

## LIFTING OF SUSPENSION ON STANDARDIZATION MARK PERMIT NUMBER 25528 FOR BIDCO AFRICA HAND SANITIZER BRANDED GENTAL CARE

Nairobi, May 28, 2020..... Following concerns on the quality of BIDCO Africa hand sanitizer branded Gental Care and subsequent withdrawal of the use of KEBS Standardization Mark permit, Kenya Bureau of Standards wishes to inform the public as follows:

The suspension of the product Standardization Mark Permit No. 25528 for BIDCO Africa hand sanitizer branded Gental Care has been lifted effective 28<sup>th</sup> May 2020.

During the period of the suspension of the permit, KEBS confirmed that BIDCO Africa had stopped production of the affected product. In addition, KEBS verified recall from the market of the affected products and their segregation.

Thereafter, KEBS inspectors conducted inspections to review and determine the effectiveness of the additional quality control measures put in place by BIDCO Africa. These additional measures give confidence that BIDCO Africa is capable of producing alcohol-based sanitizers that meet the requirements of **KS EAS 789; Kenya Standard specification for Instant Hand Sanitizers**, hence the basis for reinstatement of the permit.

KEBS shall continue monitoring the effectiveness of BIDCO Africa's quality controls for the hand sanitizer product through market surveillance, factory inspections and testing.

It is the responsibility of BIDCO Africa to ensure continued product compliance to **KS EAS 789; Kenya Standard Specification for Instant hand sanitizer specification** in future production.

We encourage the general public to **"Wajibika Na KEBS"** and be on the lookout for products suspected to be substandard. **Wajibika Na KEBS** is a program that allows the public to report cases about substandard products. **To Wajibika**, verify whether the **SMark permit** on your product is valid by sending the code underneath the **SMark to 20023 (SM#Code)** to get product validity status details. If the details are different, report to **KEBS Toll Free 1545** during official working hours of **8.00 AM to 1.00 PM and 2.00 PM to 5.00 PM, Monday to Friday**.

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### Editor's Notes:

Kenya Bureau of Standards (KEBS) is a statutory body established under the Standards Act (CAP 496) of the laws of Kenya and is a member of the International Organization for Standardization (ISO). KEBS' mandate is to provide standardization and conformity assessment services. Beyond that, KEBS seeks to provide standardization solutions for sustainable development.

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