

CRACKING DOWN ON SUBSTANDARD CEMENT

GSA's Regulatory Measures



Prof. Alex Dodoo

In recent years, the Ghana Standards Authority (GSA), in collaboration with the Ministry of Trade and Industry (MoTI) and law enforcement agencies, has intensified efforts to combat the production of substandard cement in the country.

This heightened crackdown, has brought to light, alarming

practices, such as the unauthorised use of the GSA Certification Mark and the operation of cement factories without proper permits. Consequently, three companies found to be using substandard raw materials in their cement production in the Ashanti Region, were shut down last year.

In response to these findings, the Minister for MoTI, Hon. Kobina Tahir Hammond, issued a directive to halt the establishment of new cement factories in the country, until comprehensive regulations are established.

Professor Alex Dodoo, the Director-General of the GSA, stressed the importance of



robust regulations governing the issuance of permits for establishing cement factories to prevent exploitation by individuals compromising quality standards.

Prof. Dodoo emphasised that while the law establishes a committee to recommend licensing procedures, oversight by the sector minister, ensures compliance with regulations.

He noted that the GSA, leveraging its existing legislation, is working to regulate cement productions, with the GSA (Manufacture of Cement) Regulation, 2023 (L.I. 2480), providing an additional layer of oversight to ensure transparency and adherence to procedures.

The Legislative Instrument (L.I.), officially gazetted on November 23, 2023, became enforceable as of December last year. This mandate necessitates that any entity desiring to engage in cement manufacturing must secure a license prior to commencing operations.

Regarding the re-registration of existing cement manufacturers, Prof. Dodoo stressed the importance of ensuring compliance with quality requirements, with allowances given for companies to rectify any shortcomings.

Hon. Hammond reaffirmed the government's commitment to promoting high-quality products in the construction sector, through the new regulation. He hailed its passage as a crucial step toward improving cement quality, fostering fair competition, enhancing consumer confidence, and encouraging long-term investments in the industry.

Trading Standards Inspectors also play a vital role in protecting trade and consumers by identifying and eliminating substandard products and goods from our country.

The L.I. 2480 has now come into effect, setting stringent standards and guidelines for cement production to

safeguard consumers and promote industry best practices.

This landmark regulation, unanimously approved by Members of Parliament, signifies a significant stride in ensuring the quality and safety of cement products in the country.

Furthermore, this legislation mandates that current cement manufacturing firms undergo a process of re-registration to verify their compliance with all regulatory and quality standards.