INTRODUCTION

In 2011, the Egyptian Ministry of Industry and Foreign Trade announced a joint decree imposing restriction on Imports of Textiles, Apparel and Leather products and its accessories. This decree requires submission of a proof of conformity for all shipments entering Egyptian territory, to ensure that they demonstrate compliance with the applicable Egyptian technical regulations and mandatory standards or approved equivalents.

Subsequently, on Dec. 5, 2012 a new decree was issued by the Ministry, which is Decree No. 961/2012 which replaces the two earlier decrees issued last 2011 (Decree No. 660/2011 and Decree No. 626/2011). Under this new decree the same restrictions as specified in the two earlier decrees are applied on the regulated products. As informed by GOEIC, the additional stipulation of this new decree is that there are now three options for the Exporters to export their products to Egypt. Details of these three options are given in the succeeding sections of this guideline.

The restriction enforced by this new Ministerial Decree 961/2012, on conditions and procedures of compliance verification process at Customs for regulated goods are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Regulated Textile Products</th>
<th>Regulated Leather and Footwear Products</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ready-Made Garments including accessories like scarves, handkerchiefs, hats, gloves, etc.</td>
<td>Ready-Made Garments and accessories such as leather jackets, leather gloves, etc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Home Textiles</td>
<td>Footwear (general footwear, sports shoes, safety shoes, protective shoes, occupational shoes)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carpets, Rugs and Floor Coverings</td>
<td>Bags and purses made of leather</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bags and purses made of textile</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

As an accredited and recognized certification body appointed and registered by the Egypt's General Organization of Export and Import Control (GOEIC), Intertek offers shipment certification services to Exporters for Egypt. All certifications will be performed by Intertek Country Offices depending on the Exporter's choice and convenience. The list of Intertek Country Offices is listed in Appendix A.

EGYPT CONFORMITY ASSESSMENT PROGRAMME

The principal objectives of applying Egypt Conformity Assessment Programme are detailed below. These are:

- To ensure that products imported into Egypt meet the security, health and safety requirements as per the sanctioned standards and technical regulations approved by Egyptian Organization for Standardization.
- To provide assurance to the Egyptian consumer that the products imported into the country are free from potential hazards and fit for use.
- To avoid costly delays at the ports and rejection of shipments if the shipments are found to include dangerous and unsafe products.
- To help genuine and complying Exporters and Importers to quickly clear Customs process without the risk of rejection of shipments.
- To streamline Custom clearance procedures, promote healthy and fair competition and fight against unsafe and dangerous goods.

The key elements undertaken in ECAP are as follows:

- Documentary review of conformity with regulations;
- Physical inspection prior to shipment;
- Sampling, testing and analysis by an accredited ISO/IEC 17025 laboratory such as Intertek; and
- Assessment of conformity to standards.

INTERTEK SOLUTION

Pioneer in Product Conformity Assessment Programmes
- Intertek pioneered the development of the Product Conformity Assessment Programmes, which is now being applied in many parts of the world to prevent dangerous and unsafe products entering into the market. Intertek has undertaken more assessments of more products for longer than any other organization.

Reputation of Excellence and Strong Brand Recognition
- Intertek has experience in providing solutions to businesses exporting a wide range of products to Egypt. To date, Intertek has issued over 1.5 million certificates and test reports. Intertek certificates include the latest encryption technology, watermarks and other security measures, which would make it impossible to counterfeit or tamper with.

Global Network
- Intertek operates a global network of offices that have operated the product conformity programmes for many years and accredited laboratories, authorized to perform testing against Egyptian requirements including textiles, garments, leather, footwear and many others.

Dedicated Staff with In-Depth Industry Knowledge and Technical Expertise
- Intertek has experience in providing solutions to businesses exporting a wide range of products to Egypt. Intertek staff are experts on the understanding and interpretation of a wide range of national and international standards and requirements including Egyptian standard requirements as well as understanding the needs of exporters and importers.

International Accreditations and Institutional Memberships
- Intertek is recognized by more than 30 accreditation bodies around the world and is an active member of the International Federation of Inspection Agencies (IFIA).

Strong Focus on Customer Satisfaction
- Intertek can provide fast, rapid and tailor made service that meets your particular needs, including: (a) Submission of assessment requests online, (b) Automated E-mails for status of certificates, and (c) Flexible certificate delivery solutions for high volume users.

ECAP COMPLIANCE PROCEDURES

The ECAP Compliance Procedures are designed to provide maximum flexibility to Exporters and Importers by providing three (3) possible options for the Exporters to export their products into Egypt.

Option 1: Registration with GOEIC
Importers in Egypt can register their Producers or Brands directly with GOEIC. For the Producer / Brand to be successfully registered, they need to have an ISO 9001/2008 accreditation for each and every factory. In addition to this, the Importer must submit the following documents to GOEIC for evaluation and approval:
- Stamped & Approved Letter from the Producer
- Stamped & Approved Quality Control Manual
- ISO 9001/2008 Accreditation Certificate from the Factories
- List of Factories and their Address
- Distribution List and Address

Upon successful evaluation of the above documents, registration will be granted by GOEIC to the Applicant. The validity of the registration will depend on the validity of the ISO 9001/2008 certificate submitted. Hence, the registration expires when the ISO 9001 certificate has expired.

If the Producer/Brand have successfully registered with GOEIC, CoI on a per shipment basis is not required. However, GOEIC will perform random inspection and testing of their consignments on arrival at Egypt ports and borders.

Note: Those Producers / Brands which were previously included in the old “white list” of GOEIC will have to undergo a new registration under the new Egyptian standards. Therefore, the old white list is no longer valid and not recognized under Option 1 of this decree.
Option 2: Consignment Inspection and Testing by the Accredited Service Providers of GOEIC

All regulated goods have to be both tested and physically inspected to demonstrate conformity to the relevant Egyptian standards, essential requirements and manufacturer's specification, prior to its shipments.

Documentation for Certification Requirements

All listed documents must be provided if applicable and available to the programme activities:

- Completed and Signed Application Form (shown in Appendix B)
- Valid Test Reports, Reports of Analysis
- Commercial Invoice
- Packing List (to be provided at the time of inspection)
- Letter of Credit (optional)

Certification Procedures

The certification process is as outlined below:-

1. Submission of Application Form by the Applicant
   - The Applicant will submit the applicable application form and furnish a copy of their supporting documents to Intertek Country Office for review.

2. Review of the Applicant's Submitted Documentation by the Authorized Certification Body
   - Intertek will perform a preliminary check to verify whether the documentation submitted by the Applicant is enough to do a conformity assessment of the products against the Egyptian standards. If the documentation submitted is not sufficient, then the Applicant is requested to provide additional information and/or documents to support their compliance to Egyptian requirements.

3. Consignment Inspection by the Appointed Inspector
   - Inspectors are provided with an inspection guidelines and checklists to aid in the inspection of the consignment and its compliance verification. These documents are intended to ensure that inspections are conducted uniformly and consistently by Intertek Inspectors.
   - Samples could be drawn and respective packages from which samples were drawn are marked appropriately by the Inspector for testing.
   - Upon completion of the inspection, an Inspection Report detailing findings and recommendations will be prepared. Where non-conformances are raised, the Applicant would be given time to correct them. This would require evidence of corrective action to be submitted. Depending on the nature of the non-conformance, a re-inspection may be required after corrective action has been taken by the Applicant.

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2 The Applicant can also be regarded as the Exporter or Importer.
3 The quality and completeness of the documentation submitted by the Applicant directly influences the time and cost of processing the certification request.
4. Consignment Testing by the Accredited Laboratory
   - Testing shall be performed by an ISO/IEC 17025 accredited laboratory on samples drawn during inspection or drawn from the factory, warehouse or distribution centers.
   - Where the Exporter wishes to provide valid test certificates, these should be from a laboratory accredited to an ISO/IEC 17025 system. Test reports should include the accreditation no. and logo of the accreditation body of the testing lab. The test reports must be sufficiently detailed so as to clearly identify the products tested.
   **Note:** Test reports should not be older than one year from its issue date, otherwise these will not be considered as valid reports.

5. Issuance of the Final Certification Decision by the Authorized Certification Body
   - Upon receipt of the documentary evaluation report from the Laboratory and Inspector, Intertek shall take a certification decision and issue the certificate (i.e. Certificate of Inspection or Non-Conformity Report) within 3 working days of receipt of the reports.

**Option 3: Inspection and Testing of Consignments by GOEIC**
Exporters have the option to proceed with their shipment of regulated products without undergoing Option 1 or Option 2. In such cases, GOEIC will perform inspection and testing of the goods upon arrival at Egypt ports and borders.

GOEIC will draw three (3) random samples for testing from each consignment, and the cost of testing for one sample is 1500.00 Egyptian Pounds. Hence, a total testing cost of 4,500.00 Egyptian Pounds or approximately around 737$ for the 3 samples tested.

This option is very risky for the Exporters. Testing from GOEIC lab may take a longer time to be completed hence the delay in the clearance of the goods from Egypt Customs, a minimum of 7-10 days and a maximum of 70 days or even longer. Moreover, in the event that testing has failed the Exporters will be responsible for re-exporting the entire shipment back to the Country of Supply.

**PRODUCT REGULATORY COMPLIANCE REFERENCE GUIDE**

The relevant Egyptian standards required for textile products are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reference No.</th>
<th>Standard Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

The relevant Egyptian standards required for footwear including general footwear, sports shoes, safety shoes, protective shoes and occupational shoes that are made from leather and materials other than leather are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reference No.</th>
<th>Standard Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ES 7322/2011</td>
<td>Safety and Hygiene in Leather Products</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ES 3571/2006</td>
<td>General Footwear</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ES 3572/2006</td>
<td>Sports Shoes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BS EN ISO 20345</td>
<td>Safety Footwear</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BS EN ISO 20346</td>
<td>Protective Footwear</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BS EN ISO 20347</td>
<td>Occupational Footwear</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The relevant Egyptian standards required for leather products (garments, school bags, bags, purses, hats, gloves and other products of the leather manufacturers) are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reference No.</th>
<th>Standard Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ES 7322/2011</td>
<td>Safety and Hygiene in Leather and Leather Products</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ES 6535/2008</td>
<td>General Conditions for Leather Manufacturers - Specification</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
FEES

The party acquiring the certification services is accountable for charges to the conformity assessment related services performed by the conformity assessment Company. These fees cover the cost of inspection, evaluation, testing, and all other technical and administrative activities involved in the shipment certification. An individual quote will be provided to the party requesting for the certification services and agreed upon before commencing with the conformity assessment process.

APPENDICES

| Appendix A | Intertek Country Offices and their Zones of Responsibility |
| Appendix B | Request for Certification (RFC) Form |

CONTACT US

Programme Management

14F, Millennium Plaza Tower,
Sheikh Zayed Road,
Dubai,
PO Box 26290,
United Arab Emirates
Tel: +971 4 317 8777
Fax: +971 4 331 6735
E-mail: pm@intertek.com
Contact: Programme Manager

Liaison Office

2F, Block 13001, Piece 15, Street 13,
First Industrial Zone, Next to Abou Ghali Motors,
El Obour City, Cairo,
Egypt
Telefax: +20 2 4610 3844/ 3845/ 3846
Mobile: +20 10 0539 6934
E-mail: ayman.khalil@intertek.com
Contact: Ayman Khalil

mohamed.ibrahim@intertek.com
Contact: Mohamed Ibrahim