

Quality Auditors Graduation (ISO 17025)

Date and time:

Sat, 2014-07-05 16:34

Location / Venue:

Institute of Nuclear Science and Technology



Photo (from left): Daniel, Janet, Wilson, Dr. Gatari, Mr. Wambari, Birir, Nahshon, Mailu and Wycliffe.

ISO/IEC 17025:2005 **General requirements for the competence of testing and calibration laboratories** is the main ISO standard used by testing and calibration laboratories. The University of Nairobi Lighting Laboratory (UON-LL) is a testing laboratory and has trained a pool of Internal auditors as part of the requirements of ISO 17025:2005. Certificates of competence were issued to Seven trained Auditors (*Daniel, Tollah, Kamau, Wilson, Birir, Nahshon and Wycliffe*) on 4th July 2014 at the Institute of Nuclear Science and Technology by the Head of National Quality Institute, Kenya Bureau of Standards (KEBS) Mr. Cyrus Wambari.

The University of Nairobi Lighting Laboratory (UON-LL) was established to test solar portable lights, using Lighting Africa (currently Lighting Global) initial quality screening method. The laboratory conducts the tests as a commercial service.

This is the first laboratory of its kind in the region, where manufacturers and distributors of lighting products, as well as NGOs and government agencies can bring in their low-power off-grid products such as lamps for a quick screening that will be able to determine good quality products.

In the past, substandard counterfeit solar lanterns have infiltrated the market, eroding consumer confidence in solar lighting technology. Consumers have fallen victim to overrated product claims and would purchase solar torches, task lamps or room lamps in an attempt to cut down on kerosene use, only to realize that the products do not live up to their expectations.

So far, the laboratory at the University of Nairobi has tested products for system level performance, component performance, durability and manufacturing quality.

With a turnaround of four to six weeks, and at a cost of approximately 750 US\$, Lighting Africa initial screening method is faster and cheaper than other methodologies to determine the potential of lighting products. Those products which pass this initial screening also become members of Lighting Africa and as a consequence stand to benefit from a range of business support services.

Two international laboratories in Germany and the United States are accredited to conduct the more extensive Quality Test Method which takes longer.