

**PRESS STATEMENT BY HONOURABLE MINISTER BIMHA AT
THE OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE BUREAU VERITAS
ZIMBABWE LIAISON OFFICE: 25 JULY 2016**

Good morning to all who are gathered here today to witness the official opening of the Bureau Veritas Zimbabwe Liaison office here at Causeway Post Office Building. The opening of this liaison office has a positive repercussion to the implementation of the Consignment Based Conformity Assessment (CBCA) programme as all enquiries to the programme will be attended to efficiently. In addition this comes with job creation of locals as evidently seen to date the engagement of six Zimbabweans to this office and we are looking forward for more recruits to this office in the near future.

As you are all aware that Bureau Veritas is a French company engaged by the Ministry of Industry and Commerce on behalf of Government of Zimbabwe to provide verification conformity services to listed imports in the country of export. The Government of Zimbabwe embarked on this programme in an effort to put in place measures to protect consumers and to address the sub-standard imports which were flooding the market.

The 1st of March 2016 CBCA marked the full implementation of the CBCA programme which is governed by Statutory Instrument Number 132 of 2015. As from this date only conforming products under this programme are allowed entry into the country, and those not conforming are to be re-exported to the country of origin at the expense of the importer.

I would not hesitate to mention that this programme is progressing well evidently as shown by no report of any consignments returned to the country of origin as they will be accompanied by non-conforming reports. This shows a positive uptake of the CBCA programme by both the importers and exporters, hence substantially reducing hazardous and sub-standard imported products.

The Zimbabwe Revenue Authority (ZIMRA) is assisting entirely in the full enforcement through the verification of the certificates of conformity at all ports of entry and border posts. Our sincere gratitude to ZIMRA for ensuring the successful enforcement of the programme.

A support yardstick to this effect is the decrease from 67% to 44 % of the inspected consignments that do not fully complying with the applicable standard. This demonstrates that the levels of compliance are improving and that participating suppliers are gradually improving the quality of their products in compliance with the CBCA programme by addressing prior shortcomings.

To date 6004 CBCA certificates have been issued of which 58% are certificates of compliance mostly issued for chemical products, machinery and electrical equipment and food products. Whilst 42% are non-compliant reports mainly emanating from machinery and electrical equipment followed by chemical products and plastics/rubber. Generally, it has been observed that most certificates were issued on imports coming from South Africa constituting 75%, followed by China, and the rest of the world.

The categories of products listed in SI No 132 of 2015 still stand and the Ministry when reviewing the listed products will engage stakeholders for their inputs.

The following notable benefits of the CBCA programme have been realized to date;

- Importation of goods that conform to quality, safety, health and environmental standards hence ensuring protection of the consumer and the environment.
- Protection of local industries from unfair trade practices thereby leveling the playing field between local manufacturers and the global ones.
- Trade facilitation as an electronic process saves on time, limits errors, eliminates the use of paper,
- Employment creation and training of locals have since commenced Bureau Veritas has to date employed 6 locals and trained customs and Ministry Verigates processes.

With these few words I officially open the Bureau Veritas Zimbabwe Liaison office today

I thank you,

Siyabonga,

Merci beaucoup.