

Imported, Locally Made Furniture to Undergo Mandatory Testing – GSA



Prof. Alex Dodoo addressing Stakeholders at the workshop

The Ghana Standards Authority (GSA) and the Forestry Research Institute of Ghana under the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR-FORIG) have engaged stakeholders in the wood and furniture industry and indicated that all imported and locally manufactured furniture will be tested and certified before they are sold on the Ghanaian market.

Speaking at the workshop jointly organised by the two

agencies on the Testing and Certification of Wood and Furniture products in the country, the Director-General (DG) of the GSA, Professor Alex Dodoo, said the move had become necessary because of the negative health implications of poorly manufactured furniture products.

Many, the DG noted, take the safety or quality of furniture they use for granted. He contended that many people, from medical doctors,

administrators, politicians and many others, have work-related injury caused by furniture that they themselves are unaware of.

“If your furniture is not good, you are everyday practicing to have bone problems, back problems, spinal problems and a lot more and yet we have all taken it for granted that the furniture we use whether, locally manufactured or imported, is safe,” he said.

Prof. Dodoo revealed that Ghana had the most modern

internationally accredited wood and furniture testing centre in Africa, adding that the centre was ready to offer services for furniture testing.

He said it is the mandate of the GSA to ensure that all imported furniture meet national standards. The GSA would also ensure that all locally manufactured furniture is certified to the standards.

The Director of CSIR-FORIG, Prof. Daniel Ofori, said the role of CSIR-FORIG was to undertake demand-driven research, build capacity and promote the application of technologies for sustainable management of forest resources for the benefit of society.

He maintained that to achieve its vision, CSIR-FORIG undertakes six research programmes which include wood industry and utilisation.

The programme, he noted, seeks to develop technologies for efficient processing and utilisation of wood and non-wood forest products as a means of reducing waste as well as wood exploitation.

With experts in wood science/wood technologies, the programme has the expertise and experience in testing wood and wood products.

Prof. Ofori noted that the Centre tests plastic and wood chairs and tables for their durability, stability and strength. These tests determine the lifespan of the products and their ability to perform the functions for which they are designed.



He further stated that these tests conducted on chairs and tables ensured the health and safety, durability and strength requirements were met for customer satisfaction.

