

# **MANUFACTURING EXTENTION PARTNERSHIP (MEP) PROGRAM**

## **1 Introduction:**

Chemistry as taught in our schools and colleges, concerns chiefly synthesis, analysis and engineering- and properly so. It is part of the right foundation for the education of the chemist.

Many a chemist entering an industry and for that matter the prospective entrepreneur or interested laymen who inadvertently take on the practice of chemical compounding or product manufacture soon finds that most of the products manufactured by his concern are not synthetic or definite chemical compounds but are mixtures, or highly complex compounds of which he knows little or nothing. The literature in this field, if any, may be meagre, scattered or obsolete.

With the advent of many small scale manufacturers in the Ghanaian Industrial Sector and the fact that many originated from non-chemical executives and interested laymen, there is a definite need for an advisory body to educate on compilation of formulae and chemical compounding; and treatment. It is also of prime important to have trained personnel to handle quality issues in the manufacturing processes. This task had been taken up by ASQS. It is our interest first, to ensure that manufacturers find new formulations, techniques and new uses of raw materials for their products and secondly but not of less importance to help operators acquire the requisite skill needed to handle quality matters.

ASQS has therefore instituted the Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) arrangement to assist manufacturers in handling Technical/Technological and Quality matters that are beyond the scope of their work. This partnership is by contract and is maintained by the payment of necessary fee and providing budgetary requirements agreed upon by ASQS and company executives.

## **2. WHAT IS ASQS?**

Applied Science and Quality Systems (ASQS) is research consortium founded in 1997 with Head Office in Accra, Ghana. It was registered in Ghana in 2002 under the Registration of Business Names act 1962 (No. 151) as a private enterprise with No. BN-36,379C.

It is a wholly owned Ghanaian company with affiliation to Xcel Quality Services, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, USA and Shanti Engineers in London, England. ASQS is in partnership with Total Quality Training, Oxford, England and has been approved as an Education Centre for the Chartered Quality Institute (CQI) UK's Professional Courses in Quality.

ASQS is made up of professional quality consultants, seasoned scientists and technologists with years of experience in Standardization and Quality Systems.

The Scope of Operation covers:

- Education
- Chemical Research
- Technology Transfer
- Product Formulation/Characterization
- Product Quality Innovation
- Quality Control/Assurance Programs

- Quality Management Systems (ISO 9000)
- Calibration and Measurement Quality Assurance
- Manufacturing Extension Partnership.

### **3. What is Manufacturing Extension Partnership?**

ASQS carries out research leading to product formulation, product characterization, product quality innovation and the installation and maintenance of Quality Management Systems for the manufacturing and service industry. The result from such research enables the ASQS consortium offer consulting services to interested manufacturers and the prospective entrepreneur. However ASQS is not engaged in full scale manufacturing of any product for commercial purposes.

Many manufacturers are often faced with problems in their manufacturing processes, whilst most small scale manufactures are not able to employ qualified chemists/engineers to man their manufacturing processes; many have no quality control units or processes to check the quality of their products and processes. This leads to products of inferior quality which do not meet standard requirements/specification. As a result many of these manufacturers fail to comply with mandatory requirements set by certification/regulatory bodies such as the Ghana Standards Board (GSB) or the Food and Drugs Board (FDB).

Manufacturing Extension Partnership as the name implies is an extended partnership where by ASQS assists the companies with technologies and documentation that ensures efficient Quality Management Systems and products of acceptable quality. By this collaboration, ASQS acts as the company's entity that works to ensure that technical conflicts are resolved.

In addition ASQS provides innovation technology and product quality control/assurance to the company in order to meet technical specification, satisfy environmental, statutory and regulatory requirements and to delight customers

### **4. The Registration Process:**

Registration to the Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) Program follows four (4) simple phases.

#### **PHASE 1: Pre-requisite for registration.**

To satisfy Registration Requirements

- Register with Registrar General Department.
- Register with other statutory and regulatory bodies e.g. Ghana Standards Board (GSB) or the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).
- Have a manufacturing process in place.

#### **PHASE 2: Preparing for Registration.**

- Apply to ASQS for registration forms, pay necessary application fee.
- Study registration and contractual agreement details and respond to pre-registration recommendations.
- Submit your application forms to ASQS and pay necessary registration fee.

**PHASE 3: Experiencing the Registration Process.**

- Respond to ASQS recommendations.
- Arrange to have pre-assessment conducted by ASQS (optional); set assessment date.
- Respond to findings.
- Sign the ASQS contract agreement.
- Submit signed agreement to ASQS.
- The registration certificate is issued.

**PHASE 4: Continuing Registration through Continuous improvement.**

- Maintain Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) to ensure continuous improvement.
- Notify ASQS of major changes in practice.
- Pursue product innovation and advancement of technology to ensure continuous improvement.

**5. Contact:**

For further inquires contact

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