

# CERTIFICATE OF CONFORMITY TRADING WITH THE MIDDLE EAST

Intertek's Total Quality Expertise supporting Exporters and Importers to comply with Conformity Assessment Programmes in the Middle East

## TRADING WITH THE MIDDLE EAST

Many Governments within the Middle East have put stringent requirements in place to ensure their consumers are protected from sub-standard products and goods.

Pre-Shipment Inspection (PSI), Destination Inspection (DI), Conformity Assessment (CoC) and Pre-Export Verification of Conformity (PVoC) to Standards are the types of programmes that have been implemented not only to verify safety and performance of goods but also to ensure that correct import duty revenues are paid.

Traders exporting to these countries need to be fully aware of applicable requirements since failure to comply with them can be costly, leading to potential delays in Customs clearance, financial penalties or even goods being returned to the port of origin.

#### The Intertek solution to Conformity Assessment and Pre-shipment Inspection

Intertek has been working in the Middle East region for many years and as an Accredited Certification Body we have been assessed and approved by the applicable Government departments in the importing countries meaning that we are competent to test and certify your shipments. Intertek has continued to expand its network of laboratories and offices around the world and we are now able to offer a greater range of services to our clients covering more countries than ever before.

#### Libya - Col

The central bank of Libya issued an instruction which referred to Resolution by the Governor of the central bank of Libya which regulates the use of foreign exchange for opening documentary Letters of Credit (LC) and collection against these LC's.

With immediate effect all goods imported into Libya require a Certificate of Inspection (Col) issued by an international inspection company such as Intertek, to allow these shipments to be financed through a documentary Letter of Credit issued by a commercial bank.

# Here are just a few of the countries we currently support programmes for:

### Saudi Arabia:

#### SASO CoC

Intertek supports The Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoCI) in KSA by being the longest serving service provider and is fully approved by the MoCI and the Saudi Food and Drug Authority (SFDA) to issue the mandatory CoC.

In 2012, Intertek signed a Mutual Recognition Agreement (MRA) with Saudi Standards, Metrology and Quality Organisation (SASO) for issuing CoC for shipments exported to KSA.

CoCs issued by Intertek for regulated products shipment are recognised by SASO/KSA Customs for the clearance of such shipments at KSA ports/border.

#### SABER SALEEM

The Saudi Standards, Metrology and Quality Organisation (SASO) has made the decision to implement the Saudi Product Safety Programme (SALEEM) by launching the SABER platform for online Certification.

SASO has published a list of Technical Regulations for various products covering Lube Oils, Detergents, Building Materials andConstruction Products, Paints, Lifts, Vehicle Spare Parts, Textiles, etc. The products covered by the Technical Regulations are referred to as Regulated Products. The Conformity Assessment Process for the Regulated Products is a two stage process:

**Stage 1:** Issuance of Product Certification of Conformity (PCoC).

Stage 2: Issuance of Shipment Certificate of Conformity (SCoC). To support SALEEM, SASO has launched an online electronic platform "SABER" which facilitates issuance of PCoC and SCoC. Importers have to register online on the SABER platform to obtain PCoC and SCoC.

#### SFDA Food Programme

Exporters/Importers trading with Saudi Arabia need to comply with the requirements of the Saudi Food and Drug Authority (SFDA) for food consignments exported to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Consignments of specific food categories supplied from specific countries of supply to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia shall require a Certificate of Conformity demonstrating compliance to SFDA requirements for its clearance at the KSA Customs.

In July 2018, Intertek was awarded a contract by SFDA to support with Certification services for specific food product categories supplied from specified regions including Asia, the Middle East and Africa and Brazil.

#### Qatar - CoC

The Government of the State of Qatar, through the Qatar Ministry of Business and Trade - Department of Consumer Protection and the Qatar General Organisation for Standards and Metrology (QGOSM), has issued a set of strict rules regulating the import of vehicle spare parts, perfumery products, toys and some electrical and cosmetic products.

Conformity Documents issued by Intertek for Regulated Product shipments are recognised by QGOSM/Qatari Customs for the clearance of such shipment on arrival at Qatar ports/borders.

#### Kurdistan - CoC

Exporters/Importers trading with the Kurdistan region need to comply with the requirements of Kurdistan's Consignment Based Conformity Assessment (CBCA) service which mandates that shipments require a Certificate of Conformity in order to clear customs.

CBCA verifies the conformity of products being shipped to the Kurdistan region.

Intertek has been appointed as the sole Certification Body authorised to issue Certificates of Conformity for regulated product consignments exported to the Kurdistan region.

#### Kuwait - KUCAS

The Public Authority for Industry (PAI) of the State of Kuwait has implemented guidelines to verify the conformity of all 'Regulated Products' being exported to Kuwait. These guidelines are diligently enforced, and form the Kuwait Conformity Assurance Scheme (KUCAS).

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Exports to Kuwait of these products require a Technical Inspection Report (TIR) to clear Customs.

#### Egypt - GOEIC

Egypt implemented new import regulations at the end of 2015. Manufacturers or trademark owners of regulated products must register with Egypt's General Organisation of Export and Import Control (GOEIC). A Col is then required for the clearance of every regulated product exported to Egypt. Intertek can issue the Col which is recognised by GOEIC/Egypt Customs. Intertek can also facilitate registration.

#### Egypt Food

Exporters/Importers trading Food and Food Contact Materials with the Republic of Egypt need to comply with the requirements of the National Food Safety Authority (NFSA) in order for Egyptian Custom Authorities to clear their consignments on arrival at the Egyptian Ports and Borders.

Consignments of specified food categories and food contact materials supplied from specific countries of supply to the Republic of Egypt shall require a Certificate of Inspection demonstrating compliance to NFSA requirements for its clearance at the Egyptian Customs.

#### Iraq - CoC

Exporters/Importers trading with Iraq need to comply with the requirements of Pre-Inspection, Testing and Issuing of Certificates of Conformity Programme of Goods Imported into Iraq which mandates that shipments require a Certificate of Conformity in order to clear customs. Failure to do so can result in severe delays in goods clearance, penalties, or even shipments being returned.

The Conformity Assessment Programme (CAP) verifies the conformity of all Regulated Products which include but not limited to: Food, Toys, Electrical and Electronic Appliances, Vehicle Spare Parts, Vehicle Tyres, Chemicals, Cosmetics and Perfumery Products, Tobacco Products, Construction and Building Materials, Kitchenware, Stationery, Baby Care Items, Textile products and Lubricants in the respective Country of Supply.

#### FOR MORE INFORMATION

Intertek India Private Ltd. 401 Everest House, 4th Fl. 6 Suren Road, Andheri (East) Mumbai -400093 India

left 122 66934848 +91 22 66934848

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info.mumbai.gs@intertek.com