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THE CURRENT STATE, SECTORAL STRUCTURE AND MAIN BARRIERS OF PRODUCTION BASED ON INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS IN BUSINESS ENTITIES

(The case of Namangan region)

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Abstract

This article analyzes the current state and problems of product production in the province of Namangan on the basis of international standards (ISO) in business entities on the basis of official statistics and scientific literature. In the 2024-2025 section, the network and technological composition of the industry of the region, the number of enterprises and the dynamics of production volumes are summarized. The results showed that the textile/clothing and food industries are dominant in Namangan, the high-tech segment share is low, and the introduction of standards in these conditions can be the main driver for the internal process efficiency of enterprises and their adaptation to exports. The problems were broken down into financial, technological, human resources and institutional barriers, and factors such as the lack of documentation and knowledge found in the introduction of HACCP/ISO 22000 in food were compared to scientific literature. At the end of the study, a "barrier matrix" in the cross section of fields for Namangan and practice-oriented recommendations for business entities were given.

Keywords: Namangan region, ISO, standardization, barriers, HACCP, industrial structure, technological composition

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Аннотация

Ushbu maqola Namangan viloyatida tadbirkorlik sub'ektlarida xalqaro standartlar (ISO) asosida mahsulot ishlab chiqarishning amaldagi holati va muammolarini rasmiy statistika hamda ilmiy adabiyotlar asosida tahlil qiladi. 2024–2025 yillar kesimida viloyat sanoatining tarmoq va texnologik tarkibi, korxonalar soni va ishlab chiqarish hajmlari dinamikasi umumlashtirildi. Natijalar Namanganda to'qimachilik/kiyim va oziq-ovqat tarmoqlari ustun ekani, yuqori texnologiyali segment ulushi pastligi va bu sharoitda standartlarni joriy etish korxonalarning ichki jarayon samaradorligi hamda eksportga moslashuvi uchun asosiy drayver bo'la olishini ko'rsatdi. Muammolar moliyaviy, texnologik, kadrlar va institutsional to'siqlarga ajratilib, oziq-ovqatda HACCP/ISO 22000 joriy etishda uchraydigan hujjatlashtirish va bilim yetishmasligi kabi omillar ilmiy adabiyotlar bilan solishtirildi. Tadqiqot yakunida Namangan uchun sohalar kesimida "to'siqlar matritsasi" va tadbirkorlik sub'ektlari uchun amaliyotga yo'naltirilgan tavsiyalar berildi.

Аннотация

В данной статье анализируется текущее состояние и проблемы производства продукции на основе международных стандартов (ISO) в субъектах предпринимательства Наманганской области на основе официальной статистики и научной литературы. На рубеже 2024-2025 гг. обобщена отраслевая и технологическая структура промышленности области, динамика численности предприятий и объемов производства. Результаты показали, что текстильная/швейная и пищевая промышленность в Намангане доминируют, доля высокотехнологичного сегмента невысока, и внедрение стандартов в этих условиях может стать основным драйвером эффективности внутренних процессов предприятий, а также их экспортной адаптации. Проблемы были разделены на финансовые, технологические, кадровые и институциональные барьеры, а такие

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факторы, как документация и недостаток знаний, обнаруженные при внедрении HACCP/ISO 22000 в продуктах питания, сравнивались с научной литературой. По итогам исследования была сформулирована “матрица барьеров” в разрезе отраслей для Намангана и практико-ориентированные рекомендации для субъектов предпринимательства.

Introduction

The growing number of industrial enterprises and the diversification of production activities in Namangan region necessitate compliance with modern quality and safety standards. As of 1 June 2025, the region hosted 4,132 industrial enterprises, the majority of which are engaged in food production and clothing manufacturing.

In such an industrial structure, international standards play a pivotal role in enabling access to export markets, strengthening brand trust in the domestic market, and ensuring contractual reliability.

Ongoing reforms in technical regulation — both legislative and institutional — continue to reinforce the framework for standardization and conformity assessment in Uzbekistan.

2. Methods

The analysis relies on:

- ✓ Press releases of the Namangan Regional Statistics Department (annual report 2024; January–May 2025; January–October 2025)
- ✓ Relevant regulatory legal acts
- ✓ Analytical methods include:
 - ✓ Descriptive statistics (sectoral shares, production volumes)
 - ✓ Content analysis of barriers
 - ✓ Comparative analysis with international scientific literature on ISO and HACCP implementation barriers

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3. Results

3.1. Sectoral structure and production orientation According to 2024 year-end data for the manufacturing industry in Namangan region:

- ✓ Textiles — 21.4%
- ✓ Food products — 15.7%
- ✓ Clothing — 13.2%
- ✓ Production values in 2024:
- ✓ Textiles → 6,853.0 billion UZS
- ✓ Clothing → 4,224.9 billion UZS

In January–October 2025 the combined share of textiles, clothing and leather products reached 39.4%, while food, beverages and tobacco accounted for 28.3%. These indicators confirm the existence of a solid sectoral base for the broad adoption of international standards (ISO 9001, ISO 22000 / HACCP, ISO 14001, ISO 45001), especially in the leading industries.

3.2. Number of enterprises by sector (as of 1 June 2025) Total industrial enterprises: 4,132

- ✓ Food production → 730 enterprises (17.7%)
- ✓ Clothing production → 701 enterprises (17.0%)
- ✓ Non-metallic mineral products → 632 enterprises (15.3%)
- ✓ Textiles → 414 enterprises (10.0%)

Targeted standardization support programs directed at these four sectors are therefore expected to deliver the highest economic return.

3.3. Technological composition The share of high-technology industries remains very modest:

- ✓ January–May 2025 → 1.1%
- ✓ January–October 2025 → 1.5%

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This low level underscores the need to integrate standard implementation with technological upgrading. International standards contribute to technological discipline by enforcing requirements related to measurement, control, calibration, safety, and resource efficiency.

3.4. Main barriers (synthesis of scientific literature and local context)

Barriers are grouped into four categories:

✓ **Financial barriers**

- Costs of consulting services, certification audits, laboratory testing, calibration, documentation development

✓ **Technological barriers**

- Insufficient measurement and control points
- Low production discipline
- Weak traceability (traceability) systems

✓ **Human resource barriers**

- Shortage of qualified internal auditors, quality managers, and HSE (health, safety, environment) specialists

✓ **Institutional barriers**

- Limited access to conformity assessment infrastructure
- Insufficient availability of information-methodological support

In the food industry, classical international studies on HACCP and ISO 22000 implementation consistently highlight the same core obstacles: lack of knowledge, documentation complexity, and inadequate staff training. These same issues appear to represent the most critical pain points in Namangan's food processing segment.

4. Discussion

The results demonstrate that the adoption of international standards in Namangan region can deliver benefits far beyond export compliance — it can substantially improve internal operational efficiency and competitiveness.

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In line with the UNIDO approach, quality infrastructure and standards should be regarded as strategic assets for enhancing industrial competitiveness.

Nevertheless, the barriers are systemic in nature. Unless financial, human, technological and institutional constraints are addressed simultaneously, certification processes risk becoming merely formalistic.

5. Conclusion

The industrial profile of Namangan region provides a favorable foundation for relatively rapid alignment with international standards — particularly in the textile/clothing and food sectors.

However, the barriers are multifaceted and require the development of a targeted support program that includes:

- ✓ Training and capacity building
- ✓ Access to affordable laboratory and audit services
- ✓ Cost-sharing mechanisms
- ✓ Strengthening of regional quality infrastructure

For further research, it is recommended to conduct enterprise-level surveys and case studies, followed by econometric or regression-based evaluation of barrier weights and the measurable impact of standard implementation.

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