

FAQs ABOUT IVORY COAST PROGRAMME

IVORY COAST VOC

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

A The term VoC is an acronym for **V**erification of **C**onformity used within the Ivory Coast Programme. Ivory Coast VoC Programme includes elements of Conformity Assessment, Consignment Inspection, Testing and Consignment Certification schemes to assist Exporters and Importers in demonstrating compliance with essential requirements, National and International Standard requirements prior to the export of the consignment to Ivory Coasts.

2. **Q** What are the main objectives of the Ivory Coast VoC Programme?

A The main objectives of the Ivory Coast VoC Programme are as follows:

- To ensure that products imported into the Ivorian Ports/Borders meets the Security, Safety, Health and Environmental requirements in accordance with the sanctioned Standards and Technical Regulations for Consumer's and Environmental Protection.
- To streamline facilitation of Customs clearance process in Ivory Coast and promote fair competition.
- To fight against counterfeit goods.
- To Encourage genuine investors and investments in Ivory Coast.
- To establish an attractive Economic Environment in the region.

3. **Q** What products are regulated under VoC?

A All products imported into Ivory Coast are subjected to conformity control according to the procedures agreed between the Ministère du Commerce de l'Industrie et de la Promotion des PME (MCIPPME) and the Recognized Service Providers, except for the following exemptions:

- Gold and other precious materials, Precious stones
- Explosives, weapons, ammunition and other war materials intended for the National Armed Forces and the Forces of the Order
- Live animals and live fish meat
- Fresh vegetables and fresh fruits
- Floriculture plants and products
- Local Products or Traditional Handicrafts of Community origin
- Drugs and inputs used in the manufacture of drugs/medicine industry
- Current newspapers and periodicals, postage or tax stamps, stamp papers, banknotes, cheque books, passports
- Personal effects and used household objects
- Used vehicles
- Crude or partially refined petroleum

ISSUED: 12.10.2020

- Commercial samples
- Supplies to diplomatic and consular missions, or to international organizations imported for their own needs
- Production machines submitted or exempted under the Investment Code upon request made to the VOC Monitoring Committee.
- Import Goods and equipment for oil and mining operations (Benefiting from the Mining and Petroleum Codes)
- Tax Free Importations
- Industrial Machineries and its Spare parts intended for use in local industry if the Importers are exempted from the VoC programme requirements by the Directeur Général du Commerce Extérieur (DGCE).

4. Q Can the Exporters apply for Voluntary Certification for products not covered under the VoC Programme?

A Yes, Voluntary Certification requests received from Exporters for the issuance of Certificate of Conformity (CoC) for the Non-Regulated Product Shipments shall be accepted by Intertek. Contact the local Intertek Office for assistance.

5. Q Which are the Regulated Products that require Import Authorization prior to obtaining a CoC?

A The Government of Ivory Coast have listed few Regulated Products that requires Import Authorization from Ministry of Trade in addition to the CoC for Customs clearance. Listed below are the products:

- Sugar
- Ordinary plastic bags biodegradable or non-biodegradable
- Baking flour

6. Q Which are the shipment certification routes under VoC?

A Exporter shall show compliance to the Ivory Coast VoC requirements by following any one of the below Routes – depending on the eligibility and frequency of their shipments to Ivory Coast:

- Route A for Unregistered/ Unlicensed Products
- Route B for Registered Products – a Statement of Registration (SoR) is issued with a validity period of one year
- Route C for Licensed Products - a Licence Certificate is issued with a validity period of one year.

A Registration or Licence will be issued to Manufacturer/Exporters who can demonstrate that their products comply with the Ivory Coast Essential Requirements and approved International Standards and Regulations. An assessment shall be made by Intertek that products meet the level of compliance required before the Registration/Licence is granted.

ISSUED: 12.10.2020

For every shipment of regulated goods, Exporters are required to obtain the Certificate of Conformity (CoC). Issuance of CoC is based on successful evaluation of Test Report and physical/remote inspection and testing (if required) or verification of their Registration/Licence if the products are issued with a Registration/Licence. The finalized CoC is then electronically transmitted to GUCE Single Window System by Intertek. The CoC is required by the Importers for Customs clearance of their Regulated Product Shipments.

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

7. Q What will it cost to comply with Ivory Coast VoC?

A The fees for demonstrating compliance with Ivory Coast VoC are detailed in the [Ivory Coast Exporter and Importer Guidelines](#) document which can be obtained from your local [Intertek Office](#) or it can be downloaded from the www.intertek.com/government website.

8. Q With whom can I speak to find out further information about the Ivory Coast VoC?

A You can contact your nearest Intertek Office for detailed information on the Ivory Coast VoC. The full list of Intertek's Customer Service Centres can be found [here](#).

9. Q Is there a local Intertek Office in Ivory Coast to whom importer can liaise with?

A Yes, the Intertek Office is located in Abidjan - Cote D'Ivoire. Below is the detailed address:

Intertek GTS
Blvd de Marseille, 1er étage
Immeuble CASINO, 10 BP 2757
Abidjan; Cote D'Ivoire
Tel: +(225) 21 57 31 60
Email: info.abidjan.gs@intertek.com