

UNDERSTANDING THE NEW CERTIFICATION CUSTOMS PLATFORM SABER

“Saudi market offers unlimited business opportunities in a wide range of industries. Well prepared and perfectly updated, Swiss companies can take advantage of the changing and challenging Saudi Arabia” Larbi Elattari

INTRODUCTION/DEFINITION OF SABER

The Saudi Standards, Metrology and Quality Organization¹ (SASO) implemented a new conformity assessment scheme known as the Saudi Product Safety Program (SALEEM²) and forced the registration of imported products on SABER platform through seven timeline phases. Enforced on January 1, 2019, SABER is a comprehensive system introduced by SASO and has replaced the old system for issuing SASO Certificate of Conformity (CoC) for goods exported to Saudi Arabia. SABER has been implemented gradually as a way of streamlining product registration, conformity assessment and product shipment.

To ensure that the products sold in Saudi Arabia comply with the technical regulations related to health, safety, environment and energy protection, SASO has invited all importers, exporters and manufacturers of medium and high-risk products to issue the certificate of conformity through the SABER platform (saber.sa) for all regulated products. Issuance of Former Certificates of Conformity (CoC) has been stopped and only certificates issued through SABER are considered by the Saudi Customs.

For a step-by-step process to follow for compliance conformity purposes, SASO has issued guides and relevant video demos on its online website (<https://saber.sa/home/UserGuide>).



REGULATED/AFFECTED PRODUCTS

SASO has classified the imported products on SABER under two categories³:

- ❖ Regulated products are categorised as high risk or medium risk products. The requirements to export regulated products to Saudi Arabia are defined in the technical regulations compiled by SASO. To clear the consignment of regulated products, the Saudi Customs require the Shipment Certificate of Conformity (SCoC) that necessitates a prior issuance of the Product Certificate of Conformity (PCoC).
- ❖ Non-regulated products are categorised as low-risk products and are not covered by any technical regulations. To be cleared these products need a self-Declaration of Conformity (sDoC) which is issued also through SABER platform.

¹ The regulatory body in charge of setting regulations, technical requirements and control measures

² SALEEM, the new certification scheme is expected to replace the Saudi Conformity Assessment program

³ Regulated by the Saudi Food & Drug Authority (SFDA), cosmetic and perfume products, tobacco, pesticides and insecticides are not affected by the requirements of the SALEEM program.

THE CONCERNED REGULATIONS AND IMPLEMENTED DATES

Implementation date	Relevant Technical Regulation	Example of Products processed by SABER
Jan 2019	M.A.-156-16-04-04 Technical Regulation for Gas Appliances and their Accessories	Leakage alarm system, LPG metal cylinder, gas supply hose, valves for gas cylinder, cooking stoves, LPG powered heater. Notes: Saudi quality mark required. Intervention from CB is not required after acquisition of Saudi quality mark
Apr 2019	BD-131704-01 Technical Regulation on Children Toys	Products designed for use in play by children under 14 years of age
	BD-142004-01 Technical Regulation for Low Voltage Electrical Equipment and Appliances	Electrical and electronic devices and appliances that contain electrical and/or electronic component with a voltage rating of 50-1000 V for AC and 75-1500 V for DC
	S.V.-155-16-03-01 Technical Regulation for Lubricating Oils	Lubricating oil, brake fluid, automatic transmission fluid, hydraulic oil
Jun 2019	M.A. 161-17-07-05 Technical Regulation for Lifts Used in Building and Installations	Elevator intended for public use in buildings and facilities, and certain elevator safety component
	M.A. 156-16-03-01 Technical Regulation of Building Materials Part 1: Metals and their Alloys for Constructions and Buildings	Metals and their alloys for building and civil engineering works (e.g. steel sheet, steel wire, aluminium and its alloys for building purpose)
	M.A. 156-16-03-02 Technical Regulation of Building Materials Part 2: Insulation Products and Building Cladding Materials	Insulation and cladding material except tiles, ceramics, marble, stone, paint
	M.A. 161-17-07-02 Technical Regulation of Building Materials Part 3: Hydraulic Connections and Related Material	Hydraulic connections and related product (e.g. cement, building lime, gypsum, premixed concrete products and derivatives, cement bricks, chemical additions of concrete except reinforced concrete, concrete precast Note: 1- Only type 3 assessment is required, but suppliers are required to sign an agreement to authorize the governmental authority to conduct type 5 assessment. 2- Saudi Quality Mark or equivalent is required for cement and precast concrete
	M.A. 161-17-07-03 Technical Regulation of Building Materials Part 4: Bricks, Tiles, Ceramic, Sanitary Ware and Related Materials	Bricks, tiles, marble and stone, sanitary ware, ceramic tiles and ceramic bricks except cement tiles and bricks Notes: Saudi quality mark required for ceramic ware. Intervention from CB is not required after acquisition of Saudi quality mark
Aug 2019	M.A.-155.16.03.03 Technical Regulation for Paints (Dyes) and Varnishes	Emulsion paints, oil paints and varnishes for use in residential and commercial buildings, and public utilities
	M.A.-155-06-03-04 Technical Regulation for the Electric Self-Balancing Boards (Scooter)	Electric self-balancing plates (Scooters)
	M.A.-156-16-04-03 Technical Regulation for Degradable Plastic Products	Disposable products manufactured from polypropylene and polyethylene plastics which are often used for a short time
	M.A. -166-18-04-02 Technical Regulation for Electrical Batteries	Car batteries, portable batteries, such as button cells, weighting less than 1kg
Nov 2019	B.D.-162-17-04-02 Technical Regulation for Auto Spare Parts	New spare parts for motor vehicles except tires, vehicles batteries and safety barriers
	M.A.-165-18-04-04 Technical Regulation for Personal Protective Equipment and Clothing	Personal protection products (e.g. firefighting clothing, eye protection equipment, gloves, safety shoes except for medical equipment and protective clothing for medical or military uses)
Dec 2019	M.A. 165-18-04-03 Technical Regulation for Small-Solar Photovoltaic Systems	Voltage inverters, cables, control equipment
	M.A.-164-18-05-02 Technical Regulation for Textile Products	Textile products (e.g. silk, wool, cotton, fabrics)
	M.A.-162-17-07-04 Technical Regulations for Trailers and Semi-Trailers	Trailers and Semi-Trailers
	M.A. 155-16-03-02 Technical Regulation for Detergents	Detergents, surfactants, soap (e.g. liquid glass cleaner, liquid dishwashing detergent except disinfectants)

	M.A. 165-18-04-03 Technical Regulation for Photovoltaic Cells	Products of solar energy generating systems and their component (e.g. photovoltaic units, cables and connectors)
	M.A.-161-17-07-04 Technical Regulations for Front and Rear and Side Barriers for Trucks and Trailers	Front, side and rear protection barriers for trucks and trailers with a maximum weight of 3.5 tons
Jan 2020	M.A. 165-18-04-02 Technical Regulation for Games and Devices of Amusement Parks	Equipment, machinery and structures that are installed permanently or temporarily in recreational cities
	Technical Regulation for Adhesives Materials, Tapes, Glue and Related Products	Adhesives and glue products (e.g. structural adhesives, adhesives for leather, footwear, wood products, paper, packaging)
	Technical Regulation for Ornaments and Decorations	Plastic metal products manufactured in the form of costume for decoration (e.g. hair, hands and neck accessories)
	Technical Regulation of Building Materials Part 5: Pipes of Plastic and Pipes of Metal Used in Water and Electricity Installation Networks	Plastic and metal pipe system used in transport of water and electrical installations in building and accessories
	Technical Regulation for Telecommunications Devices	Wireless communication devices (e.g. mobile phones, headsets, smart devices).
	Technical Regulation for Packaging	Packaging products: paper, cardboard, wood, plastics, textile, and any other materials used in packaging
	Technical Regulation of Materials and Surfaces for Contact with Food	Materials and surfaces in contact with food (e.g. cooking equipment, tableware, food packaging materials and containers)
	Technical Regulation for Shoes and Leather	Footwear made of leather, textile, plastic or a mixture of these material
	Technical Regulation for Simple Pressure Devices	Devices operating under pressure and their accessories (e.g. fire extinguishers, pressure cookers)
	Technical Regulation for Fire Fighting Equipment	Products for firefighting (e.g. fire extinguisher, alarm systems, fire hoses)
	Technical Regulation for Fireworks	Fireworks products (e.g. firecrackers, fireworks, mine)
	M.A.-162-17-04-03 Technical Regulations for Electric Vehicles	Electric vehicles with a weight not exceeding 3500 kg and speed not exceeding 25 km/h
	Technical Regulations for Doors and Windows	Doors, windows and its accessories made of plastics, wood, glass or metal (e.g. warehouse doors, armoured doors, fireproof doors)
	Technical Regulations for Papers and Related Products	Paper and paperboard
	Technical Regulations for Machinery Safety - Part 1: Portable and Oriented Machines	Portable Machines, cutting and sewing machines, cranes, mobile machines used in general construction, drilling machines
	Gulf Technical Regulations of Tyres	New Pneumatic tires for vehicles
	M.A. -172-19-04-03 Technical Regulations for Electronic Devices Used in Electronic Smoking Systems	E-cigarette Note: IECEE registration required
	Technical Regulations for Motorcycle	Motorcycle
E.M. -171-19-06-03 Technical Regulations for Tanks - Part 1: Petroleum Products Transport Tanks	Petroleum product transport tanks	
TBD	M.A.-156-16-04-05 Technical Regulation for Energy Efficiency	Products for energy efficiency (e.g. air conditioner, refrigerator, washing machine, lighting products, electric motor, clothes dryer, water heater, tire, and automobile fuel economy)
	M.A.-156-16-04-06 Technical Regulation for Water Rationalization Tools	Showerheads, taps, single and dual flush toilets, flush urinals
	M.A. 155-16-04-01 SASO IECEE Recognition Certificate Requirement	Electronic products Note: refer to IECEE CRD
	M.A. 166-18-04-03 Technical Regulation for Modified Vehicles and Limited Production Vehicles	Modified vehicle under 3500 kg, limited production except for vehicle for military and security purpose
	M.A. 164-18-05-04 Technical Regulation for Classification of Vehicle Maintenance Centres	Vehicle Maintenance sector and establishments
	M.A. 155-16-10-01-01	Fuel economy for vehicles and energy efficiency for tires

	Technical Regulation for the procedures of data registration and the issuance of Energy efficiency label in vehicles and tires	
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SABER CERTIFICATION PROCESS (FOR REGULATED PRODUCTS)

The Conformity Assessment Process for the Regulated Products is a two stage process:

Stage 1: Issuance of Product Certificate of Conformity (PCoC)

i. General information

The PCoC is issued for every regulated product as per the applicable product standards defined in relevant Technical Regulation. The PCoC is valid for a period of one (1) year. The PCoC will be issued by the selected registered certification body upon successful completion of tests and verifications of a product. The certificate confirms that a product complies with the technical standards and specifications issued by SASO.

The step-by-step process to obtain the PCoC by a registered Saudi company are as follows:

- ❖ Request for Product Certificate of Conformity (PCoC) by Importer;
- ❖ Entry of Product Details in the system based on the Saudi Customs Tariff Code;
- ❖ Selecting of Certification Bodies (CBs, a list of accredited CBs is available on SABER platform <https://saber.sa/home/CBOrganizations>);
- ❖ Payment of the PCoC Fees;
- ❖ The CB receives the application and contacts the exporter to provide the certification documents;
- ❖ The CB submits the substantiating documents approved for review to the SABER system;
- ❖ Issuance of the PCoC from the system. The PCoC is valid of one year and could be used for different consignments for the same registered product(s).

ii. Required documents

- ❖ Conformity document, such as test reports, quality certificates, risk assessment reports, inspection report etc. if applicable; and
- ❖ Design, dimension, plans, specification photo of the products if applicable

Stage 2: Issuance of Shipment Certificate of Conformity (SCoC).

i. General information

Every regulated product included in the shipment will be verified whether a valid PCoC exists for that product. If found that the product has the requested PCoC, the SCoC will be issued. **The SCoC is issued for each shipment and valid only for that shipment.** This certificate confirms that all products within a shipment hold a valid Product Certificate of Conformity.

The step-by-step process to obtain the SCoC by a registered Saudi company (importer) are as follows:

- ❖ Request for Shipment Certificate of Conformity (SCoC) by the registered importer;
- ❖ Payment of SCoC Fees;
- ❖ Verification and confirmation of valid PCoC for the product by the appointed CB; and
- ❖ Issuance of SCoC from the system. The SCoC is only for the goods imported in this consignment

ii. Required documents

- ❖ Type Approval Certificate (PCoC) / Self declaration; and
- ❖ Shipment Document, such as invoice, packing list, bill of lading etc.

STEP BY STEP REGISTRATION OF THE IMPORTER ON SABER PLATFORM

Prior to the issuance of the PCoC and SCoC, importers have to open an account for the company online on the SABER:

i. Steps of opening a company's account of SABER platform

- ❖ "New User Registration" through SABER platform home page;
- ❖ Enter the required data; and
- ❖ After completing the statements of the company's commissioner and accept the conditions, the delegated employee has to activate the account of the company on SABER platform

ii. Registration of a delegated employee account (the communication officer)

A delegated employee: The person who is authorised to represent a registered company and conduct transactions through SABER platform, including managing the Electronic Identity records.

iii. Registration Requirements

- ❖ Commercial Registration number and expiry date;
- ❖ ID number associated with the Commercial Register;
- ❖ A copy of the manager's signature who is in charge of the company; and
- ❖ Copy of the company's stamp

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is Saber platform?

Saudi Standards, Metrology and Quality Organization (SASO) has announced the launch of SABER electronic platform, which aims to register and issue conformity assessment certificates for products before entering the Saudi market. SABER platform ensures the imported goods conformity to standards and specifications before entering the Saudi market.

SABER platform aims at facilitating and accelerating procedures for the entrance of goods into the Saudi market in coordination with the Saudi Customs. Through SABER platform helps beneficiaries to issuing conformity assessment certificates electronically and easily.

What are the products that should be registered on SABER?

All products that are regulated by the Saudi Organization for Standardization, Metrology and Quality (SASO), whether imported or manufactured locally.

Who must register on SABER?

All importers/manufacturers with Saudi commercial register as well as the local manufacturers.

Are there any fees to open an account on the Saber platform?

No, there is no subscription fee to the Saber portal.

Who is the communication officer?

The employee who is appointed by the company to grant him access to the system, add products and request certificates. An unlimited number of communication officers can be added.

Is there any other authority that provides the certificate of conformity to the Saudi specifications whether in Saudi Arabia or abroad?

Yes, there are conformity assessment authorities (certification Bodies, CB) accepted by the Saudi Standards, Metrology and Quality Organization (SASO) and authorised to issue conformity certificates for products.

Which conformity assessment authorities are accepted by the Saudi Standards, Metrology and Quality Organization?

The Saudi Standards, Metrology and Quality Organization provides a list of the accredited entities. The list is available of SASO's website or through the Saber platform (<https://saber.sa/home/CBOrganizations>).

Can I get the product certificate of conformity assessment from authorities outside Saudi Arabia?

Yes, as long as this authority is among the accredited authorities by the Saudi Organization for Standardization, Metrology and Quality.

Is SABER the only electronic platform to register and issue the certificates of conformity?

Yes, all conformity certificates registration procedures are fully electronic through the SABER platform.

What information / documents are required to obtain the certificate of conformity?

Documents and information required to obtain a product conformance certificate depend on the products and their severity. Further details about product technical regulations are available are available on the link (<https://saber.sa/home/regulations>).

What falls on the supplier or trader who does not get a certificate of conformity?

Not registering the consignment conformance certificate on the saber platform will prevent the products from entering the Saudi market and will be fined by the competent authorities.

Are there any fees to issue a certificate of conformity?

Yes, the cost of registering conformity certificates through the platform is 500 SR per certificate except. It is worth mentioning that the paid fees of a certificate of conformity cannot be refunded after payment.

If the certificate of conformity has been issued for a product manufactured in the country “A”, can the trader use the same certificate for the same product but is manufactured in another country?

No. the Certificate (PCoC) is used only for the registered product made in the country “A”.

How can companies that import tens of thousands of spare parts facilitate their procedures on Saber?

There will be account managers from Saber electronic platform to facilitate the addition of products to major local importers/manufacturers.

How will the SABER system affect manufacturers?

The implementation of the SABER system will shift the responsibility for arranging the customs clearance of the imported goods. As per SABER, the registration is the responsibility of the importing company based in Saudi Arabia that has to register the company, the products to be imported and the consignment on Saber platform.

TAKEAWAYS

- ❖ SABER will become the only system for clearing goods through Saudi customs. All shipments arriving into Saudi Arabia will require a Product CoC and a Shipment CoC to be issued through SABER.
- ❖ To export to Saudi Arabia, foreign companies are able to lean more on their import partners to acquire and complete mandatory certificates.
- ❖ Both the Product CoC and the Shipment CoC are mandatory before a shipment can be cleared for import into Saudi Arabia. Shipment Certificate is required for each consignment.
- ❖ Issuance of Shipment Certificate for shipments of non-regulated products and regulated products under SABER implemented Technical Regulation are done through SABER.
- ❖ The certification required prior to import can be obtained online by the importer based in Saudi Arabia. Based on the new certification scheme (SALEEM), importers are connected through the SABER system to conformity assessment bodies and able to request and obtain PCoCs through the system. Once shipments are ready for export, importers can use the system to request and obtain SCoCs online from certifying bodies.

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN THE SUBJECT?

Since you're here, please be informed that [Ruedi Büchi](#), Senior Consultant Middle East, would be delighted to answer your questions about exporting to Saudi Arabia and even support you in getting in contact with a logistics company or some local potential partners.

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