



Introduction

On January 29th, Intertek was accredited as a Commercial Information Verification Unit (UVA 0079) by the Mexican Entity for Accreditation (EMA) for Standard (NOM) 17020. The EMA act on behalf of the Ministry of Economy to monitor and control the labelling of textiles and textile-related products exported to Mexico. In turn, the EMA have appointed Intertek to perform inspections and certifications in the countries of export to verify compliance with the Mexican Official Standard (NOM) 004.

Importers of textiles and textile-related products, including fabrics, garments, yarns, thread, blankets, furnishings, rags and carpets, will require either a "Proof of Conformity" or a "Compliance Report" to obtain customs clearance of these products in Mexico. Intertek will issue the requested report on receipt of a written request from the exporter/importer, including documents and payment, as detailed below.

Frequently Asked Questions

How is this process started?

The importer or exporter must submit an inspection request (RFI or SDI) to the Intertek office nearest to the site where the products will be shipped from (in the case of the exporter), or to the Intertek Mexico Office (in the case of the importer). The request should be accompanied with all documents related to the shipment, such as: invoice, packing list and, most importantly, a copy of the label of the product that is to be exported or imported.

After receiving the RFI, Intertek will communicate the approval of the same by assigning a reference number to the request, preceded by the initials MXL, which will serve to track progress throughout the whole process of inspection.

What kind of document will Intertek issue to demonstrate that the label complies with the requirements established by the Mexican Government's customs authority?

According to Standard (NOM) 17020 on commercial information, Intertek, as a Commercial Verification Unit, will issue, depending on the case and/or on the exporter's/importer's request, either a "Compliance Report" or a "Proof of Conformity".*

**Inspection details for each of the above mentioned documents are referred to below in the next question.*

How can a Label Inspection be requested?

Before starting the process, it is important to establish which of the two documents the importer will be needing ("Compliance Report" or "Proof of Conformity"). As the difference between the two types of inspection depends on where it takes place, the importer may choose whichever is more suited to his purposes.

For the "Compliance Report", it will be necessary to visit and inspect the product on-site, either at the place of shipment or in the factory where it is made.

For the "Proof of Conformity", the exporter himself can send some samples of the product so they can be inspected without the inspector having to travel to the location.

Therefore, only in the case of the "Compliance Report" will there be a need to coordinate physical inspections of the products with our offices in the Country of Origin.

Who must pay for issuance of the "Compliance Report" or "Proof of Conformity"?

Payment can be made, either by the exporter or the importer, as long as 50% of the negotiated fee is paid in advance.

What happens if the required information for the service isn't submitted?

Where the necessary documentation is not received, or 50% of the negotiated fee isn't paid in advance, we will not be able to proceed with inspections nor, consequently, issue either document ("Compliance Report" or "Proof of Conformity").

In such situations, inspection status will remain in "stand-by" for a maximum of 60 days. If after this period of time there have been no movements or responses, the Inspection Request will be automatically cancelled with no refunds. Any pre-paid fees will be kept to compensate the financial losses generated during the uncompleted process.

What is the estimated time from start to finish of a labeling inspection?

Once the request and information have been received, and it has been determined which of the two types of document is required ("Compliance Report" or "Proof of Conformity"), Intertek will contact the exporter to schedule the inspection. Once results are submitted, the appropriate document will be issued within a maximum of 5 working days of the inspection as long as the labels comply.

Are any countries exempt from this process?

No, all products pertaining to this category (textiles and textile-related products) must comply with these requirements and procedures, regardless of their country of origin.



Prohibited Imports

- Doesn't apply.

Restricted Imports

- Doesn't apply.

Timescales for certification

Coordination for inspection, once RFI from exporter has been received.	Within the next 3 working days after RFI receipt.
Issuance and delivery of "Compliance Report" or "Proof of Conformity".	Within 5 working days after inspection has taken place and final documents have been submitted.

Goods Exempt from Inspection

- All goods contained in these Standards (NOM's) are subject to inspections and issuance of "Compliance Report" or "Proof of Conformity"

Countries Exempt from Inspection

- All countries are subject to these inspections.

Inspection fees

Fees are subject to prior negotiation with importer or exporter.

Final Notes for Exporters

If the information contained in these Guidelines does not provide an answer to questions related to a specific order, please contact your nearest Intertek Office, where trained personnel will be happy to assist you.

Intertek is a founder member of the International Federation of Inspection Agencies (IFIA).

Intertek also carries out its work in accordance with WTO agreements on a variety of programs.

Despite every effort being made by Intertek to facilitate the progress of all orders which require inspection, an exporter may occasionally experience a problem.

Exporters/Importers who wish to communicate with Intertek by email, should note that emails might be subject to possible delays or transmission failures. Systems designed to inform senders of transmission failure are themselves subject to possible delays and may fail altogether. Therefore, you should not assume that email transmission has been received in good order unless you are advised by Intertek that this is the case.

For more information, please visit our website (shown below).