



STANDARDS AND QUALITY MANAGEMENT SCHEME FOR RODRIGUES

July 2024

DISCLAIMER

These guidelines may be subject to changes at any time. Any other information or document not listed herein may be requested depending on the application.

Whilst care has been taken to ensure that the information provided herein is accurate and correct at the time of publication, users of this publication are advised to seek guidance from the Economic Development Board in case of uncertainty or ambiguity encountered in reading this manual. The Economic Development Board shall, under no circumstances whatsoever, be held liable to any person arising from the use of information contained herein.

1. WHAT IS THE STANDARDS AND QUALITY MANAGEMENT SCHEME (SQMS) ABOUT?

The Standards and Quality Management Scheme (SQMS) for Rodrigues Island is funded by the Ministry of Finance, Economic Planning and Development and is implemented and managed by the Economic Development Board (EDB) Mauritius.

This initiative aims to:

- Foster innovation and product competitiveness
- Improve product quality and safety
- Improve market access to capitalize on export opportunities
- Adhere to national and International Standards
- Comply with national and International Regulatory Bodies
- Meet expectations and build trust of foreign buyers

These Guidelines are issued under section 5(2) (a) of the Economic Development Board Act 2017 (EDB Act).

These Guidelines set out the terms and conditions governing the SQMS for SMEs in Rodrigues Island. The SQMS may be terminated or amended, at any time, without prior notice. The EDB or Government of Mauritius will not bear any liability where this has been so terminated or amended.

The SQMS is presently valid up to 30th June 2025.

2. WHO IS ELIGIBLE FOR REFUND UNDER THE SQMS?

2.1 The following SMEs in Rodrigues shall be eligible to apply for refund under the SQMS:

- a) SMEs (Companies, Associations, Cooperatives, and Entrepreneurs) registered with the Corporate and Business Registration Department (CBRD).
- b) Export-oriented SMEs.
- c) SMEs with high export potential or offering innovative products.

2.2 Priority will be given to businesses in key sectors identified by the Government as vital for economic development, including, but not limited to:

- a) Agriculture and agribusiness
- b) Food and beverage production
- c) Manufacturing
- d) Fisheries and aquaculture
- e) Handicrafts and artisanal products

3. WHAT ITEMS ARE REFUNDED UNDER THE SQMS?

3.1 Applicants will be eligible to apply for refund for costs incurred on products in relation to the following items:

- a) Product Certification
- b) System Certification (including ISO 9001-Quality Management System and Food Safety Management Systems)
- c) Costs for Implementation and Certification (Documented System - Quality Manual, HACCP Pre-audits, Audits, Trainings, and Certification)
- d) Airfreight Costs (including Courier Services) for sending product samples to laboratories
- e) Costs for obtaining a Food Handler's Certificate

Product certification includes:

- a) Quality testing (e.g. durability, performance)
- b) Safety testing (e.g. toxicity, flammability)
- c) Compliance testing (e.g. regulatory standards, Food Labelling)
- d) Certification processes (e.g. ISO, HACCP, MAURICERT Mark)
- e) Other tests deemed necessary to meet market or regulatory requirements

3.2 To ensure the reliability and viability of test results / certification in respect of the product, only tests conducted by the following types of laboratories will be eligible under the SQMS:

- a) Accredited public and private laboratories (for tests certified by national or international accreditation bodies)
- b) Government-approved laboratories

3.3 For the purposes of the SQMS, **product** is defined to mean such product which:

- a) is manufactured in Rodrigues; and
- b) has high export potential (including to Mauritius island)

Note: Although the SQMS is applicable for tests (in respect of products) conducted both nationally and internationally, preference will be given to tests performed in the Republic of Mauritius, provided the necessary facilities and expertise are available.

3.4 The amount of refund allowed will be capped at Rs 100,000 yearly per applicant.

4. THE APPLICATION PROCESS

4.1 An applicant may apply for a refund only as from the date he/she enrolls for the Scheme.

- a) Enrolment with the EDB is a one-off procedure. **Click here** to download the Enrolment Form.
- b) Enrolment with the EDB does not in any way guarantee that the applicant is eligible for refund.
- c) Claims for refund submitted by SMEs that have not enrolled with the EDB under this Scheme will not be entertained.

4.2 Once enrolment with the EDB has been completed, the applicant shall:

- a) Complete the Application Form available online on EDB's website. **Click here** to download the Application Form.
- b) Submit the Application Form and supporting documents to the EDB Rodrigues Office.
- c) The application will be reviewed for eligibility and completeness. Additional information may be requested if necessary.
- d) Approved applicants will be notified in writing, specifying the amount of the refund and any conditions.

5. THE CLAIM PROCESS

5.1 The applicant must submit the prescribed Claim Form available online on EDB's website. **Click here** to download the Claim Form.

5.2 The following documents should be submitted together with the Claim Form:

- a) Proof of payment of items in Clause 3 (receipts of payments and invoices)
- b) Test result or such Report attesting completion of items under Clause 3.

5.3 The EDB reserves the right, at all times, to request applicants to submit additional documentary proof or any other clarifications.

5.4 Once the complete set of documents has been provided and information received, the EDB will set up a Technical Committee comprised of representatives of the EDB, the Mauritius Food Standards Agency, the Mauritius Standards Bureau and such other person as may be required, to consider the claim for refund.

5.5 The EDB shall endeavour to process the claim and notify the applicant within a minimum of 2 weeks.

5.6 The claim will be rejected:

- (a) If the Claim does not meet the criteria as set out above and as determined by the EDB; or
- (b) in case of any missing or incomplete documentation or information.

6. FALSE AND MISLEADING DECLARATION

1. It is an offence under section 39 (2) of the Economic Development Board Act, for a person to give information, particulars, or documents or to make any statement which is false or misleading in any material particular. On conviction, an offender shall be liable to a fine not exceeding MUR 500,000.00 and to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 5 years.
2. In addition, notwithstanding any other action that the EDB may choose to take, in case of a false or misleading declaration:
 - a. The applicant will not be eligible for any future refund under any Scheme administered by the EDB, and
 - b. The applicant shall be liable to refund any amount obtained under the Scheme.

**For any additional details you may contact
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