

GUIDELINES FOR THE TRADE



COTE D'IVOIRE Inspection and Verification of Conformity Program



This data sheet has been prepared specifically in respect of exports to Cote d'Ivoire

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1. PRODUCTS CONFORMITY ASSESSMENT

PROGRAM NAME	Verification of Conformity Program
PROGRAM MANDATED BY	Ministère du Commerce et de l'Industrie (MCI)
IMPLEMENTATION DATE	01/07/2025 (Second mandate for SGS)
PROGRAM OBJECTIVE	- To ensure the quality of products as well as the health, safety and environmental protection of Cote d'Ivoire consumers. - Protect the public against substandard products that can endanger public health, safety and the environment - Protect local manufacturers against unfair competition from imported products which do not comply to local Standards.
SERVICES PROVIDERS	SGS and other companies
SCOPE OF THE PROGRAM	To assess that all regulated imported products do comply with approved National, Regional and International Standards and Cote d'Ivoire technical regulations. In case of lack of standard for any product, SGS will use IFIA Code of Practice for Conformity assessment.
MINIMUM THRESHOLD SUBJECT TO VOC PROGRAM	FOB value greater than or equal to XOF 1'000'000.00 (EUR 1'525.00)
VERIFICATION PROCESS	Exporter submits to SGS the following documents: - Request for Certification (indicating the point of entry in Cote d'Ivoire) - PROFORMA Invoice or Final invoice - Quality management System Certification (if available) - Conformity Documents: test reports (including manufacturer's internal test reports), quality certificates, certificates of analysis (including manufacturer's internal certificates of analysis), technical datasheets, etc. To obtain evidence that all requirements are met in the applicable standards or technical requirements, goods must undergo one or a combination of the following verification process:

	• Documentary verification • Physical inspection • Laboratory testing: Accepted laboratories are as follows: - SGS laboratories accredited to ISO/IEC 17025; - Third party ISO/IEC 17025 accredited laboratory operating as per the ILAC guidelines; - Third party non-accredited laboratory - Manufacturer's internal laboratory • Factory audit • After verification process is completed and results are satisfactory, exporter will have to submit the Final Invoice and FDI document covering FDI number, Importer Code, Tax payer account for CoC issuance. For Air-Freight and shipments from nearby countries CoC is to be issued on Final Invoice and FDI document basis. Note: the process is initiated by the exporter.
ASSESSMENT METHODE	Three methods are proposed to the exporters to demonstrate the compliance of their products and obtain a Certificate of Conformity (CoC) • ROUTE A: applicable to any goods, sensitive goods and any trader • ROUTE B: Recommended for frequent exporter with homogeneous products • ROUTE C: For Certified products.
ACCREDITED LABORATORIES	- ISO 17025 accredited SGS Laboratories - ISO 17025 accredited laboratory for the specific product. - Third party laboratory of any of the approved IVCP Service providers.
CERTIFICATE OF CONFORMITY (CoC)	• A Certificate of Conformity (CoC) is the document issued to demonstrate the compliance of the shipment to the relevant approved standards. • Document is issued in PDF format and released to the exporter via email. • This document is required for Customs clearance. Goods arriving to Cote d'Ivoire without the corresponding CoC will be handled by the Ministry of Trade. It is the seller's responsibility to ensure that shipments to Cote d'Ivoire are inspected and Verification of Conformity Process is done and certification decision by SGS has been confirmed. One CoC = One FDI, but One FDI can have several CoC (partial shipments).
NON-CONFORMITY REPORT (NCR)	If the reports from the verification activities such as testing or inspection show discrepancies versus the standard essential requirements, exporters will be informed accordingly and <u>given</u> sufficient time to make the necessary corrections; if those are not or cannot be made a "Non-Conformity Report" (NCR) will be issued. This implies that goods should not be shipped into Cote d'Ivoire.

SHELF-LIFE REQUIREMENTS	All products must be fit for consumption at entry point into Ivorian territory.
LABELLING	For Foodstuffs, Cosmetics, Tobacco, Tobacco Products, and Pesticides: For foodstuffs, cosmetics, tobacco, tobacco products and pesticides, the markings and instructions required by the applicable standards must be indicated at least in French. Note: If the language used on the original label is not French, a second label should be added with all mandatory information written in French instead of replacing it. In the case where the label is replaced or supplemented by another, the mandatory information must faithfully reflect those appearing on the original label. For Industrial and Professional Products: For industrial and professional products, the markings and instructions required by the applicable standards must be indicated in French or English. Note: If the language used on the original label is neither French nor English, a second label may be added, instead of replacing it, bearing all mandatory information written in French or English. In the case where the label is replaced or supplemented by another, the mandatory information must faithfully reproduce those appearing on the original label. Important Note: For products not yet subject to the above mandatory requirements, exporters are encouraged to gradually comply.
EXPRESS SHIPMENTS	Express shipments are excluded from the Verification of Conformity Program.
ELECTRICAL PRODUCTS	• Type of plugs and electrical sockets: French type (EN 50075, NF C 61-314, NF C 61-315, type E (CEE 7)) or by default with an adapter • Voltage: 220 V (230 V accepted) • Frequency: 50 Hz
COSMETICS	Refer to decree n° 2015-288 of April 29, 2015
SALT, FLOUR AND OIL INTENDED FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION	Refer to decree n° 2018-512 of May 30, 2018
TOBACCO PRODUCTS	Refer to decree n°2022-75 of January 26, 2022
FEES	Fees are payable in advance by the exporter. Fees are net of any tax and are payable upon reception of the Request of Certification (RFC). Fees are due regardless of whether after assessment of the goods of the exporter or importer does not provide the information or document necessary for the final issuance of the CoC, or for any other reasons does proceed to the shipment of the goods. Note: Fees structure detailed in section 3.

2. LISTING OF NON-REGULATED PRODUCTS

- Gold and other precious metals
- Precious stones
- Explosives, weapons, ammunition and other war material intended for the national armed forces and to the police force
- Live animals
- Fresh vegetables and fruit
- Fresh, deep freeze and frozen fish
- Fresh, deep freeze and frozen meat
- Plants and floricultural products
- Raw products and traditional handicraft of community origin
- Drugs and inputs used to manufacture drugs
- Newspapers and periodicals, stamps items or tax, stamp paper, banknotes, check books, passports and some printed documents
- Personal effects and used household objects
- Used cars
- Crude or partially refined petroleum
- Commercial samples
- Supplies to the diplomatic and consular missions or international organizations, imported for their own needs/use
- Production machines subject to or benefiting an exemption as part of the code of investments through a request to the monitoring committee of the VOC program (Ministry of Trade).
- Imported goods and equipment (material) destined to oil and mining operations (benefiting from the advantages of the Mining and Petroleum Codes)
- Imports related to free regimes/Zones.

Regarding inputs for local industry, manufacturers should have them pre-registered with the Monitoring Committee of the VOC program, in order to be eligible to an exemption from verification of conformity over a 12-month period.

During the operational phase of the implementation of the program, from July 1st, 2019, verification of conformity is mandatory for all products belonging to the list of regulated products available on the official site of Ministry of Trade www.commerce.gouv.ci.

Note: This list of products can be changed by the Ministry of trade when necessary.

3. FEES STRUCTURE

Route A	• Ad Valorem fee of 0.45% of the FOB Value of the goods imported • Minimum fee per shipment XOF 197'000.00 or EUR 300.00 • Maximum fee per shipment XOF 2'684'000.00 or EUR 4'092.00
Route B	• Ad Valorem fee of 0.40% of the FOB Value of the goods imported • Minimum fee per shipment XOF 187'150.00 or EUR 285.00 • Maximum fee per shipment XOF 2'549'800.00 or EUR 3'887.00
Route C	• Ad Valorem fee of 0.30% of the FOB Value of the goods imported • Minimum fee per shipment XOF 167'450.00 or EUR 255.00 • Maximum fee per shipment XOF 2'281'400 or 3'478.00

Coverage and Conditions

The above fees cover the documentary verification, physical inspection of goods and CoC issuance.

The above fees **do not include** the following activities:

- Testing: to be quoted on a case-by-case basis
- Containers sealing
- Sampling
- Loading supervision
- Product Registration
 - EUR 275 irrespective of number of products lines.
- Manufacturer Licensing
- Additional fees where goods or facilities are not ready or available at the time the supplier has advise and therefore an additional inspection visit is required

The SGS fee shall be calculated on the basis of the value of the invoice presented by the exporter.

SGS will be entitled to its fees regardless of whether after its assessment of the goods the exporter or importer does not provide the information or documents necessary for the final issuance of the CoC, or for any reason does not proceed with the shipment of the goods.

4. LIST OF REGULATED PRODUCTS

Below groups of products to be exported to COTE D'IVOIRE are subject to the Verification of Conformity Program.

1. Food
2. Electrical, electronic or renewable energy products
3. Cosmetics and body hygiene products
4. Building materials
5. Wrap (Packaging Materials)
6. Automotive Spare parts and accessories and lubricants
7. Machinery
8. Equipment under pressure
9. Personal protective equipment
10. Other products related to health, safety and the environment
11. Textiles
12. Shoes
13. Toys
14. [Used products](#)
15. [Chemical products](#)

5. LIST OF SENSITIVE PRODUCTS

- Milk and Dairy products (all HS codes of chap 04)
- Rice (only HS code 1006)
- Flour (only HS codes 1101; 1102 of chap 11)
- Salt for human consumption (only HS code 25010091)
- Fertilizer

These products are sensitive and go systematically under Route A for all.

Note: This list of products can be changed by the Ministry of trade when necessary.

6. LIST OF PROHIBITED PRODUCTS

- Analog TV stations and those non-compliant to standards' dissemination and compression (decree n° 2014-604 of October 16, 2014)
- Cosmetics whose components are prohibited or regulated by Decree No. 2015-288 of April 29, 2015
- Freon R22 (Chlorodifluoromethane R22) and products containing R22
- Asbestos and asbestos products

Note: These products or any products containing them are prohibited in Côte d'Ivoire. This list of products can be changed by the Ministry of trade when necessary.

7. CONTACT FOR INFORMATION

PLEASE CHECK SGS CONTACT LIST AVAILABLE IN OUR WEBSITE AT www.sgs.com/pca

IMPORTERS MAY CONTACT OUR LIAISON OFFICE

For importers and other countries, please contact our office in Abidjan at:

SGS COTE D'IVOIRE SA
Km1, Boulevard de Marseille
Po Box: 01 BP 795 Abidjan
Abidjan – COTE D'IVOIRE
Tel: + 225 21752233 / + 225 21752255 / + 225 21752240
Email : ci.gis@sgs.com

The information contained herein is for the purpose of facilitating pre-shipment inspection and does not relieve exporters or importers from their obligation in respect of compliance with the import regulations of the country of importation. Although every effort has been made to ensure the correctness of the information, as at the date of issuance of this data sheet, SGS does not accept any responsibility for errors or omissions and, furthermore, the information may subsequently be subject to change as may be announced by the Authorities in the country of importation. Consequently, exporters and importers are advised to check with SGS, prior to shipment of the goods, if there is any doubt concerning the issuance of a Clean Report of Findings or any other Certificate. For further information, or clarification, please contact the SGS GIS Administrative Office in the country of inspection of the goods.