

**GUIDELINES OF IMPORTS FOR THE TRADE**

**Saudi Food & Drug Authority**



**KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA**  
*Saudi Food & Drug Authority Conformity Assessment  
 Program for Food*



This data sheet has been prepared specifically in respect of food exports to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

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**1. CONFORMITY ASSESSMENT PROGRAM**

PROGRAM NAME	Certificate of Conformity for Shipments : Food Products
PROGRAM MANDATED BY	Saudi Food and Drug Authority (SFDA)
IMPLEMENTATION DATE	01.01.2020
PROGRAM OBJECTIVES	Assess and verify compliance of Food and Beverage that will be exported to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, in accordance with the regulations, rules, specifications and conditions approved by SFDA.
ASSESSMENT METHODS	Depending on the nature of the product, the assessment methods consist of the following activities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pre-shipment inspection</li> <li>• Laboratory testing</li> <li>• Documentary verification</li> </ul>
DOCUMENTATION	<p>Exporter submits to SGS the following documents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Request for Certification and Declaration of Conformity</li> <li>• Commercial Invoice</li> <li>• Documents : Ingredient list with concentrations, Certificate of Analysis {batch-wise}, product labels/artworks ,Certificate of Origin ,Health Certificate, Hygiene certificate</li> <li>• SFDA Registration Certificate</li> <li>• Test reports for SFDA approved parameters should be from ISO 17025 accredited labs only</li> <li>• Company's Quality Management System documents (ISO 9001,ISO 22000, GMP, HACCP, any FSMS certification or likewise).</li> <li>• Halal Certificate from SFDA approved bodies (if applicable).</li> <li>• Slaughter Certificate from SFDA approved bodies (if applicable).</li> </ul>
CERTIFICATION PROCESS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It involves pre-shipment inspection ,sampling and testing of products. Physical inspection is carried out to verify the labelling/markings, storage,shelf life,physical condition of the product and container ,etc</li> <li>• Testing to be as per SFDA/SASO requirements from ISO 17025 accredited lab</li> </ul>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Container loading and sealing will be applicable on mandatory basis on all consignments .</li> <li>• A CoC is required for customs clearance for each shipment.</li> </ul>
VERIFICATION PROCESS	<p>Based on the documents, SGS will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Verify the conformity of the goods to the updated SFDA/SASO standards/technical regulations and requirements.</li> <li>• Perform physical inspection on the products.</li> <li>• Perform physical inspection of the Container/transportation medium of the goods in terms of physical condition and hygiene.</li> <li>• Along with physical inspection sample collection is carried out from each container/transportation medium of shipment. The sampling process will follow specific product standards/SFDA requirements . Samples are marked with SGS reference/sample sticker (the sticker serial number will be considered as the 'reference number') and transferred to sterile single-use bags.</li> <li>• Sampling for testing will be done based on the risk of the product category. For high risk products batch wise testing will be mandatory for all the consignments.</li> <li>• Seal the carton from which samples are removed using SGS Tape.</li> <li>• Fill in the 'sampling receipt' form which includes full details of sample collected, seal number etc.</li> <li>• Every batch details included in the consignment is to be captured along with the production expiry and updated in IR</li> <li>• Attaching copy of sampling receipt to Inspection report.</li> <li>• Attaching copy of the sample-receipt with the collected sample which serves as reference document for the testing laboratory.</li> <li>• Handover samples to client for testing. Testing is to be carried out at a 17025-accredited laboratory</li> <li>• On availability of passing test results, SGS inspector supervises container loading and ensure only batches examined and captured during initial inspection is loaded and seals the container.</li> <li>• Issuance of CoC (Certificate of Conformity). CoC shall include <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Full reference and traceability to samples drawn (sample reference number) for testing</li> <li>• Seal numbers (each container).</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Issue NNR (Non-Negotiable Report) if the test reports are found failing.</li> <li>• Provide SFDA with Daily reports</li> </ul>
CERTIFICATE	A Certificate of Conformity (CoC) is issued to evidence the compliance of the shipment.
LABELLING REQUIREMENTS	<p>All food products should have marking/labelling requirements as per updated requirements of GSO 9.</p> <p>Detailed marking requirements as per product category should be available on specific food products.</p>
<b>2. REGULATED PRODUCTS</b>	
Please get in touch with Local SGS for more information	
<b>3. SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS</b>	

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**PROHIBITED IMPORTS:**

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Swine and its meat, fat, hair, blood and offal, and all that is extracted from it</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dogs; except dogs for hunting, guarding or for guiding the blind with certificates from the competent authorities in the exporting country authenticated by the Saudi embassy indicating that the dog to be entered is a dog for guarding, hunting or for guiding the blind. In addition, it shall be presented to the veterinary quarantine</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Frog meat</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Narcotic drugs of all kinds, forms and names in addition to the snuff, tumbak and cola nut</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All foodstuffs made of animal blood</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Wines and intoxicants of all kinds including what contains alcoholic substances at any intoxicating ratio,</li> <li>as well as wine distillation appliances and materials which are not used except in its distillation.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Blank invoices addressed in the name of foreign companies abroad</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Advertising materials for cigarettes of all kinds</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The cross or any commodity with pictures, inscriptions, drawings, recitations or phrases including books, prospectuses and other publications, films and tapes which are contrary to the Islamic faith and morals or the publications regulation</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Empty packings coming from abroad for refilling domestically with origin indication affixed on them</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dummies which are not in compliance with the Sharia provisions and general morals and imported for sale in commercial quantities</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Medicaments not bearing a label or accompanied by a leaflet showing their composition and quantity of each component according to the regulation for practicing the profession of pharmacology and trade in medicines and medical preparations</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Goods on which drawn the government emblem in the form of two crossed swords with a palm tree with long stem and leaves in the space above and between the blades properly represented</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Nutmeg fruit; seeds and powder thereof. Permission to import it is confined to its powder mixed with other spices within the limits of permissible ratio which does not exceed 20%</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bonds and coupons for sacrificial animals (Adahiy-الأضاحي and Hady-الهدى), ransom (Fidyah-الفدية) and charity (Sadaqah-الصدقة)</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Potassium bromate which is used as a maturing agent in baking bread</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Eagle emblem</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Kaaba Musharafa model</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Six-pointed star</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>SFDA circulars on food updates/recalls/ban available at:  <a href="https://www.sfda.gov.sa/EN/FOOD/CIRCULATIONS/Pages/circulations.aspx">https://www.sfda.gov.sa/EN/FOOD/CIRCULATIONS/Pages/circulations.aspx</a>  <a href="https://www.sfda.gov.sa/en/food/news/Pages/default.aspx?news=Main">https://www.sfda.gov.sa/en/food/news/Pages/default.aspx?news=Main</a>  <a href="https://www.sfda.gov.sa/en/food/news/pages/default.aspx?newstype=a">https://www.sfda.gov.sa/en/food/news/pages/default.aspx?newstype=a</a> </li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>SFDA updates on prohibited items document available at:  <a href="https://beta.sfda.gov.sa/en">https://beta.sfda.gov.sa/en</a> </li> </ul>

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#### 4. CONTACT INFORMATION

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