



COMESA Competition Commission

Kang'ombe House, 5th Floor

P. O. Box 30742 Lilongwe 3, Malawi

Tel: +265(0)111 772466

+265 (0) 999 970 269

Email- compcom@comesacompetition.org



**Common Market for Eastern
and Southern Africa**

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CONSUMER ALERT

ALERT ON RECALL OF CERTAIN IMPORTED PRODUCTS BY MALAWI BUREAU OF STANDARDS

The COMESA Competition Commission (the Commission) has become aware through a press release dated 8 May 2024 from Malawi Bureau of Standards (MBS) that, it had revoked certification and suspended operations of certain manufacturing operators for non-compliance with Malawi compulsory standards. The MBS had also recalled, banned, and rejected importation into Malawi, and distribution of certain electrical appliances and other products for non-compliance with relevant mandatory Malawi standards.

The MBS advised consumers and the general public to refrain from buying or consuming the recalled poorly performing and unsafe products until it has verified and addressed non-conformities. The recalled products are highlighted in the MBS Press Release below:



MALAWI BUREAU OF STANDARDS
Promoting Standardization and Quality Assurance in Malawi

PRESS RELEASE
8th MAY, 2024
REVOCATION OF THE MBS CERTIFICATION, AND ISSUANCE OF RECALL AND SUSPENSION ORDERS FOR NON-COMPLIANCE AGAINST MALAWI STANDARDS

Malawi Bureau of Standards (MBS) is a statutory organization established in 1972 by an Act of Parliament, Cap 51:02 (revised at No. 14 of 2012), with a mandate to promote metrology, standardization and quality assurance of commodities and of the manufacture, production, processing or treatment thereof, and further to provide for matters incidental to, or connected with standardization.

a) The MBS would like to inform the general public that it has revoked the certification and, or suspended operations of the following manufacturing Business Operators, apart from recalling, banning and rejecting importation of some imported electrical items due to non-compliance against relevant mandatory Malawi Standards:

b) Revoked certification and suspension of operations due to critical process non-compliances	
No	Reason for revocation of certification/Product/Service/Location/Local Manufacturer/ Service Provider
	Poor and unhygienic conditions/Catering services/Lilongwe Sana Food Court
	Poor and unhygienic conditions/Beef sausages/Chichiri Shopping Mall/Shoprite Butchery
	Poor and unhygienic conditions/Beef sausages/Imbe Sana Cash and Carry Butchery
c) Products recall and suspension of operations due to critical product non-compliances	
No	Reason for revocation of certification/Product/Service/Location/Local Manufacturer
	Critical microbiological product non-compliance/Freeses Batch No. 2024/02/25/Blantyre MZ Industries
	Critical microbiological product non-compliance/Mexican meat burger/Blantyre/Meat Butchery
	Critical microbiological product non-compliance/Beef sausages/Mangochi/Ahad Supermarket
	Critical microbiological product non-compliance/Magic Much maize zigzag smokey snacks/Lilongwe/Sunseed Oil Ltd
	Critical microbiological product non-compliance/Beef Vienna sausages/Imbe/Buy more Butchery
	Critical microbiological product non-compliance/Beef sausages/Zomba/Mercury Superette
	Critical microbiological product non-compliance/Beef burgers/Mchesi/Lilongwe/United Butchery
	Critical microbiological product non-compliance/Priori's True Taste of Nyama soya pieces/Lilongwe/Sungold Food Processing Ltd
	Critical microbiological product non-compliance/Nyika Premium still bottled water/Makala, Blantyre/Universal Industries Ltd
	Critical microbiological product non-compliance/Pain beef burgers/Area 2, Lilongwe/Sana Cash and Carry
	Critically low rated power performance/LED Bulbs/Imbe/NT Electronic Technologies
	Critically low rated power performance/ABC LED Bulbs/Area 28, Lilongwe/ABC Sanitary Fittings
d) Product recall, importation ban and rejection orders due to critically low power output performance, safety (non-earthing) and labelling non-compliances	
<i>(Note: The Public is hereby also notified that these imported product recalls and importation bans are equally applicable to all other (or would be) importers, distributors, and sellers of these brands of highlighted products though not individually mentioned here, as long as they operate within the Malawi market)</i>	
No	Reasons for product recall and importation ban, rejection order/Country of Origin of the products/Shop and Location where the products were sampled
	-Critically low rated power output for bulbs & -Unsafe extension socket outlets without earthing wire connections i-Minsty LED Bulbs ii-New Time Extension iii-SKL Extension Socket outlets- China/China/NTC Investments-Area 2 Lilongwe (China, N)

	-Unsafe irons and hotplates without earthing wire connections Omega irons from , ii-Electric cooking hotplates iii-Conic irons iii-An Nuo Electric irons/China/Suffian Electronics- Area 2 Lilongwe
	-Critically low rated maximum power, voltages, and currents outputs performances -LED Bulbs with critically low rated power output -Unsafe Extension Sockets and Electric Mode kettles without earthing wire connections Bo Yang Solar panels i-Unbranded LED BULBS ii-Royal Power Extension Sockets iii-Electric Mode Kettles/China/Sam Trading- Area 2- Lilongwe
	-Critically low rated maximum power and currents outputs performances -Unsafe Assorted electrical irons, hotplates, kettles without earthing wire connections-Solaric Solar Panel ii-Assorted electrical irons, hotplates, kettles/China/Tikambe Shoppings-Area 2, Lilongwe
	-Shuai Series LEB Bulbs with critically low rated maximum power output -Unsafe Electric irons, hotplates, Stoves, Kettles without earthing wire connections/Shuai Series LEB Bulbs i-Scarlett 2L Kettles ii-Royal Deluxe irons iii-Star Chef hotplates iv-Sokany Electric Stoves v-Sui Tai Electric Kettles/China/China Weave- Area 2 Lilongwe
	-Unsafe electrical products without earthing wire connections/Steam Iron-HI-200, Sokany Irons and F/Works RIC/3/6/China/Wullian Supermarket- Area 1, Lilongwe
	-Critically low rated maximum power and currents outputs performances/Sunstep Solar Panels/China/Dinter Hardware- Area 2, Lilongwe
	-Unsafe electrical products without earthing wire connections/Euroginal Extension socket outlets i-Sokany Steam irons ii-Hotplates Electric cooking-JX-101A iii-Kambrook steam irons iv-Sui Tai Electrical kettles v-Sokany Electrical kettles/China/K Company- Area 2, Lilongwe
	-Solar panels with critically low rated maximum power and currents outputs performances
	-Unsafe Hotplates without earthing wire connections/Solar Africa Solar panels i-Hotplate Electric JX-100B Model/China/Casa Entrada- Area 1, Lilongwe
	-Unsafe electrical irons without earthing wire connections/Weiion Solar Panels i-Classy Touch Steam irons ii-Sayona Steam iron/China/Bhura Shopping Centre- Area 1, Lilongwe

During the recent routine regulatory conformity assessment and market surveillance activities by the MBS, the aforementioned local Business Operators were found operating below the minimum requirements of the relevant Malawi Standards exposing the products and or services to significant safety risks. Further to this, the aforementioned products critically failed on the safety parameters tested.

In the interest of public health safety, and in line with provisions of the Malawi Bureau of Standards Act (Cap 51:02), Sections 34 (D) and 39 (I), the MBS hereby exercises its mandate to withdraw the certification and, issue recall and suspension orders to these manufacturing Business Operators, apart from issuing product importation, sell, distribution bans, and rejection orders against the highlighted electrical products, until all registered shortfalls are addressed as stipulated in the relevant Malawi Standards and the certification is reissued, or suspension/ban/rejection order is lifted. The MBS is, therefore, advising the consumers and also the general public to refrain from patronising services (catering), and buying or consuming food products from these facilities; and from buying and using the highlighted poorly performing and unsafe imported products until the MBS has communicated that it has verified redress of the non-conformities.

The MBS would like to assure the general public that we are currently continuing with the conformity assessments and taking appropriate actions on any defective products and services offered across the country. The MBS, therefore, would like to appeal to the public to continue reporting to the Bureau on its **Toll-free number 462** on both Malawi Telecommunication Network (TNM) and Airtel Malawi lines if they encounter any suspected substandard products on the market and when production facilities are operating below minimum requirements.

The Director General

The Commission is concerned that the recalled products for being unsafe and poorly performing may have been imported into other COMESA Member States.

In this regard, pursuant to Article 30(1)(b) of the COMESA Competition Regulations, the Commission wishes to alert consumers and the general public in COMESA of the risks and safety issues highlighted by MBS with regard to the recalled products.

Further, the Commission requests any person who establishes that the recalled products are being sold in other COMESA Member States to take precautions and report the matter to the Commission by contacting **Mr. Steven Kamukama, Director Consumer Welfare and Advocacy Division** on +265 (0) 111 772466 or email on: skamukama@comesacompetition.org. The matter may also be reported to the national consumer protection and standards authorities in the respective countries.



Meti Demissie Disasa
Registrar
COMESA Competition Commission
5th Floor, Kang'ombe House
P.O. Box 30742, Lilongwe 3, Malawi
Office Phone: +265 (0) 111 772466
Email: compcom@comesacompetition.org