

FAQs ABOUT KENYA PVOC PROGRAMME

KENYA PVOC

1. **Q** What does PVoC stand for?

A PVoC is an acronym for Pre-export Verification of Conformity.

PVoC is a conformity assessment procedure applied in the Country of Supply to ensure compliance of imported products with applicable Kenya Standards, approved specifications or applicable regulations. Products meeting the requirements of the relevant Kenya Standards or approved specifications will be issued with Certificate of Conformity (CoC)/Certification of Inspection (CoI) as proof of compliance by KEBS appointed PVoC service providers such as Intertek.

2. **Q** What does KEBS stand for?

A KEBS is an acronym for Kenya Bureau of Standards which is the statutory organisation of the Government of Kenya responsible for preparation and implementation of standards.

3. **Q** What is the objective of KEBS?

A Objective of KEBS is:

- To promote standardization in industry and commerce
- To control, in accordance with the provisions of this Act, the use of standardization marks and distinctive mark
- To prepare, frame, modify or amend specifications and codes of practice
- To encourage or undertake educational work in connection with standardization
- To assist the Government or any local authority or other public body or any other person in the preparation and framing of any specifications or codes of practice
- To provide for co-operation with the Government or the representatives of any industry or with any local authority or other public body or any other person, with a view to securing the adoption and practical application of standards
- To provide for the testing at the request of the Minister, and on behalf of the Government, of locally manufactured and imported commodities with a view to determining whether such commodities comply with the provisions of this Act or any other law dealing with standards of quality or description.

4. **Q** **What is the objective of PVoC?**

A The primary objectives of the Kenya PVoC programme are:

- To ensure that products imported into Kenya meet the security, safety, health and environment requirements as per the sanctioned standards and technical regulations approved by KEBS.
- Provide assurance to the Kenya consumer that the products imported into the country are free from potential hazards and fit for use.
- To avoid costly delays at the Ports/Borders and rejection of consignments if these 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 consignments
- To streamline Custom clearance procedures, promote healthy and fair competition and fight against unsafe and dangerous goods.

5. **Q** **When did the Kenya PVoC programme come into force?**

A PVoC certification for Imports to Kenya was implemented from September 2005.

6. **Q** **What happens to Regulated Product Shipments that arrive at the Port of entry without CoCs/ColS?**

A Regulated Product Shipment arriving at the Port of Entry without CoCs/ColS will be rejected entry into Kenya. The shipment may be subjected to Destination Inspection by KEBS at a fee equivalent to 20% CIF value or the Importer will be directed to arrange for the shipment to be shipped back to the Country of Supply.

7. **Q** **What products are regulated under Kenya PVoC?**

A The Kenya PVoC Regulated products include but are not limited to the following:

- Toys
- Electrical and Electronics
- Vehicle Spare parts
- Cosmetics, Chemicals and Hygiene Products
- Construction materials and mechanical products
- Tiles and Sanitary Ware
- Furniture and other wooden products
- Kitchenware and Dinnerware
- Paper and Stationery
- Protective Safety Equipment
- Food and Food Products
- Textiles, Rubber, Leather and Plastic
- Used Textiles and Footwear

Exporters are advised to contact the local [Intertek Office](#) for information on the Regulatory Status of your products

8. Q What products are exempted under Kenya PVoC?

A

The exempted products under Kenya PVoC include but are not limited to the following:

- Products that are already regulated by other government agencies such as the Pharmacy and Poisons Board (PPB), Kenya Plant Health Inspectorate (KEPHIS), Pest Control and Products Board (PCPB).
- CKD vehicles imported by registered manufacturers
- Primary inputs imported by registered manufacturers subject to proof that the materials are direct inputs to the manufacturing process and the finished products are manufactured from the said raw materials are certified by KEBS
- Manufacturing plants and industrial spares imported by registered manufacturers for their own use.
- Printed matter (textbook, magazines).
- Products certified by KEBS under the Diamond Mark Scheme
- Courier shipments through JKIA (Airport) which are currently cleared under the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between KEBS and Courier Industry Association of Kenya (CIAK)

Exporters are advised to contact the local [Intertek Office](#) for information on the Regulatory Status of your products

9. Q What is the minimum FOB value threshold of Regulated Product Shipments?

A

There is no minimum FOB value threshold for Kenya PVoC.

10. Q What will it cost to comply with the PVoC?

A

The fees for certification under Kenya PVoC is stipulated in the [Kenya Exporter and Importer Guidelines document](#) which can be obtained from your local [Intertek Office](#) or can be downloaded from the www.intertek.com/government website.

11. Q Is Intertek authorized to certify shipments from all Zones?

A

Intertek is authorized to certify shipments from 17 out of the 19 Zones specified by KEBS with an exception of Central Europe and North Africa. The details of the Zones and the countries within these Zones are listed [here](#).

12. Q Who has to demonstrate compliance with the PVoC?

A

The responsibility for demonstrating compliance lies with the Exporters who are exporting regulated products to Kenya. The compliance process should be undertaken in the exporting country.

13. Q What are the different Shipment certification routes under PVoC?

A Depending on the eligibility and frequency of the shipments to Kenya, the Exporter can opt for any of the below shipment certification routes:

- Route A for Unregistered/ Unlicensed Products
- Route B for Registered Products – a Statement of Registration is issued with validity of one year
- Route C for Licensed Products - a Licence Certificate is issued with validity of three years.
- Route D for Consolidated Shipments - KEBS registered consolidators

For every shipment of regulated products, Exporters are required to obtain the Certificate of Conformity (CoC) under Route A, Route B and Route C; and Certificate of Inspection (Col) under Route D. Issuance of CoC/Col is based on successful evaluation of Test Report/Testing (if required) and/or physical inspection. The CoC/Col is required by the Importers for Customs clearance of their Regulated Product Shipments.

The detailed process is included in the [Kenya Exporter and Importer Guidelines](#) document which can be obtained from your local [Intertek Office](#) or from our www.intertek.com/government website.

14. Q From where can the required CoC/Col be obtained?

A Intertek is an approved Certification Body by KEBS for carrying out the Kenya PVoC certification. All activities related to PVoC must be performed in the Country of Export by the Exporter. Intertek has established a global network of Customer Service Centres in all the major trading countries for Kenya. The Intertek Office with geographical responsibility for that Country of Export closest to the Exporter can help facilitate the issuance of COCs/Col for the Exporter's regulated product shipments.

The full list of [Intertek's Customer Service Centres](#) can be found here.

15. Q With whom can I speak to find out further information about the Kenya PVoC?

A You can speak to your nearest Intertek Office. The full list of Intertek's Customer Service Centres can be found [here](#).