

FAQs ABOUT PVoC PROGRAMME

TANZANIA 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 Tanzanian Standards, Approved Specifications or Applicable Regulations. Products meeting the requirements of the relevant Tanzanian Standards or Approved Specifications will be issued with Certificate of Conformity (CoC) as proof of compliance by TBS appointed PVoC Service Providers such as Intertek.

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

A TBS is an acronym for Tanzania Bureau of Standards which is the national standards body for Tanzania established by the Government as part of its efforts to strengthen the supportive infrastructure for industry and commerce sectors across the economy within the country.

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

A Objective of TBS is:

- To undertake measures for quality control of commodities, services and environment of all descriptions and to promote standardization in industry and trade
- To make arrangements or provide facilities for the examination and testing of commodities and any material or substance from or with which, and the manner in which, they may be manufactured, produced, processed or treated
- To approve, register and control the use of standard marks in accordance with the provisions of the Standards Act
- To grant, renew, suspend, vary or cancel any licence issued for the use of any standards mark
- To assist industries in setting up and enforcing quality assurance and environmental management systems procedures
- To prepare, frame, modify or amend National Standards
- To assist the Government or any other person in the preparation and framing of standards
- To provide for the inspection, sampling and testing of locally manufactured and imported commodities with a view to determining whether the commodities comply with the provisions of the Standards Act or any other law dealing with standards relevant to those commodities
- To make arrangements or provide facilities for the testing and calibration of precision instruments, gauges and scientific apparatus, for the determination of their degree of accuracy and traceability by comparison with standards approved by the Minister of Industry and Trade on the recommendation of the Board of Directors, and for issue of certificates in regard to them

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

A The primary objectives of the Tanzania PVoC programme are:

- Ensure quality of products, health, and safety, and environmental protection for Tanzanians and this is reflected in the scope of the regulated products
- Minimize the risk of unsafe and sub-standard Goods entering Tanzania through the execution of conformity assessment activities in the Country of Supply. This will help to ensure that consumers are protected from unsafe and sub-standard goods and those Tanzanian manufacturers are not subjected to unfair competition.
- Prohibit the entry of substandard and counterfeit products
- Facilitate the clearance process by eliminating bottlenecks caused by the verification performed on arrival at entry points

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

A PVoC certification for Imports to Tanzania was introduced by TBS in February 2012. Intertek had been appointed as an approved Service Provider for Tanzania PVoC from 2012 – 2015 and has been again awarded the contract to operate the Tanzania PVoC since 1st September 2018.

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

A Regulated Product Shipment arriving at the Port of Entry without CoCs will be rejected entry into Tanzania. The shipment may be subjected to Destination Inspection by TBS which includes a penalty fee equivalent to 15% CIF value in addition to the Costs for Destination Inspection indicated below:

- Inspection fee - TZS 100,000
- Testing fee - Varies depending on product
- Batch certification fee - 0.2% of Cost & Freight (C&F)

If the shipment inspected at Destination does not comply with TBS requirements, then the Importer will be directed to arrange for the shipment to be shipped back to the Country of Supply or destroy the products at a cost that will need to be borne by the Importer.

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

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

- Toys
- Electrical and Electronics
- Automotive products
- Cosmetics and Chemical Products
- Mechanical material and Gas appliances
- Paper and Stationery
- Furniture (Wood and Metal articles)
- Textiles, Leather, Plastic and Rubber

- Safety (Personal Protective) Equipment
- Food and Food Products
- Used Products
- Tableware, Cookware, Kitchenware and Dinnerware
- Arts and Crafts
- Hospital and Medical Equipment

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 Tanzania PVoC?

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

- Used personal Goods/belongings
- Raw materials, machinery and spare parts for industrial use
- Capital Goods
- Goods for mining and exploration activities
- Goods for Government projects
- Donated Goods
- Material for value addition under EPZA
- Certified products
- Temporary imported Goods
- Raw materials and packaging materials (TMDA MoU)
- Diplomatic Goods

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 Tanzania PVoC. However, Exporters of Shipments whose Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) assessed value is less than USD 5000 can apply for exemption from PVoC.

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

A The fees for certification under Tanzania PVoC is stipulated in the [Tanzania 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 13 out of the 17 Zones specified by TBS. 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 Tanzania. The compliance process should be undertaken in the Country of Supply.

13. Q How do Exporters show Product Compliance?

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

- 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 one year.

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

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 inspection and testing (if required) or verification of their Registration/Licence if the products are issued with a Registration/Licence. The CoC is required by the Importers for Customs clearance of their Regulated Product Shipments.

The detailed process is included in the [Tanzania 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 be obtained?

A Intertek is an approved Certification Body by TBS for carrying out the Tanzania 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 Tanzania. The Intertek Office with geographical responsibility for that Country of Export closest to the Exporter can help facilitate the issuance of CoCs 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 Tanzania PVoC?

A You can contact your nearest Intertek Office for further information on the PVoC programme. The full list of Intertek's Customer Service Centres can be found here.