PRESS RELEASE

KEBS urges the use of calibrated and certified Infrared thermometers to contain COVID-19 spread

Nairobi Kenya, May 12, 2020 … Manufacturers, traders, and users of the infrared thermometers should ensure they are calibrated and certified to help in the early detection of coronavirus infection, says the Kenya Bureau of Standards.

The infrared thermometers (thermal guns) are considered key to the early detection of COVID-19. Calibration ensures their functionality, accuracy, and reliability are ascertained.

"We must ensure the equipment used to screen patients for COVID-19 and other conditions are calibrated. Calibration will establish their overall functionality, accuracy and reliability, as well as minimize the uncertainty of the measurements. Failure to calibrate measurement of medical equipment could lead to false results and misdiagnosis," advises Lt. Col (Rtd) Bernard Njiraini, Managing Director, KEBS.

Mr. Njiraini says the need for fast and accurate testing is imperative given the long incubation period and the contagious nature of COVID-19.

"We urge the manufacturers, traders, and users of these medical equipment to ensure that they are calibrated to the accepted International System of Units (SI) at the KEBS laboratories or accredited calibration laboratories," he adds.

Contact and non-contact thermometers (infrared guns and ambient temperature monitors), respiratory ventilators, refrigerators and freezers for storage of reagents, medicines and samples, are some of the critical healthcare equipment calibrated by KEBS.   Others include high-temperature sterilizers, furnaces and incinerators.

During calibration of infrared thermometers, KEBS checks whether they are measuring correctly, and verifies their reliability in performing the intended functions. These functions include body temperature measurement and to ensure that any errors in measurement are within allowable limits. Upon calibration, a certificate is issued, with the appropriate corrections applicable for the measurement range.

KEBS has the applicable standards which guide on the testing and calibration of the health equipment to ensure their basic safety, reliability, and effectiveness.

#Ends#

Notes to the Editor:

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 for sustainable development. KEBS' role involves, ensuring health and safety of consumers, protection of the environment and promotion of fair trade through development and implementation of standards. It consistently monitors and tests products in the market to ensure manufacturers comply with Kenya Standards.

For more information please contact: Corporate Communication | Kenya Bureau of Standards | Phone: 020 6948000 | Email: info@kebs.org