

WHAT WE DO

STANDARDS: Ensures quality, safety, reliability, efficiency and other vital characteristics. Standards have become a way of life for consumers globally.

WHAT IS A STANDARD?

Standards are voluntary documents that set out specifications, procedures and guidelines that aim to ensure products, services, and systems are safe, consistent, and reliable. They cover a variety of subjects, including consumer products and services, the environment, construction, energy and water utilities, and more.

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF STANDARDS?

Safety: Standards make our lives safer. When you go and purchase a toaster, you will know it is safe to use because there is a standard that defines a specific testing method for the product.

Compatibility and common rules: Common agreements make planning easier and putting plans to action much simpler. Finding a new nut or bolt to replace a broken one isn't a problem when there is a standard on thread sizes, i.e. a common agreement on the matter. When the same standard is used globally, a spare part can be found anywhere in the world.

Consumer confidence: Standards help companies tell their customers that their products and services are safe to use and of high quality. In Europe, standards are used to regulate the safety of toys, for instance.

Key to the global marketplace: Standards improve business. They make actions and operations easier to manage and more efficient. As most standards are international, it follows that exporting products or services becomes much less complicated when they conform to international standards. In Europe, for example, many requirements have been agreed upon in standards that the importer can then follow, making it unnecessary to delve into the national legislation of each separate country.



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PROMOTING CONFIDENCE,
SAFETY AND QUALITY



WHO WE ARE

Established on March 8th, 1999, the Bureau of Standards has the major responsibility of protecting the environment, health, and safety of consumers.

Its activities also focus on preparing, promoting, and generally adopting standards nationally.

OUR MISSION

To deliver the highest quality of service in the areas of metrology, food, water and environmental testing and monitor compliance to establish standards and regulations in order to foster the improved quality of life for the people of St. Kitts and Nevis.

OUR VISION

To improve safety and quality in order to foster a culture for continual improvement.

OUR DEPARTMENTS

Air Quality:

This arm of the Bureau specializes in indoor air quality (IAQ). The aim of the department is to ensure the air of an occupied space meets the necessary IAQ guidelines for occupancy, where human health is not threatened or can be adversely affected.



The services offered by the department can be performed in any indoor space, for example, office buildings and residential areas.

Current services offered by the Air Quality Department for IAQ monitoring are:

Mold: such as *Aspergillus*, *Fusarium*, *Cladosporium*, *Chaetomium*, *Stachybotrys*, *Bipolaris*, etc)

Gases: oxygen (O₂), carbon monoxide, carbon dioxide, sulfur dioxide, nitrogen dioxide, nitric oxide, hydrogen sulfide, ammonia, and total volatile organic compounds (TVOC).

Particulate matter: PM_{2.5} and PM₁₀ In the future, the department seeks to expand the services offered to outdoor air quality monitoring.

*Future Goals: to expand the services offered to outdoor air quality monitoring.

Chemistry:

Chemical analysis plays a major part of the St. Kitts and Nevis Bureau of Standards (SKNBS), fulfilling its obligation to protect the environment and health and safety of our customers.

To achieve this goal we continually:

- Provide professional, confidential services that consistently meet or exceed the requirements and expectations of our customers, whether it is conducted in-house or subcontracted.
- Improve our processes and services, developing our facilities, training our personnel and complying with ISO 9001, ISO/IEC 17025 and other applicable national, regional and international codes and regulatory requirements.

Presently, the majority of chemical analyses are performed on water, food, soil, and plant. Future advancements will be to determine the quality of fuel and pesticide residues using instruments with such capability.



Metrology:

Metrology is the science of measurement and its application. Metrology includes all theoretical and practical aspects of measurement, whatever the measurement uncertainty and field of application.

The St. Kitts and Nevis Bureau of Standards (SKNBS) is actively engaged in providing legal metrology services in the areas of mass and volume measurements. The International Organization of Legal Metrology (OIML) defines **legal metrology** as the practice and the process of applying regulatory structure and enforcement to metrology.

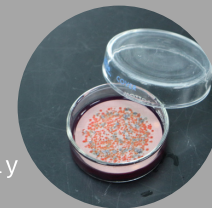


The scope of Legal Metrology services in St. Kitts and Nevis includes:

- **Mass Metrology** - Calibration and verification of Non-automatic weighing instruments
(e.g. scales at airports, supermarkets, healthcare facilities etc.)
- **Volume Metrology** - Calibration and verification gasoline volume meters
(e.g. fuel stations pumps etc.)

Microbiology:

Microbiology is the study of all living organisms that are too small to be visible to the naked eye. This includes bacteria, archaea, viruses, fungi, prions, protozoa, and algae, collectively known as 'microbes' or 'microorganisms'.



The safety of food and water is vital to our health. Food testing ensures the safety of products and also prevents the release of contaminated food or beverages to consumers.

The aim of the St. Kitts and Nevis Bureau of Standards Microbiology Laboratory is to isolate and identify microorganisms found in food and water. We specialize in microbiological services on food (cooked and raw) and water (drinking, bottled, marine, pond, well, waste). Our experienced and highly trained team is focused on delivering timely, accurate, and reliable results. This commitment is guaranteed by ceaselessly using strict quality control practices and methodologies.