally recognized national conformity assessment system; and provide assistance in strengthening technical capabilities and expertise of personnel involved in quality management systems and SPS/TBT related services.

Since its establishment, the SMTQ Forum Nepal has been organizing some programs to impart training on method validation, internal calibration, and measurement uncertainty, with the support from PTB (National Metrology Institute of Germany). It is also initiating some technical support to some private laboratories as groundwork for achieving international accreditation. The support is included for internal calibration work, inter-laboratory comparison work and training and providing reference materials.

The Network for Quality, Productivity and Competitiveness – Nepal (NQPCN) is a network of entrepreneurs, managers, academicians and consultants in Nepal established in 2004 to enhance competitiveness through sharing, learning and applying globally developed quality and productivity tools and techniques for social and economic development and the nation.

NQPCN is a not for profit organization and solely run from membership fees and voluntary contributions. In addition, NQPCN is a core member of Asia Pacific Quality Organization (APQO) and Asia Network for Quality (ANQ).

Standards, technical regulations, sanitary and phytosanitary measures

Nepal is a signatory of the WTO Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) and Agreement on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures. The government has designated NBSM as the TBT National Enquiry Point and the DFTQC as the SPS National Enquiry Point.

TBT National Enquiry Point

The TBT section, headed by a Director is operational as TBT National Enquiry Point in the NBSM and has been notifying and publishing various information regarding the TBT. Under this section, national and international notice of standards, technical regulation; and conformity assessment procedures (product certification, quality management system certification, etc.); list of Nepal Quality Certification Mark (NS) license holding industries; and other concerned information, are available upon request.

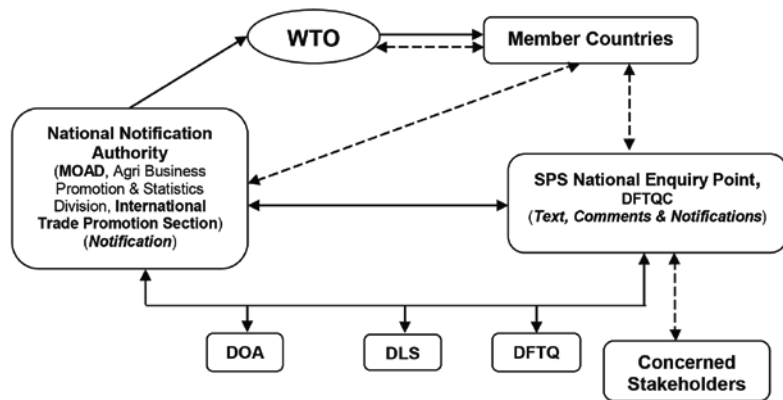
SPS National Enquiry Point

The SPS National Enquiry Point is established within the DFTQC in 2004 to facilitate the trade on agro-products by providing the information and communication on National SPS measures (SPS related rules & regulation, standards, guidelines relating to food safety, animal and plant health protection) to WTO members and concern stakeholders. Three officers, one each from Plant Quarantine Services, Veterinary Services, and Food

Research have been serving under SPS National Enquiry Point for providing information in an integrated or one window service approach.

The structural linkage of the SPS National Enquiry Point is as reflected in Figure 4.

Figure 4: Functional Structure of SPS National Enquiry Point



The SPS National Enquiry Point provides enquiry services, maintains documentation and publication in an integrated and one window approach as well as holding interaction meetings and stakeholders meetings. Contact details of both National Enquiry Points are provided in Annex I.

Annex I

Relevant organizations in Nepal

1. Relevant National Organizations	
Organization	Category
<p>Nepal Bureau of Standards and Metrology (NBSM) P.O.Box: 985, Balaju Kathmandu, Nepal Tel: +977-1-4356810 Email: nbsm@nbsm.gov.np Website: http://www.nbsm.gov.np</p> <p>Membership: ISO, APMP, OIML</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National standards body • National metrology institute and calibration laboratories • National weights and measures organization • Technical regulation implementation authority • Product/Management system certification • Pre-shipment Inspection
<p>Department of Food Technology & Quality Control (DFTQC) Babarmahal, Kathmandu, Nepal Tel: +977-1-4262369 E-mail: dqdfqc@mail.com.np Website: www.dftqc.gov.np</p> <p>Membership: CODEX</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Food Regulatory Authority • Mandatory Food Standards • Licensing, Import/ Export Permits • Food testing/ certification
<p>Nepal Bureau of Standards and Metrology (NBSM) P.O.Box: 985, Balaju Kathmandu, Nepal Tel: +977-1-4356810 Email: nbsm@nbsm.gov.np Website: http://www.nbsm.gov.np</p>	<p>TBT National Enquiry Point</p>

1. Relevant National Organizations	
Organization	Category
<p>Department of Food Technology & Quality Control Babarmahal, Kathmandu, Nepal Tel: +977-1-4256947 E-mail: spsnepal@ntc.net.np Website: www.spsenquiry.gov.np</p>	SPS National Enquiry Point
<p>Department of Drug Administration (DDA) Ministry of Health / HMG Bijulibazar, Kathmandu, Nepal E-mail : director@dda.gov.np Website: http://www.dda.gov.np</p>	National Drug Regulatory Authority
<p>Seed Quality Control Centre (SQCC) Government of Nepal Harihar Bhawan, Lalitpur, Nepal Tel: 977-01-5534258 E-mail: info@sqcc.gov.np Website: http://sqcc.gov.np</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seed Regulatory Authority • Seed testing and certification
<p>National Plant Protection Organization (NPPO) Plant Protection Directorate Department of Agriculture Hariharbhawan, Lalitpur, Nepal Tel: +977-1-5521597 E-mail: director@ppdnepal.gov.np Website: http://www.ppdnepal.gov.np</p> <p>Membership: IPPC</p>	National Plant Protection Organization (Plant Protection Regulatory Authority)

1. Relevant National Organizations	
Organization	Category
<p>National Plant Quarantine Programme (NPQP) Hariharbhawan, Lalitpur Nepal Tel: ++977-1-5553798 E-mail: chief@npqpnepal.gov.np Website: http://www.npqpnepal.gov.np</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plant Quarantine Inspection • Phytosanitary Certificates • Phytosanitary Standards • Quarantine treatments
<p>Directorate of Animal Health Department of Livestock Services (National Focal Point for Veterinary Services) Tripureshwor, Kathmandu, Nepal GPO Box: 20295, Kathmandu Tel - +977-01-4261569, 4261165 Email: ahd@healthnet.org.np Website: http://ahd.gov.np/</p> <p>Membership: OIE</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regulatory Authority for Veterinary Service • Animal and animal product quarantine related inspection • Permits and certification
<p>Central Animal Quarantine Office Department of Livestock Services Budhanilkantha, Kathmandu Phone: +977-1 4650205, 4650211 E-mail: caqoktm@gmail.com Website: http://caqo.gov.np</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Animal and animal product quarantine related • Veterinary Standards and Certification
<p>Natural Products Research Laboratory Department Of Plant Resources Thapathali, Kathmandu, Nepal G.P.O. Box 2270 Tel: 977-1-4251161, 4251159 Email: info@dpr.gov.np Website: http://www.dpr.gov.np/</p>	NTFP Product Testing

1. Relevant National Organizations	
Organization	Category
<p>National Medicines Laboratory (NML) Madan Bhandari Path-4 Bijulibazar, New Baneshwor Kathmandu Tel: 977-1-4781269 Email: rdrl@healthnet.org.np / nml@dda.gov.np Website: http://www.dda.gov.np</p>	Pharmaceutical Product testing
<p>Trade and Export Promotion Centre (TEPC) Government of Nepal Natole, Pulchowk, P.O.Box 825 Kathmandu, Nepal Tel: 977-1-5525348/898, 5535642 Email: info@tepc.gov.np Website: http://www.tepc.gov.np</p>	Trade Promotion Organization
<p>National Tea and Coffee Development Board (NTCDB) New Baneshwor, Kathmandu, Nepal PO BOX: 9683 Tel: 977-1-4495792, 4499786 Email: ntcdboard@wlink.com.np Website: http://www.teacoffee.gov.np</p>	Commodity Development and Promotion Board

2. Business Member/Sector Organizations promoting Quality	
<p>Federation of Nepalese Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FNCCI) Pachali Shahid Shukra FNCCI Milan Marg, Teku P.O. Box 269, Kathmandu Tel. : 977-1- 4262061 / 4262218 E-mail: fncci@mos.com.np Website: http://www.fncci.org</p>	<p>Federation of Handicraft Associations of Nepal (FHAN) Upama Marg -11, Thapathali, Kathmandu GPO Box No. 784 Tel : 977 – 1 – 4244231, 4245467, 4245467 Email : han@wlink.com.np Website: http://www.nepalhandicraft.org.np</p>
<p>Network for Quality, Productivity and Competiveness – Nepal (NQCPN) Box: 23678, New Baneshwor, Kathmandu Tel : +977-1-4499967; +977-1-4479364 Cell: 9851117613 E-mail: secretariat@nqpcn.org.np, icq-nepal@nqpcn.org.np Website: www.nqpcn.org.np</p>	<p>Nepal Herbs and Herbal Products Association (NEHHPA) Shahid Shukra FNCCI Milan Marg Pachali, Teku, Kathmandu Tel: +977-1-4258535 Email: nehhpa1@gmail.com Website: http://www.nepalherb.org</p>
<p>Nepal Pashmina Industries Association (NPIA) Daha Marga, Sundhara, Kathmandu Tel: +977-1-4254713 Email: npia@ntc.net.np Website: http://www.pashminaassociation.org.np</p> <p>Collective Trademark owner of Chyangra Pashmina</p>	<p>Himalayan Orthodox Tea Producer's Organization (HOTPA-Nepal) Bakhundole, Lalitpur, Nepal Tel: 977-1-5521942, 9851078467 Email: hotpa@mail.com.np Website: www.nepalhimalayantea.com</p>
<p>Seed Entrepreneurs Association of Nepal (SEAN) P O Box 13874, Kalanki, Kathmandu Tel: +977-1-4302582 Email: seedeanepal@gmail.com</p>	<p>Nepal Coffee Producers Association (NCPA) New Baneswor Plaza D Block 5th Floor, New Baneswor-35, Kathmandu Tel: 977-1-4484421 Email: ncpakathmandu@gmail.com Website: www.coffeenepal.org.np</p> <p>Collective Trademark owner of Nepal Coffee</p>

2. Business Member/Sector Organizations promoting Quality	
<p>Fair Trade Group Nepal Jhamsikhel, Lalitpur, Nepal PO Box 13620, Kathmandu Tel: 977-1- 5549848, 5542608 Email: ftgnepal@info.com.np Website: http://fairtradegrouppnepal.org</p> <p>Fair Trade Logo Member of World Fair Trade Organization</p>	<p>Nepal Carpet Exporters Association P.O.Box 20747 Tel: 977-1-4373629 Email: nceanepal@gmail.com Website: http://www.ncea.org.np</p> <p>Collective Trademark owner of hand-knotted carpets</p>
<p>Leather Footwear and Goods Manufacturers Association of Nepal (LFGMAN) P.O.Box 19732, Bagbazaar, Kathmandu Tel: 977-1-4219349 Email: lfgman@ntc.net.np</p> <p>Collective Trademark owner of Nepali Footwear</p>	<p>Nepal Cardamom Entrepreneurs Federation Central Office, Birtamod, Jhapa Tel: 977-23-541479 Email: flcen.mod@gmail.com</p> <p>Collective Trademark owner of Nepali cardamom</p>
<p>Central Carpet Industries Association P.O Box 2419, Lazimpat, North Gate of Palace, Kathmandu Tel: 977-1-4486849 Email: info@nepalcarpet.org Website: http://www.nepalcarpet.org</p> <p>Collective Trademark owner of hand-knotted carpets</p>	

3. Professional Associations/Forum linked with TBT and SPS Activities	
<p>Nepal Food Scientists and Technologists Association (NEFOSTA) Babar Mahal, Kathmandu, Nepal Phone : +977-1-4256624 E-mail: info@nefosta.org.np</p>	<p><u>Quality Promotion /Advocacy Organizations</u></p> <p>Standards, Metrology, Testing and Quality (SMTQ) Forum, Nepal Tel: 977 1 4222218 Email: smtqforumnepal@gmail.com Website: http://smtqnepal.org</p>
4. Nepalese Private Certification Bodies providing process certifications/lead auditor training, etc.	
<p>Universal Quality Standards Registrar (UQSR) Trade Tower, Thapathali Kathmandu, Nepal Email: info@isonepal.com Website: http://isonepal.com</p>	<p>National Certification and Management Nepal (NATCM) Tourism Bank Building New Baneshwor, Kathmandu Tel: 977 1 4479364 Email: info@natcmnepal.com Website: http://natcmnepal.com/</p>
<p>Soft-Tech C.I. PvtLtd. New Baneshwor - 10, Kathmandu, Nepal Contact No.: + 977 - 1 - 4499967 Email: info@softtechnepal.com; softiso@ntc.net.np Website: www.softtechnepal.com</p>	<p>Quality & Environmental Management Service Pvt. Ltd. (QEMS) Anamnagar, Kathmandu, Nepal Tel: +977-1- 4258455 Email: gems@enet.com.np; gemsnepal@gmail.com</p>
<p>Management Training Environmental Engineering Consultancy (MTEEC) Pvt. Ltd Jwagal, Lalitpur P.O.Box 20581, Kathmandu, Nepal Tel: +977-1-5011281 Email: admin@mteec.com.np</p>	<p>URS Nepal Rani Bari Marg Ring Road, Lazimpat, Kathmandu, Nepal Tel: +977-1-4 365495 Email: info@ursnepal.com Website: http://www.ursnepal.com</p>

5. Organic Certifiers of Nepal	
<p>Organic Certification Nepal Pvt. Ltd. P.O. Box No. 8132, Kathmandu, Nepal Tel: 977-1-5009083</p>	<p>The Himalayan Bio-organic Agriculture Center Nepal (HIMBOAC-NEPAL) Banasthali-16, Kathmandu Email: info@himalayabio-organic.com Website: www.himalayabio-organic.com</p>
<p>Coffee Co-operative Union Ltd. Lalitpur, Nepal. Tel:+977-1-5565656 Email: info@coffeecullnepal.org Website: http://www.coffeecullnepal.org</p>	
6. Nepalese Private Calibration Service Providers	
<p>CALTECH PRIVATE LIMITED 360/50, Manohara Ekta Marg, Kathmandu-35, Nepal Mobile: +977- 9851181612 Email: info@caltechnepal.com</p>	

Annex II

Major national programmes on quality and SPS compliance

There are four main government organizations involved in carrying out national programs on quality and SPS compliances. The key service components of these organizations under different programs are summarized in Annex II given below.

Services provided by Government Organizations under different National Programs

National Program	Government Organization	Service Component
Quality certification and monitoring of manufactured goods	Nepal Bureau of Standards and Metrology (NBSM) /Ministry of Industry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Voluntary standards setting • Granting of Nepal Standard Marks and monitoring of use /abuse of NS Marks • Introduction and enforcement of technical regulations (excluding that for foods and drugs) • Initiative For Int'l Quality Certification of domestic products and management system • Laboratory Testing Legal Metrology, Calibration • Pre-shipment/Post-delivery Inspections of goods • Coordinates for International Laboratory Accreditation • TBT National Enquiry Point
Food Safety and Quality Control Program	Department of Food Technology and Quality Control (DFTQC)/ Ministry of Agricultural Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food safety Regulatory work • Mandatory Food Standards formulation, Food and feed Industry Licensing • Food Industry Licensing • Food Testing and Quality Certification • Import/Export Inspection and Certification and permit issuing • Market, supermarket and industry inspections ; Hotel, restaurant and eatery inspections • SPS National Enquiry Point • National Codex Committee Secretariat

National Plant Protection Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Directorate of Plant Protection (PPD) / Department of Agriculture-Ministry of Agriculture Development 	PPD is the National Plant Protection Organization (NPPO) to link with International Plant Protection Convention
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Plant Quarantine Program (NPQP) under the PPD 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formulation of National Phytosanitary Measures and working guidelines for Quarantine Inspections • Preparation of Quarantine Pests • Pest Risk Analysis • Pest Free Area Declaration • Plant quarantine inspections • Issuing of import permits • Issuing of Plant Quarantine certificates
Animal Health and Livestock Service Programs (Strengthen Surveillance Program and National Animal Quarantine Program)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Directorate of Animal Health/Department(DAH) of Livestock Services under the Ministry of Agriculture Development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Perform as National Veterinary Authority to provide animal health and livestock regulatory services • Provide animal disease diagnostic services • Surveillance of animal diseases • Apply quality control system in veterinary medicines/vaccines • Control Zoonosis diseases
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Animal Quarantine Office (NAQO) under DAH 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formulation of Animal Quarantine Standards • Implement animal quarantine inspection and certification • Issuing of Import Permit for import and export of live animals, animal products and production materials

Annex III

Technical assistance from development partners

(with focus on capacity building for standards-related areas)

Status of Assistance	Projects/Programs and Thrust Areas
<i>Past assistance</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. JICA support for establishment of a new laboratory complex of DFTQC in Kathmandu and ADB support for laboratory building in Biratnagar. 2. EC-Nepal WTO Assistance Program – an EU project implemented by UNIDO and UNESCAP, 2008 – 2011. 3. SAARC-SMTQ Program on “Market Access and Trade Facilitation Support for South Asian LDCs through strengthening National Capacities Related to Standards, Metrology, Testing and Quality”. This program was funded by NORAD and implemented by UNIDO and was completed in two phases by 2012. 4. Support to Nepal in the field of Quality Infrastructure Phase I –implemented by PTB/Germany.
<i>Current assistance</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Project for Agriculture Commercialization and Trade, Ministry of Agriculture Development, World Bank, 2009 to 2018; (US\$ 23 million). 2. Services to enhance the capacity of MoC, NBSM and DFTQC, GoN and Value Chain Development (TPSD) – EU Project being implemented by Austrian Standards Institute, Helvetas, and GFA GmbH. It will enhance the capacity of the DFTQC Central Food Laboratory and the regional food testing laboratory at Biratnagar and extend accreditation to food safety parameters, including pesticide residues. It will also support NBSM laboratories for testing vegetable fats and oils and microbiology parameters, and provide technical assistance to prepare a training program on the application of GHP, GMP, and HACCP in the tea, coffee, dairy processing, and meat processing industries. 3. Support in the field of Quality Infrastructure Phase II –2013 – 2017, implemented by PTB Germany for improving the NBSM’s technical capabilities, its service orientation and its international recognition. 4. Market Access and Trade Facilitation Support for South Asian LDCs through strengthening National Capacities Related to Standards, Metrology, Testing and Quality (SAARC- SMTQ) Phase III Program– NORAD/UNIDO- Bhutan, Maldives and Nepal (2013-2016). 5. Nepal-India Regional Trade and Transport Project (NIRTP) of the MOC/World Bank provides supports to develop integrated or multi-functional laboratories as a pilot program to lend support to ease the issues of SPS and quarantines by establishing a plant diagnostic reference laboratory and enhancing pest surveillance programs; upgrading Customs laboratory in Kathmandu, establishing screening laboratories for Customs, food safety, plant quarantine and animal quarantine, at the border checkpoint at Birgunj (2013-2019). 6. Policy Reform Initiative Project of USAID/Nepal- IFPRI (2013-2018) providing support to National Plant Quarantine Program in Developing National Standards on Phytosanitary Measures, Laboratory Accreditation of Central Seed Testing Laboratory and Harmonization of Food Standards.

	<p>7. ITC programme on non-tariff measures (NTM): representative survey of exporters and importers across all sectors to document SMEs' experiences with regulatory and procedural trade obstacles (2016). Results feed into the Sector Export Strategies for tea, coffee, large cardamom and hand-made paper.</p>
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