



INTRODUCTION


The GOST R certification programme was introduced by the Russian Government in 1993 with the main objective of protecting the safety, health and environment of the Russian people. The programme covers a wide range of products such as cosmetics, food products, toys, textiles, mechanical and electrical goods and industrial equipment for food, chemical, oil & gas, construction and other industries. According to the Russian Law, more than 90% of all products to be sold or used in the country require mandatory certification, i.e. they should be approved by relevant Russian authorities in terms of compliance to national standards. This concerns both locally produced and imported goods.

The GOST R certificate of conformity is the most common permissive document in Russia testifying that the concerned product complies with necessary safety standards. These certificates are issued by certification bodies accredited by Rosstandart (Federal Agency for Technical Regulation and Metrology), former Gosstandart.

MAIN OBJECTIVES OF GOST R CERTIFICATE

The GOST R Certificate:

- Proves compliance of products to Russian safety requirements
- Is required for Customs clearance procedures at the Russian border
- Is required for sale and use of products on the Russian market
- Helps to obtain other required certificates
- Allows advertisement of the products

The certified product should be marked by the registered GOST R sign  (so called Mark of Conformity) with identification number of certification body, which clearly demonstrates product compliance to the applicable Russian standards.

CERTIFICAT DE CONFORMITE GOST R

The GOST-R Certificate of Conformity prevents dangerous and discrepant imported products from being placed in the Russian market. Russian authorities do not recognize CE marking or compliance to international standards and therefore goods exported to Russia are required to undergo various Russian certification processes to ensure that these are in conformity with Russian standards before these can be placed in the Russian Marketplace.

Following are the types of certifications available to exporters:

1. Mandatory Certification

Russian GOST R Certificate of Conformity is mandatory for more than 50% of sold or used products on the Russian Market.

The products requiring mandatory certification are covered in the full list of products subject to mandatory certification within the GOST R system. This list however, is subject to periodic revision. The last revision by Governmental Decree N° 982 of 1st December 2009 came into force on February 14th, 2010.

2. Voluntary Certification

For products not subject to mandatory certification according to the Russian law, voluntary certification scheme may be applied.

Exporters or importers initiate voluntary certification with the aim to formally prove the conformity of their products to the applicable Russian standards and/or to facilitate the registration of GOST R Declaration of Conformity for importers and retailers.



TYPES OF GOST R CERTIFICATES

Depending on the annual export volume, there are two different types of GOST R Certificates of Conformity which can be issued. These are:

1. Single Shipment Certificates

The Certificate of Conformity issued in this case is a trade document valid for one consignment only, i.e. for a certain quantity and type of product.

This kind of certificate is advisable if the export to Russia is not so frequent. It can be issued only if the exporter is able to prove who will be the customer/importer in Russia by means of a contract or an invoice.

2. Certificates for serial production (Multiple Shipments)

The serial production Certificate of Conformity is a trade document whose validity can vary from 1 to 3 years depending on the nature of the products and applied procedure. Such a document enables the exporter to ship consignment an unlimited number of times and unlimited quantities of goods produced during the certificate validity period.

Both, single shipment and serial GOST R certificates are issued by type (category) of products. That means each shipment or a range of heterogeneous products may require several certificates.

OTHER CERTIFICATIONS

Depending on the nature of the goods shipped to Russia, the exporter may need to comply with one or more certification requirements. There are 18 mandatory certification systems regulated by Laws of the Russian Federation ("GOST R", "Sanitary-Epidemiological Conclusion", "RTN Permit to use", etc) and over 100 voluntary ones.

However, the procedure may also include any combination of permits, certificates, licences and other approvals. For example, a large investment project could require up to 500 permissive documents.

These include but are not limited to:

- GOST R Declaration of Conformity
- New State Registration of Customs Union of 3 members (Russia, Kazakhstan, Belarus): since July 1st, 2010
- Sanitary-Epidemiological Conclusion (Hygienic Certificate)
- Certificate of State Product Registration
- TR Certificate of Conformity (Technical Regulations)
- RTN Permit to Use
- GOST R Ex-Proof Certificate
- GOST R Pattern Approval Certificate
- Fire Safety Certificate
- Telecom Type Approval Certificate



A. GOST R DECLARATION OF CONFORMITY

This is the official document where an importer or retailer assures that his products meet Russian safety regulations. As well as GOST R Certificate, the Declaration is a pre-requisite for product placement onto the Russian Market and is required for Customs clearance.


Today in Russia 45% to 50% of products needing mandatory verification are required to have the GOST R Declaration of Conformity. The Governmental Decree № 982 dated December 1, 2009 and came into force February 14th, 2010 cancelled mandatory certification and prescribed Declarations of Conformity for the following product categories:

- food products, except for children's food;
- products of light industry, except for children's products;
- perfumery - cosmetic products;
- household chemical goods;
- fertilizers;
- paints and varnishes;
- household goods and containers manufactured from plastic;
- engines of low power;
- accumulators and batteries;
- cutting tools;
- wrenches, except for lever wrenches;
- devices for control and regulation of technological processes (manometers, signalling devices and analysers of gas and water);
- electric laboratory and portable devices;
- optics;
- Printing (polygraphic) equipment.

The GOST R Declaration system is supervised by Rosstandart (Federal Agency for Technical Regulation and Metrology). **Only a Russian legal entity can be a holder of the Declaration of Conformity.**

The Declaration of Conformity has legal power equal to that of a Certificate of Conformity. Registration of the Declaration of Conformity by the GOST R Certification body is based on the following:

- Test protocols from laboratories accredited by Russian authorities
- A voluntary GOST R Certificate of Conformity and/or other pre-required certificates
- Technical documents presented by the applicant

A declared product should be marked by the registered GOST R sign (called  Mark of Conformity) without identification number of certification body (compared to GOST R certified product) to demonstrate compliance with applicable Russian standards.

B. STATE REGISTRATION OF CUSTOMS UNION

Since July 1st, 2010 the Russian system of sanitary testing & sanitary certification has been subjected to changes due to formation of Customs Union between Russia, Kazakhstan and Belarus. Due to this fact the earlier issued Sanitary-Epidemiological conclusion is now replaced by State Registration of Customs Union or by testing valid inside all territory of member's union.

Consequently new lists determine products which are now under State Registration or under testing requirements of Customs Union. Nearly all products, equipment, materials are touched by these changes.

The aim of the State Registration of Customs Union is to confirm that products conform to applicable hygienic standards and sanitary regulations in Russia and proves that the product is safe for human health when used under normal conditions.



The State Registrations of Customs Union are only issued by local certification bodies authorized by Federal Service for Supervision in the Area of Consumer Rights and Welfare Protection.

They are not limited in time and valid within the territory of Russia, Kazakhstan and Belarus. They are a pre-requisite for obtaining GOST R or TR Certificate of Conformity, GOST R or TR Declaration of Conformity and some other certificates.

C. SANITARY-EPIDEMIOLOGICAL CONCLUSION (THE HYGIENIC CERTIFICATE)

Since the July 1st, 2010, due to the new Customs Union between Russia, Kazakhstan and Belarus, the Sanitary-Epidemiological conclusion is replaced by State Registration of Customs Union. Consequently the list of products subject to sanitary assessment has been changed. Therefore, some products are now requiring only testing instead of Sanitary-Epidemiological conclusion (these tests are also regulated by new common requirements), or do not require any sanitary assessment.

Sanitary-Epidemiological conclusions issued before this date are valid till January 1st, 2012 and only within Russian Federation.

D. CERTIFICATE OF STATE PRODUCT REGISTRATION

Due to the new Customs Union between Russia, Kazakhstan and Belarus, the State Product Registration is now replaced by State Registration of Customs Union.

Previously issued State Product Registrations are valid till January 1st, 2012 and only within Russian Federation.

E. TR CERTIFICATE OR DECLARATION OF CONFORMITY

The Russian Federal Law №184 on Technical Regulation (TR) dated of 27.12.2002 establishes the rules of state regulatory requirements for industrial and consumer goods, buildings, related business processes, as well as for consumer services. The TR certification will gradually replace the GOST R Certification.

A Technical Regulation can be either general or specific.


A general Technical Regulation concerns the safe operation and recycling of machinery and equipment; safety of buildings and safety of territories adjoining them; fire, biological, environmental, nuclear and radiation safety; electromagnetic compatibility (for instance: Technical Regulation on Electromagnetic Compatibility, Technical Regulation on Nuclear and Radiation Safety, etc).

Specific Technical Regulations are required for specific categories of products as well as processes related to manufacture, operation, storage, transportation, marketing and utilization (for instance: Technical Regulation on Milk and Dairy products, Technical Regulation on Juice Products from Fruits and Vegetables, etc).

In order to prove compliance with the Technical Regulations there is two forms of documents:

- ⇒ TR Certification of Conformity;
- ⇒ TR Declaration of Conformity.

If your product is not subject to Certification of Conformity to Technical Regulation, it may be subject to mandatory Declaration of Conformity. TR system is supervised by Rosstandart (Federal Agency for Technical Regulation and Metrology).

The product compliant with Technical Regulations should be marked by the registered TR sign  (called Mark of Conformity), which clearly demonstrates to the consumer the product's compliance to the applicable Russian requirements.



F. RTN PERMIT TO USE

RTN Permit to Use (formerly known as GGTN Permit to Use) provides permission to operate hazardous equipment/technical devices. It is needed from the time of commissioning and throughout the whole service in life to assure equipment safety compliance.

Russian Certificates required prior to RTN Permit to Use:

- GOST R Certificate of Conformity – for electrical ex-proof and other types of equipment,
- TR Certificate of Conformity – for equipment regulated by relevant Technical Regulations,
- GOST R Ex-Proof Certificate – for equipment containing explosion protection,
- GOST R Pattern Approval Certificate – for measuring instruments.

A Permit to Use is valid for 5 years or for the whole duration of the device's operation life.

G. GOST R EX-PROOF CERTIFICATE

The GOST R Ex-Proof requirements concern Ex-equipment, which includes apparatus and components that fully or partly use electrical power and contain explosion protection for areas where the potential for explosion exists because of explosive atmosphere (gas or dust).

The GOST R Ex-Proof Certificate of Conformity is required for obtaining of the RTN Permit to Use and is to be presented during commissioning of Ex-equipment on installation site.

H. GOST R PATTERN APPROVAL CERTIFICATE

Pattern Approval Certificate for Measuring Instruments (Metrology Certificate) testifies that the particular pattern of measuring instruments conforms to applicable standards and is approved for the use in the Russian territory.

Pattern Approval Certificate for Measuring Instruments is a pre-requisite for obtaining the GOST R Certificate of Conformity and RTN Permit to Use, when applicable.

I. FIRE SAFETY CERTIFICATE

Fire Safety Certificate assures that particular materials or structures conform to the fire safety standards. It may be a pre-requisite to GOST R Certificate of Conformity.

J. TELECOM TYPE APPROVAL CERTIFICATE

Mandatory Telecom Certification is for technical product evaluation with the objective to ensure its compliance to Russian Telecom regulations.

Needed for Customs clearance, point of sale, commissioning.

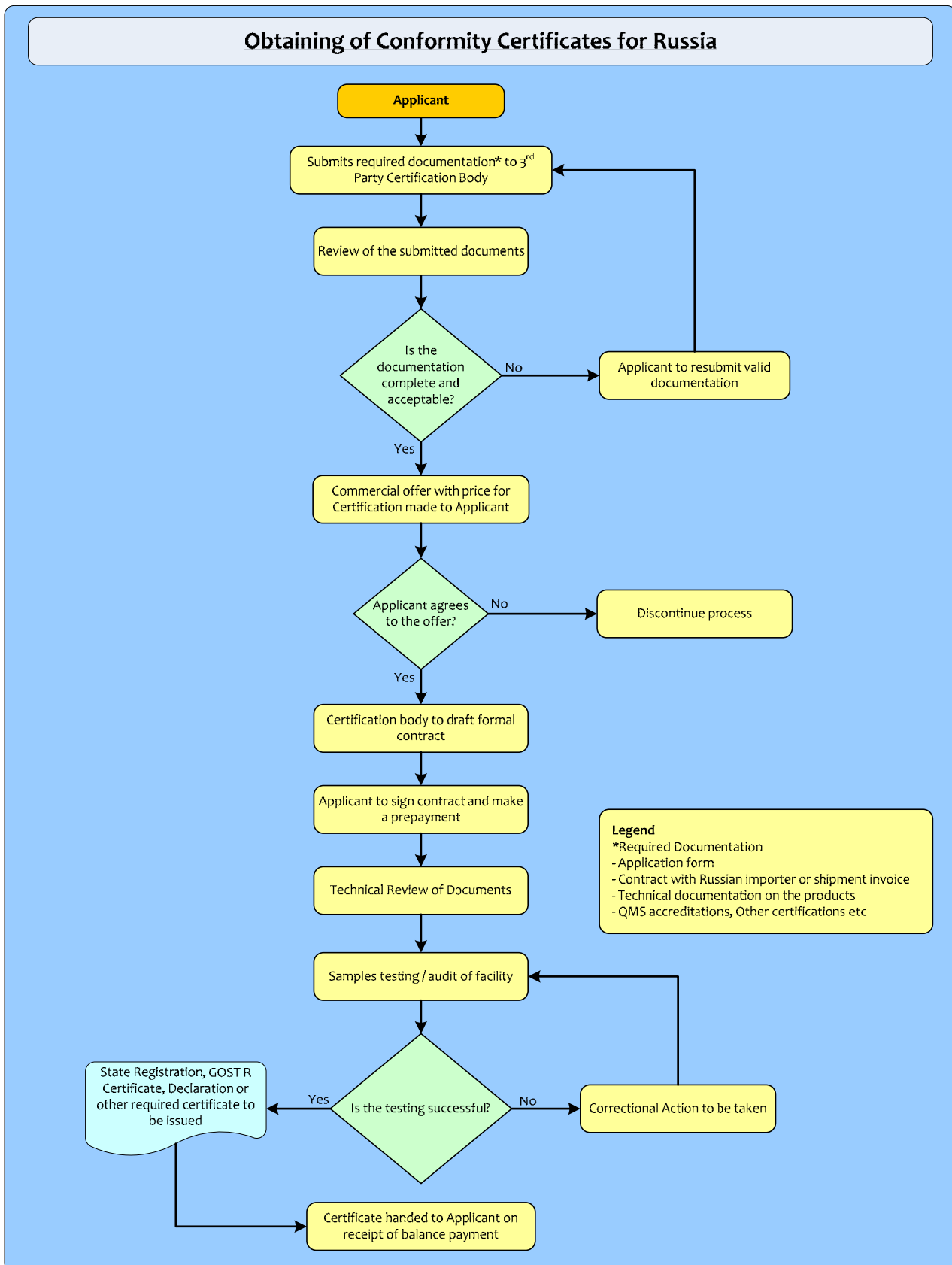
K. REQUIRED RUSSIAN CERTIFICATES PRIOR TO ISSUE OF GOST R

Prior to the issuance of GOST R / TR Certificate of Conformity or GOST R / TR Declaration of Conformity for some products, exporters may need to obtain some additional certificates depending on the nature of the product, namely:

- State Registration of Customs Union (since July 1st, 2010);
- Sanitary test-reports of Customs Union (since July 1st, 2010);
- Sanitary-Epidemiological Conclusion (if obtained before July 1st, 2010);
- Certificate of State Registration (if obtained before July 1st, 2010);
- GOST R Pattern Approval Certificate for measuring instruments;
- Fire Safety Certificate for flammable or fire extinguishing products.



FLOWCHART DEPICTING THE CERTIFICATION ROUTES





FEES

There is no standard price-list for Russian certification services, since its cost is very much dependable on such factors as complexity of the product, its features, complexity of the manufacturing process and the type of permissive document opted for. These fees cover the cost of evaluation, testing, audit and all other technical and administrative activities involved in the certification process.

An individual quote will be provided to the party requesting for the certification services and agreed upon before commencing with the certification.

THE INTERTEK SOLUTION

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 over the years built up vast experience, infrastructure and necessary knowledge in the management of these conformity assessment programmes.

- Intertek has experience in providing solutions to businesses exporting a wide range of products to Russia.
- Intertek has the world's largest networks of laboratories and experts within the fields of electrical, chemical, consumer and industrial goods. We have undertaken more assessments of more products for longer than any other organization.
- Intertek has a global network of offices and have been arranging these types of mandatory certificates for more than 15 years.
- Our staff are experts on Russian standards and requirements as well as understanding the needs of exporters and importers.
- Intertek is in close cooperation with the relevant Russian authorities.
- Intertek can provide a tailor made service that meets your particular needs.
- Intertek has dedicated customer support based in Russia.

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