

TANZANIA BUREAU OF STANDARDS Pre-Export Verification of Conformity to Standards (PVoC)

INTRODUCTION

Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS) implemented a new product conformity assessment programme for the control of certain categories of imported goods. Goods covered under the programme imported into Tanzania require a Certificate of Conformity (CoC). TBS has appointed two inspection companies SGS and BUREAU VERITAS to conduct Pre-Export Verification of Conformity (PVoC) to standards programme.

Pre-Export Verification of Conformity (PVoC) to standards programme started on 01 February 2012. The new PVoC contract began from 1st May, 2015. The objective of PVoC is to ensure that all imports of regulated products comply with the approved Tanzanian technical regulations, (i.e. Tanzanian or other approved international standards), prior to shipment. The Certificate of Conformity (CoC) issued by PVoC partners shall be provided for customs clearance.

OBJECTIVES AND PRINCIPLES

The primary objective of applying the PVoC programme is to:

- a) Ensure quality of products, health and safety, and environmental protection for Tanzanians and this is reflected in the scope of the regulated products.
- b) Minimize the risk of unsafe and sub-standard goods entering Tanzania through the execution of conformity assessment activities in the country of export. This will help ensure that consumers are protected from unsafe and sub-standard goods, and that Tanzanian manufacturers are not subjected to unfair competition.
- c) Prohibiting the entry of shoddy and counterfeit products
- d) Facilitate the clearance process by eliminating bottlenecks caused by the verification performed on arrival at entry points
- e) The guiding principle of the PVoC programme is based on Article 5 of Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT/WTO), which requires that technical requirements (i.e. Standards) applied to foreign products must also be applied to domestically manufactured products

VERIFICATION PROCESS

Exporter submits to TBS PVoC partner (SGS OR BUREAU VERITAS) the following documents:

- Request for certification
- Proforma Invoice
- Conformity Documents (test reports, quality certificates, analysis reports, etc.)

To obtain evidence that all requirements in the applicable standards or technical requirements are met, goods must undergo one or a combination of the following verification process:

- Physical inspection
- Laboratory testing
- Factory audit
- Documentary verification

RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Importers

Ensure their suppliers are conversant with import quality requirements and that their consignments containing regulated products are accompanied by a Certificate of Conformity (CoC).

2. Exporters

Ensure their goods meet quality and regulatory requirements before shipment, by carrying out tests and obtaining the necessary CoC from the appointed PVoC partners.

KEY FEATURES

- Every consignment of imported goods, which contain regulated products, shall be accompanied by a Certificate of Conformity (CoC) issued by the PVoC Country Offices (offices operated and managed by authorized PVoC Contractors) prior to shipment.
- The PVoC Certificate is required to ensure smooth Customs clearance of shipments in Tanzania.
- The PVoC certificate confirms that the products comply with relevant Tanzanian technical regulations and/or approved standards.
- Regulated product shipments can be exported through three routes depending upon the type of exporter and frequency of shipments
- The PVoC incorporates elements of conformity assessment; consignment inspection based on product risk assessment and product registration schemes to provide exporters and importers with maximum flexibility in demonstrating compliance with the approved technical regulations.

CERTIFICATION ROUTES

ROUTE A – Shipment Inspection and Certification

Under Route A, products to be shipped have to be both tested and physically inspected to demonstrate conformity to relevant standards, essential requirements or manufacturer's specification.

This route is open to all products being exported by either traders or manufacturers.

The certification process through Route A is as outlined below:

- a. Submission of Request for Certification (RFC) by the Exporter
- b. Review of RFC/ Documentation submitted by Exporter to PVoC Contractor
- c. Consignment Inspection by the Appointed Inspector
- d. Consignment Testing
- e. Issuance of the Final Certification Document (Certification Decision/CoC) by the PVoC Contractor

ROUTE B – Product Registration and Shipment Certification

Route B offers a fast track certification process for goods with reasonable and consistent levels of quality through Registration of such products by the PVoC Contractor.

Product Registration is recommended to exporters having frequent shipments of homogenous products. Self-declaration of compliance supported by substantiated evidence such as test reports and certificates. Registration is annually renewable, subject to continual compliance.

The process of Registration and certification is as follows:

a. Product Registration

- Submission of Registration Application to PVoC Contractor by the Exporter
- Review of Registration Application submitted by Exporter to PVoC Contractor

b. Registered Product Consignment Certification Process

- Submission of Request for Certification (RFC)
- Consignment Inspection by the Appointed Inspector
- Random Consignment Testing
- Issuance of Certificate of conformity (CoC)/Non Conformity Report (NCR) by the PVoC Contractor

ROUTE C - Product Licensing and Shipment Certification

This route is open only to manufacturers who can demonstrate existence of a quality management system in their production/ manufacturing process. It involves auditing of such production processes and licensing of products manufactured thereof by authorized PVoC Contractor.

This route is recommended for manufactures that have high frequency/volumes of shipments.

The Licensing process includes:

a. Product Licensing

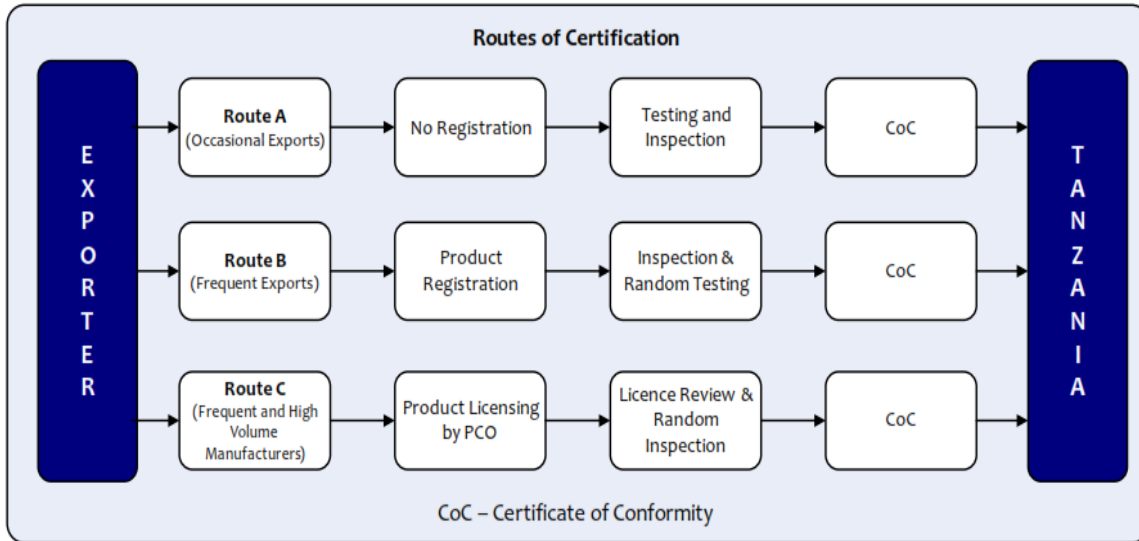
- Submission of Licensing Application to PVoC Contractor by the Exporter

Review of Licensing Application submitted by Exporter to PVoC Contractor
 Type testing of product
 Periodic factory surveillance in line with ISO Guide 28.
 Licensing annually renewable, subject to continual compliance.

b. Licensed Product Consignment Certification Process

- Random consignment inspection by the Appointed Inspector
- No consignment testing
- Issuance of the Certificate of Conformity (CoC) by the PVoC Contractor

FLOWCHART DEPICTING THE CERTIFICATION ROUTES



CONFORMITY ASSESSMENT FEES (VERIFICATION FEES)

Route	Ad Valorem Fee as a Percentage of FOB	Minimum Fee (USD)	Maximum Fee (USD)
A	0.53	250	5000
B	0.45	250	5000
C	0.25	250	5000

For more information on PVoC Programme kindly visit our website: www.tbs.go.tz (PVoC Services).

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