

RETHINKING STANDARDISATION OF PRODUCTS IN NIGERIA

Abstract

The manufacturing of any product is based on a standard already set for it, whether formally regulated or not. Nothing is produced without following a particular set of standards. Standardisation is the process of formulating standards for the manufacturing of products and ensuring the maintenance of uniformity and consistency during the production process. The regulatory body in charge of Standardisation of products in Nigeria is the Standards Organisation of Nigeria (SON), whose activities are governed by the Standards Organisation of Nigeria Act 2015. This study revolves around the SON Act. It evaluates the provisions as regards setting of standards, the conformity of manufacturers to these standards and the consequential effects where standards are not maintained. In trying to achieve this, the role of the personnel of the SON is analysed in order to examine their effectiveness in ensuring that certain standards are duly maintained, to ensure the production of quality products for the consuming public. The study therefore investigates some of the challenges faced by the SON as a regulatory body in the establishment and enforcement of standards and proffers recommendations. The study employs the doctrinal research methodology which involves examination of the existing laws, journal articles and textbooks.

1. Introduction

It is not in doubt that there are some fake products in the Nigerian market which are produced both within and outside Nigeria. It is important to ensure quality control of manufactured and imported products in Nigeria as the high rate of substandard products either manufactured or imported into the country have continued to have deadly implications on the health and safety of Nigerians and in some cases, resulted in loss of life and property¹. SON is a Nigerian government agency responsible for preparation of standards relating to products, measurements, materials and processes, certification of industrial products, assistance in the production of quality goods, improvement of measurement accuracy and circulation of information relating to standards²

Standardisation is a framework of agreements to which all relevant parties in an industry or³ organization must adhere to ensure that all processes associated with the production of a good or performance of a service are performed within set guidelines⁴. Standardization is achieved by setting generally accepted guidelines with regard to how a product or service is produced or supported, as well as to how a business is operated or how certain required processes are governed. The goal of standardization is to enforce a level of consistency or uniformity to certain practices or operations within the selected environment⁵

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¹LawPavillion, *Standards Organisation of Nigeria Act 2015*, <<https://lawpavilion.com/blog/standards-organisation-of-nigeria-act-2015/>> accessed 1 May 2021

²Aspen Network of Development Enterpreneurs, 'Standards Organisation of Nigeria (SON)' <<https://ecosystems.andeglobal.org/dir/standard-organisation-of-nigeria-son/product-standardization-and-certification/>> accessed on 1 May 2021

³International Trade Administration US Department of Commerce, 'Nigeria-Country Commercial Guide' <<https://www.trade.gov/knowledge-product/nigeria-trade-standards>> accessed 2 May 2021

⁴ Mitchell Grant, 'Standardisation' <<https://www.investopedia.com/terms/s/standardization.asp>> accessed 12 May 2021

⁵ ibid

2. HISTORY / BACKGROUND OF STANDARDISATION OF PRODUCTS IN NIGERIA

Nigeria operates a top-down government-driven standards system. In Nigeria the two primary government agencies which regulate product standards are the Standards Organization of Nigeria (SON) – the apex standardization body in Nigeria, and the National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control (NAFDAC) which controls the production, trade and sale of food, drugs, cosmetics, chemicals, detergents, medical devices and packaged water.

The Standards Organisation of Nigeria (SON) was established by an enabling Act Number 56 of December 1971 - the Standards Organisation of Nigeria cap 412 of the Laws of Federal Republic of Nigeria⁶, which commenced on the 1st January 1970, when the Organisation started to function. The Act has three amendments: Act Number 20 of 1976, Act Number 32 of 1984 and Act Number 18 of 1990⁷.

As a result of fake products circulating in the Nigeria market there was an outcry by the stakeholders to amend the Standard Organisation of Nigeria (SON) Act 2004. The cry for an amendment of the act was due to the fact that the SON Act, 2004 as it was, did nothing to ensure that standards relating to products are being met. This was due to the fact that the Law did not impose strict penalties for offences and also saddled the officers of the Organisation with minimal functions and powers⁸. It was in a bid to cure the 'defects' in the SON Act, 2004 that the Standards Organisation of Nigeria Act of 2015 (the "Act"), was enacted which repealed the Standards Organisation of Nigeria Act, 2004. The SON Act 2015 was enacted with the aim and responsibility of providing additional functions for the organization, increasing the penalty for violation, and for related matters⁹. The Act also repeals the Standards Organisation of Nigeria Act Cap 59 Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004. The SON in 2005 also introduced the Standards Organisation of Nigeria Conformity Assessment Program (the "Program") to address the problem of substandard and unsafe products imported into the country. Under the Program, certain imported products are required to be inspected to ensure conformity with essential requirements, technical regulations and approved industrial standards before it will be imported in Nigeria¹⁰.

The Agency on January, 2010 convened a conference in Ijebu Ode, Ogun State, South-West Nigeria. At the conference, the then Director General of SON, Mr. John Akanya took the participants through the achievements of the Agency especially in creation of new standards and improving on the existing ones. The Agency has created about 133 additional standards including; 37 Chemical Technology Standards, 26 Food Technology Standards, 11 Leather Technology Standards, 51 Mechanical Engineering Standards and 8 Textile Technology Standards. The SON also initiated an Agreement to be in place between the governments of

⁶International Organization for Standardization, 'SON Nigeria Membership: Member Body' <<https://www.iso.org/member/1982.html>>

⁷ Ibid

⁸ LawPavillion (n 1)

⁹ Petrol Plaza. 'SON standard Organisation of Nigeria' 24 August 2018 <<https://www.petrolplaza.com/organisations/2455>> accessed on 10 May 2021

¹⁰ Aderonke Alex Adedipe and Eustace Aroh. *Nigeria: SONCAP Certificate; A Requirement For Importation Of Goods Into Nigeria*, accessed 11 May 2021

China and Nigeria towards ensuring that adequate standards are met in regard of products being imported into Nigeria from China¹¹.

3. The Nature And The Composition Of The Council

The Organisation is a body corporate with perpetual succession and a common seal, and may sue and be sued in its corporate name¹². SON's governing body is known as the Standards Council of Nigeria. This is the policy making body where also supervises the administration and financial management of the Organisation.¹³ The organization is a parastatal of the federal government and administered by the Ministry of Industries Mr. Niyi Adebayo. It is a body corporate, having legal personality with all the incidents. It has two arms through which it operates – a Council which is the governing body of the organization called the Standards Council of Nigeria and the organization itself. The Council sees to the running of the organization through the formulation of policies in accordance with the intent of the formation of the organization while the organization implements such policies¹⁴. The Minister has the power to give general or special directives to the organization and the organization shall comply with and give effect to such directives¹⁵. The Standards Organisation consist of a chairman, a representative from the Federal Ministry of Agricultural and Rural Development, Defense, Trade and investment, Finance, works, Health, Science and Technology¹⁶ and a Director- General. The current Director-General of SON in Nigeria is Mr. Farouk A. Salim, his appointment, which has a four-year duration, took effect from the 26th of September, 2020. Each member of a council shall serve for a period of 4 years and can be reappointed for another 4 years¹⁷. Any member of the Council can resign his appointment and the notice of which shall be in writing letter addressed to the minister and his membership shall terminate on the date of his receipt of the letter of resignation¹⁸. The President can at any time remove any member of the Council from office, if he is of the opinion that it is not in the national interest or in the interest of the organization for such a member to continue in office¹⁹. The mandate of the Organisation includes preparation of standards relating products, measurements, materials, processes and services amongst others and their promotion at National, Regional and International levels; certification of products, assistance in the production of quality goods and services; improvement of measurement accuracies and circulation of information relating to standards²⁰. The SON Act, 2015 maintained, to a large extent, the provisions of the SON Act, 2004. It however added some major provisions to

¹¹Uche Nwokocha and Segun Aluko, 'Nigeria: Standards Organisation Of Nigeria' 16 June 2010 <<https://www.mondaq.com/nigeria/export-controls-trade-investment-sanctions/102584/standards-organisation-of-nigeria>> accessed 2 May 2021

¹²Standard Organization of Nigeria Act 2015,s1(2)(a-b).

¹³Federal Government of Nigeria single window for trade, 'About SON' <<https://trade.gov.ng/son/home.do?mobile=false>>accessed on 4 May 2021

¹⁴Nkiru J. Obumneme-Okafor, 'The Standards Organisation Of Nigeria (SON) And The Protection of the consumer in Nigeria' <<https://www.globalacademicgroup.com/journals/the%20nigerian%20academic%20forum/THE%20STANDARD%20ORGANISATION.pdf>>accessed 2 May 2021

¹⁵SON Act 2015,s2(1)

¹⁶Ibid s3(c)(i-vii)

¹⁷ Ibid s3(4)

¹⁸ Ibid s3(6).

¹⁹ Ibid s3(7).

²⁰Uche Nwokocha and Segun Aluko (n 11).

ensure efficacy of the Organisation as well as stipulated for more stringent penalties for offences²¹

The functions of the Council shall be strictly to

- Advise the Federal Government generally on the national policy on standards, standards specifications, quality control and metrology²²;
- Designate, establish and approve standards in respect of metrology, materials, commodities, structures and processes for the certification of products in commerce and industry throughout Nigeria²³;
- Provide the necessary measures for quality control of raw materials and products in conformity with the standard specification²⁴;
- Determine the overall policy of the Organisation, in particular with regard to the financial, operational, and administrative programmes of the Organisation and to ensure the implementation of the said policy²⁵;
- Carry out other functions imposed on it under this Act or any other written law²⁶.

4. The Purpose Of The Standards Organisation Of Products In Nigeria

The most effective means of measuring the level of economic development and improvement in the quality of lives of the citizen in any given country, is the quality of the standards of goods and services produced and consumed in that country. This is because standards and other means used in providing quality goods and services for both domestic and foreign markets are critical for the development of any economy, its competitiveness and wealth creation as well as the health of its citizens²⁷.

The first thing the SON Act, 2015 did was to properly position and equip the Organisation to function optimally was to increase its function. The Standard Organization of Nigeria was actually established with a view to perform some salient functions so as to minimize or reduce the production of locally manufactured substandard products and imported substandard products into the country²⁸. Before a product is certified, the organization ensures that it complies with the requisite industrial standards as applicable to each product or service. Standards, therefore, help to make sure that products and services are fit for their purpose and are comparable and compatible.²⁹

Other functions of the Organization are:

- organizing and testing everything necessary to ensure compliance with standards designated and approved by the Council³⁰;

²¹Johnathan Eze, 'Imperatives of SON's Establishment Act' *THIS DAY* 6 March 2018 <<https://www.thisdaylive.com/index.php/2018/03/06/imperatives-of-sons-establishment-act/>> accessed 1 May 2021

²² SON Act 2015,s4(1)(a)

²³ Ibid s4(1)(b)

²⁴ Ibid s4(1)(c)

²⁵ Ibid s4(1)(d)

²⁶ Ibid s4(1)(e)

²⁷OsitaAboloma, 'Examining Nigerian National Standardisation Strategy' *THIS DAY*<<https://www.thisdaylive.com/index.php/2020/07/02/examining-nigerian-national-standardisation-strategy/>>accessed 2 May 2021.

²⁸SON Act 2015

²⁹George Ikoli&Okagbue, 'Product Certification By Standard Organization of Nigeria'<<https://www.ikoliokagbue.com/articles.asp?aid=5>>accessed on 3 May 2021

³⁰SON Act 2015,s5(1)(a)

- Undertaking investigations as necessary into the quality of facilities, materials and products in Nigeria, and establish a quality assurance system including certification of factories, products and laboratories³¹;
- Ensuring reference standards for calibration and verification of measures and measuring instruments³²;
- Compiling an inventory of products requiring standardisation³³;
- Fostering interest in the recommendation and maintenance of acceptable standards by industry and the general public³⁴;
- SON develops methods for testing of materials, supplies and equipment including items purchased for use of departments of the Government of the Federation or a State and private establishment³⁵;
- Advising departments of the Government of the Federation or a State on specific problems relative to standards specifications³⁶.

The Standards Organization of Nigeria is empowered to seize and confiscate and destroy any sub-standard products. They also have the power of sealing up any place where substandard products are produced or kept., and offenders are punishable by law³⁷

5. The Son's Practical Approach In Ensuring Safe Product In The Country

5.1 Designation of Ports For Special Entry

The Minister in consultation with the Minister of Finance may from time to time for the purpose of standardization on the recommendation of the Director General by order may now be published in a federal gazette designating certain ports for the importation of certain products into Nigeria. Where such gazette is published, the products named in the order shall be imported only through the designated port³⁸ and if a person contravenes the section, the person will be held liable to a fine of #2,000 or may be imprisoned for a term not exceeding 5years³⁹. This allows the Organisation to track the goods coming into Nigeria and ensure that they comply with the minimum industrial standards set for such goods.

The SON, in the bid to ensure that good and quality products are produced in Nigeria and in accordance to the established standards, conduct routine inspection of production lines in industries, conduct tests on sample goods taken from factories and the open market.

The Council reviews the standard at intervals of at least every five years, 'though the 'SON in Brief' publication says yearly subject to continued good performance of the manufacturer and his willingness to continue with the scheme.

It is a serious offence for any person, other than the permitted manufacturer, to make, sell, expose for sale or use for the purpose of advertising; any material or document on or in which is portrayed industrial standard of certification mark portraying to be that established under

³¹Ibids5(1)(b)

³²Ibids5(1)(c)

³³Ibid s5(1)(d)

³⁴Ibid s5(1)(f)

³⁵Ibid s5(1)(g)

³⁶Ibid s5(1)(i)

³⁷Joseph Athanasius, '12 Functions of The Standard Organization Of Nigeria' 26 September 2018 *INFOGUIDE NIGERIA* <<https://infoguidenigeria.com/12-functions-standard-organization-nigeria/>> accessed on 5 May 2021.

³⁸SON Act 2015, s28(1)

³⁹ Ibid s28(2)

the Act. Anyone in default of this provision is liable upon conviction to a fine of N1,000,000.00 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 2 years⁴⁰

In order to accomplish these lofty goals, the organization has empowered has established the following in other to provide a quality product for the consumers.

5.2 Teaming Up With Other Agencies

The Standards Organisation of Nigeria has teamed up to work and partner with other agencies like the NAFDAC, FRSC, the Nigerian Customs Service, Nigerian Ports Authority NCC, the security agencies and the Office of the Attorney General of the Federation (AGF), in ensuring that fake products are not manufactured in the country.

The SON in the bid to manage the and counter the manufacturing of fake products has set up new a response team called “Surveillance Intelligence Monitoring Unit” charged with the responsibility of monitoring, gathering, assessing and also assisting in providing aid to the SON.

To make sure that standard products are produced in Nigeria, the SON devised a conformity assessment programme for locally produced and imported goods. These are the SONCAP. The Federal Government of Nigeria introduced the Standards Organisation of Nigeria Conformity Assessment Programme or SONCAP for in order to address the number of unsafe products entering the country and the consequent risks to public health and safety⁴¹

SONCAP is a pre-shipment verification of conformity to Standards process used to verify that products to be imported into Nigeria are in conformity with the applicable NIS or approved equivalents, and technical regulations before shipment⁴².

Under the SONCAP regime, imports are required to undergo verification and testing at country of supply (Exporting) and a SONCAP Certificate (SC) issued demonstrating that the products met the applicable standards and regulations or a Non-Conformity Report (NCR) where the goods do not comply. The conformity assessment elements undertaken in SONCAP include but not limited to physical inspection prior to shipment, sampling, testing and analysis in accredited laboratories, audit of product processes and systems, and documentary check of conformity with regulations and overall assessment of conformity to standards

The objectives of SONCAP are⁴³

- It ensures that regulated products comply with the NIS or approved standards prior to export to Nigeria;
- It also provides a level playing field in terms of quality for both regulated and locally manufactured products in order to prevent unfair competition;
- It helps in preventing the dumping of substandard goods into the Nigeria market and as a result preventing economic loss to the importer and the nation at large;
- It also impedes loss of lives and property including foreign exchange bearing in mind that the exporting country/Exporter have been paid for the goods shipped into Nigeria;
- It forestalls any adverse reaction (such as environmental pollution occasioned by destruction of substandard products) by regulatory Agencies on arrival of such goods in Nigeria;

⁴⁰Ibid. s26 (1)

⁴¹Standard Organization of Nigeria, ‘SON Conformity Assessment Programme (SONCAP)’ <https://son.gov.ng/soncap_service> accessed 10 May 2021.

⁴² ibid

⁴³ ibid

- It facilitates trade through fast-track clearance of goods at the ports;
- It encourages genuine investors and investments in Nigeria and
- It also promotes made in Nigeria products;

The SON's involvement in product import inspection and ensuring conformity within the country of locally manufactured goods is to the benefit of the Nigerian consumer which benefit includes improving the quality of life of Nigerians through consumption of quality products, protecting the Nigerian consumer from consuming hazardous, unsafe and poor quality products that can endanger life and ensuring that Nigerian consumers get value and satisfaction for their money through the consumption of quality products⁴⁴.

On the 10th of September 2015, the Standards Organization of Nigeria (SON) implemented the full integration of the E-Certificates (e-SON Product and e-SONCAP Certificate) into the Nigeria Single Window Platform for its Standards Organization of Nigeria Conformity Assessment Programs (SONCAP). With this new development, all certificates issued must be transmitted directly from the SON online portal onto the Nigeria Customs one⁴⁵.

The advantages of the E-Certificate is:

1. It enhances the ability to process documents from anywhere
2. It helps in easy access to view certificates online
3. It also helps validate the authenticity of certificates issued
4. It eliminates bulky paperwork and
5. It grants trade facilitation through transparency⁴⁶

5.3 Recalling Any Defective Product

The Minister may upon the recommendation of the Organization require the supplier of any defective product certified by the Organization to recall the commodity or other types in the manner and within the period specified by the order that Organisation⁴⁷. The power given to the supplier to recall any defective product is to ensure that consumers are given maximum protection from defective products. A product recall is a request to return a product after the discovery of safety issues or product defects that might endanger the consumer.⁴⁸ It is also the process of retrieving defective and/or potentially unsafe goods from consumers while providing those consumers with compensation⁴⁹. Recalls often occur as a result of safety concerns over a manufacturing defect in a product that may harm its user.

6. Power To Enter And Search Premises

The Director General or any other employee or officer of the Council, authorized by him in writing⁵⁰ is also empowered to have a right of access at any reasonable time at any premises to stop and search any vehicle which he reasonably believes may contain any article or product or material or goods that are contravening the act⁵¹. They also have the right of access to enter any premises at reasonable times including all Nigerian sea port, airport and land borders where an industrial or commercial undertaking is being carried out and they also

⁴⁴ Nkiru J. Obumneme-Okafor, (n 14)

⁴⁵ COTECNA, 'Son Implements E-Certificate System into Customs Process' 10 July 2015 <<https://www.exports-to-nigeria.com/en/news/son-implements-ecertificate-system>> accessed 16 May 2021.

⁴⁶ Ibid

⁴⁷ SON Act 2015, s46.

⁴⁸ Lawpavillion (n 1)

⁴⁹ Lucas Downey, 'Product recall' 21 September 2020 <https://www.investopedia.com/terms/p/product_recall.asp> accessed 2 May 2021.

⁵⁰ SON Act 2015, S30(1)

⁵¹ Ibid. s30(1)(a)

have the right of using reasonable force to enter the premises⁵² where there are reasonable grounds for suspecting the warehousing or storage of items in contravention of the Act. By virtue of the Act the Director general can seize and detain any article, product, material or goods which he reasonably believes is in contravention of the provisions of the Act for a period of time not exceeding 90 days without leave of court⁵³

7. Powers Of The Director-General In Relation To Hazardous Products

Where the Director-general is satisfied that the quality, purity or potency of any product is hazardous to life, property or the national economy, he may seize and detain such product for such a time as maybe reasonable but not will not exceed 90days without a court order⁵⁴, prohibit the sale of such product or anybody that wants to sell the suspicious product⁵⁵, seal up premises where such product is been manufactured or stored⁵⁶ or direct that the deficiency be rectified in the case of a substandard or misdescribed or hazardous product⁵⁷

8. Destruction Of Violative Goods

The organization may order for the destruction of goods detained if the testing indicates that the goods did not meet the relevant Nigerian Industrial Standards⁵⁸ and it is reasonable to destroy the goods because the goods are in a dangerous state or injuries to health of human beings, animals or plant⁵⁹. At least 14 days' notice shall be given of the intention to destroy the goods either by written notice to the owner of the goods or through publication in an official gazette⁶⁰.

The Standards Organisation of Nigeria (SON) has in the past destroyed four truckloads of substandard electric cables. The then Director-General of SON, MrOsitaAboloma, explained that the reason for the destruction of the goods was because the substandard electric cables with no economic value were dangerous to both lives and property. MrOsitaAboloma stated that the seized cables failed the conductor and insulator resistance parameters and as such, were unsafe for use. He further added that standard for conductor resistance was 12 Ohms, but that those substandard cables gave over 1000 Ohms after going through laboratory tests⁶¹. In his words

These cables failed the standards woefully. These are cables that when you use them, you return from work and see your house burnt to the ground. These cables can do a lot of harm to the economy, and they were seized from importers who stocked them in their warehouses. These cables are so dangerous that you do not see them burning and if you are not there or in the middle of the night, your house gets burn. It is our responsibility to ensure that these goods do not enter the market because there are critical parameters in the standards namely conductor resistance and insulator resistance.

⁵²Ibid s30(1)(b)

⁵³Ibid s30(1)(c)

⁵⁴Ibid s29(1)(a)

⁵⁵Ibid s29(1)(b)

⁵⁶Ibid s29(1)(d)

⁵⁷Ibid s29(1)(e)

⁵⁸Ibid s47(1)(a)

⁵⁹Ibid s47(1)(b)

⁶⁰Ibid s47(3)

⁶¹NAN, 'SON Destroys Four Truckloads of Substandard Electric Cables' *The Guardian* 8 September 2020 <<https://guardian.ng/news/son-destroys-four-truck-loads-of-substandard-electric-cables/>> accessed 4 May 2021.

On the 25th of January 2021 the SON supervised by Mr Farouk Salim the Director General of SON, destroyed cooking gas cylinders and tyres estimated at N300m because some of them were contraband while some other cylinders were new but below standard which means that they would most likely explode if there is a high temperature in the country⁶²

The Director-General, Mr Salim, who supervised the destruction said the tyres and cylinders were kept in seven containers. Faruk Salim explained that the tyres were stuffed while the cylinders were substandard and unable to withstand extremely hot temperatures. He said, "They are being destroyed because some of them are contraband outright while some other cylinders are new but they are below the standard which means they would most likely explode if there is a high temperature in the country⁶³. According to Salim stated the agency is equally working to return to port to enable it combat substandard goods entering the country. SON has also destroyed a notorious company that produce fake brands of product at the Alaba International Market Lagos after receiving an intel from a reliable source in collaboration with the Cable Manufacturers Association of Nigeria (CAMAN). These notorious companies endanger the lives of the citizen in the country by producing and importing foreign cables into the country. They will then go ahead and rebrand it and the equally insert a fake certificate of SON.

Equally in Bida Road Anambra State the SON closed down some illegal facilities that specializes in fabricating substandard Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) cylindersto consumers⁶⁴. Three lorry loads of substandard LPG cylinders, welding machines, paint, spraying machines, compressors, gauges and other items were evacuated from the locations. Similar mop up raids for LPG cylinders were carried out in Kaduna, Kano and Katsina at the same period⁶⁵.

9. Challenges Of Standardisation Of Products In Nigeria

Most of the Nigerian businessmen or traders indirectly or directly instructs the foreign producers to give them substandard products that look like the real ones. Majority of the Nigerian traders will travel to China and produce fake phones and will come to Nigeria and sell them at a very high rate⁶⁶. Some of the Nigerian pharmaceuticals companies have perfected in producing adulterated drugs that are harmful to the body. Most of these drugs when consumed can lead to death.

The media is flooded with news of harmful and substandard products in Nigerian markets. Just one container of fake products can cause havoc in the whole country? It can claim so many lives and even wipe out a whole State⁶⁷. Despite these happening, the Nigerian manufacturers do not register with SONCAP. The past director- general of SON Dr. Joseph Odumodu, appealed to the Nigerian manufactures during a five thousand man walk in Abuja,

⁶²Journal OnlineNG, 'SON Destroys Substandard Goods Worth N300m In Lagos' 25 January 2021 <https://www.journalngonline.com/2021/01/25/son-destroys-substandard-goods-worth-n300m-in-lagos/?fbclid=IwAR3UUXHuGU0JFZjycn-DUDrrVd3tjcpEt8mKUjyQT3E_oM6fpTb55uaJX> accessed 8 May 2021.

⁶³Joseph Olaoluwa, 'SON Destroys N300m Worth Of Substandard Goods', *PUNCH*, 26 January 2021 <<https://punchng.com/son-destroys-n300m-worth-of-substandard-goods/>>accessed 8 May 2021.

⁶⁴EDWARD DIBIANA, 'Contending With Influx Of Substandard Products', *THE CABLE* 27 October 2019<<https://www.thecable.ng/contending-with-influx-of-substandard-products>>accessed 12May 2021.

⁶⁵ ibid

⁶⁶Daily Trust, 'We've Destroyed N10bn Goods in Last 4yrs – SON DG' *Daily Trust* 23 December 2015<<https://dailytrust.com/weve-destroyed-n10bn-goods-in-last-4yrs-son-dg>> Accessed on 19May 2021.

⁶⁷Udeme Clement, 'Our Problem with Fake Imported Products – Son' *Vanguard* 30 April 2017<<https://www.vanguardngr.com/2017/04/problem-fake-imported-products-son/>>accessed on 10May 2021.

to register their products with SONCAP because SONCAP is there to ensure that good quality products are being imported into the country⁶⁸.

Getting government commitment for the fight against importation of fake products is not without hitches. It is difficult for SON to get an agreement with the governments of the supplying nations on the need to battle the illegal products.

10. Recommendations

There is need to have a written agreement from different countries on the type of products being exported to Nigeria, with a condition that any product being imported into Nigeria must be best quality.

Nigerians should develop the habit of utilizing locally manufactured products, This way, influx of substandard products into the country will reduce drastically.

There is need to have a new 'SONCAP' logo that every product must carry.

There is need to have a product liability introduced in the SON, which means that everybody who introduces a product or commodity in the market must be responsible for that product introduced. Every manufacturer must show evidence that there is a credible insurance behind the product being introduced in the market.

11. Conclusion

The ultimate objective of the Standard Organization of Nigeria is to continue in the improvement of the life of Nigerian citizens and its residents through the provision of quality standardization and quality assurance of products in Nigeria. It is Nigerians' expectations that the SON will continue to keep its mandate aflame by working towards ensuring that products manufactured in Nigeria and those exported outside Nigeria and those imported into Nigeria meet consumers' satisfaction both in Nigeria and outside Nigeria⁶⁹ In the final analysis, the position of the SON in the life of the consuming public makes it imperative that the organization must work optimally to satisfy the consumers. Appointment of members of the SON should be with utmost care with nominating/appointing bodies selecting qualified members. Such appointees should apply themselves to their duties⁷⁰. This will mean the SON functioning properly thereby, ensuring the production and consumption of quality products by the consumers.

⁶⁸Nigerian Law Intellectual Property Watch Inc NLIP Watch <<https://nlipw.com/son-challenges-manufacturers-embrace-soncap-registration-adesanya-alao/>>accessed on 12 May 2021.

⁶⁹Joseph Athanasius, 'Six functions of the standard organization of Nigeria' 9 July 2018, <<https://infoguidenigeria.com/functions-standard-organization-nigeria/>>accessed on 3 May 2021.

⁷⁰Nkiru J. Obumneme-Okafor, (n 14)