



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

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- 1.2 What are the additional requirements in the new PVoC directive?
- 1.3 How will KRA use the Certificates of Conformity issued under the PVoC programme to secure revenues?
- 1.4 Will KRA or KEBS draw samples from consignments accompanied with CoCs?
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- 3.4 Can a CoC be issued for products with declared voltage of 220V but which can accommodate a higher range of voltage i.e. 230V?

4.0 PENALTIES

- 4.1 What happens to goods that arrive at the Port of entry without CoCs?

5.0 REQUEST FOR CERTIFICATE (RFC)

- 5.1 The exporter/importer details stated in the IDF and RFC are not the same. In such instances, can the Intertek Offices issue the CoC stating the exporter/Importer details as per the RFC?
- 5.2 Quantity mentioned on the RFC is less than the quantity mentioned on the IDF. Can the Intertek Offices issue a certificate with quantity mentioned on the RFC?



KENYA BUREAU OF STANDARDS
PRE-EXPORT VERIFICATION OF CONFORMITY TO
STANDARDS

THE REPUBLIC OF
KENYA



ISSUED: 12-Jan-16

MISCELLANEOUS

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

6.0 CERTIFICATE OF CONFORMITY (COC)

- 6.1 Can the Intertek Offices issue one CoC against two or more IDF's?
- 6.2 Is it necessary that the exporter's information/contact details on the IDF match the details given in the RFC/CoC? Will Customs reject the CoC if the exporter details are not the same in the CoC and on the IDF?

7.0 STATEMENT OF REGISTRATION (SOR)

- 7.1 Can the Intertek Offices accept Statement of Registration (SoR) of other appointed PVoC Agent?
- 7.2 Will other appointed PVoC Agent accept Intertek Statement of Registration (SoR)?
- 7.3 Can an Exporter use the same Statement of Registration (SoR) for all their clients?

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- 8.1 Does KEBS have Standards for ALL goods imported into Kenya?
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9.0 INSPECTION AND MARKING

- 9.1 Can a product be shipped if the marking on the product is not in English or Kiswahili language?
- 9.2 Can products be shipped if the country of origin is marked in abbreviated form on the package?















10.0 OTHER

- 10.1 Are goods certified by KEBS under the Diamond Mark scheme still subject to PVoC?
- 10.2 Are goods imported under Duty remission schemes e.g. MUB, EPZ, subject to PVoC?
- 10.3 Is ISM still mandatory for finished products intended for sale in Kenya in light of the expanded scope of PVoC?
- 10.4 Are Authorized Economic Operators (AEOs) exempted for PVoC?
- 10.5 Can KRA and KEBS merger Excise stamp and ISM?
- 10.6 Should the exporter provide the HS codes for his products?



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS


1.0 PRE-EXPORT VERIFICATION OF CONFORMITY

- 1.1**  **What is PVoC?**
-  PVoC is Pre-export verification of conformity to standards. It is a conformity assessment procedure applied at the country of supply/origin to ensure compliance of imported products with applicable Kenya Standards, approved specifications or applicable regulations. Goods meeting the requirements of the relevant Kenya Standards or approved specifications will be issued with Certificates of Conformity (CoCs) as proof of compliance by KEBS appointed inspection agents.
- 1.2**  **What are the additional requirements in the new PVoC directive?**
-  The list of goods that are required to undergo inspection in the country of supply has been expanded to cover all imported goods with the exemption of certain products as detailed in section 2.1
- 1.3**  **How will KRA use the Certificates of Conformity issued under the PVoC programme to secure revenues?**
-  The CoC shall serve as one of the reference documents in Customs declaration in terms of quality, quantity and value of imported goods. Importers shall be under obligation to comply with the import requirements including furnishing original invoices for goods.
- 1.4**  **Will KRA or KEBS draw samples from consignments accompanied with CoCs?**
-  Samples of consignments accompanied with CoC may be drawn as necessary for monitoring purposes.
- 1.5**  **Can KEBS and KRA guarantee pre-clearance of cargo accompanied with CoCs so that importers do not incur demurrage charges at the Port?**
-  Pre clearance of goods accompanied with a CoC will be given except where there are reasons to doubt the integrity of the procedure followed with respect to the specific cases or consignment has been targeted for random sampling
- 1.6**  **When is the effective implementation date?**
-  Inspection requirement is for all imports whose shipment date is on or later than 1st of December 2015
- 1.7**  **What happens to goods already shipped (on high seas) and expected to arrive in Kenya on or after 1st December 2015?**
-  All goods shipped before the 1st December 2015 will be cleared under the previous arrangement
- 1.8**  **What is the minimum value threshold for goods subject to PVoC?**
-  There is no minimum values threshold for PVoC .



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

2.0 REGULATED PRODUCTS AND EXEMPTED PRODUCTS

2.1  What are the exempted products?



SN	CATEGORY	CRITERIA	REMARKS
1.	Importers of products regulated by other government agencies. Regulators: DVS, KDB, KEPHIS, PPB, PCPB, CA, KCAA	Proof of quality certification by the regulator(s)/ Import permits etc.	Concerned importers to submit Import permit or any other quality certification documentation to KRA for processing of customs entries/IDF
2.	Registered manufacturers importing raw materials, machinery and spares for own use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Applicant must demonstrate quality track record for the raw materials and the final products as confirmed by KEBS ▪ Proof of transformation of raw material (s) into a completely different product (finished product) ▪ Proof of certification to a quality management system/ or professional practice. ▪ Manufacturers to provide data on their customers e.g. complaints ▪ Proof that the final products are directly linked to the raw materials being imported 	Concerned importers to apply to KEBS for registration using form – “Application for Registration of Manufacturers Importing Raw Materials, Machinery and Parts thereof for own use”
3.	Diplomats and diplomatic missions	PRO 1B	Completed PRO 1B to be submitted to KRA at the time of importation
4.	Registered assemblers importing CKDs for motor vehicle and motor cycle assembly/ Manufacturing Under Bond (MUB)	Proof of registration as assembler/ MUB	Concerned importers to apply to KEBS for registration using form – “Application for Registration of Manufacturers Importing Raw Materials, Machinery and Parts thereof for own use”
5.	Importers of courier parcels	Goods imported under KEBS/CIAK MoU	Goods to be subjected to destination inspection
6.	Importers of printed matter and copyrighted digital materials	Textbooks, periodicals, diaries, labels, Recorded digital media, magnetic media	KRA to administer. KEBS does not have quality standards for copyrighted materials
7.	Importers of goods certified by KEBS under Diamond Mark Scheme	Valid Diamond Mark permit	Concerned importers to apply to KEBS using form – “Application for Registration of Importers of Goods Certified under Diamond Mark of Quality Scheme”
8.	Importers of goods manufactured within East African Community (EAC)	Country of Origin must be an EAC member state	Import Entries for goods from EAC Partner states to be processed by KRA based on Country of supply



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

9.	Importers of new vehicles	New vehicles must be imported directly from the manufacturer of the brands or the manufacturer's appointed agent	Clearance to be based on year of manufacture.
10.	Importers of used personal effects	Goods must be pre-owned before shipment	KRA to administer
11.	Importers of vehicles from countries where KEBS does not have a motor vehicle inspection arrangement	Country of exportation must be a country where KEBS does not have a motor vehicle inspection arrangement	Vehicles not from UAE, JAPAN, UK AND SOUTH AFRICA to be subjected to destination inspection
12.	General consumables (stores) imported by International carriers for inflight / ships services	Proof of existence as international carrier	Concerned importers to submit licenses to KRA for processing of their import entries
13.	Re- imports	Submission of re-importation certificate (KRA)	Concerned importers to submit re-importation certificates to KRA at the time of importation at the time of importation

2.2  **Are goods imported from EAC member states subject to PVoC?**




- Goods manufactured in the EAC member states are accepted based on the certification carried out by the respective National Standards Body in the country of origin as provided for under EAC SQMT Act.
- For detailed information Refer to Section 2.1 point 8.

2.3  **Are raw materials for local manufacturing of finished goods subject to PVoC requirements?**



- Primary inputs imported by registered manufacturers to be released under a green channel (i.e. No CoC required) subject to proof that the materials are direct inputs to the manufacturing process and the finished products made out of the said raw materials are certified by KEBS.
- For detailed information Refer to Section 2.1 point 2.

2.4  **Are Complete Knock downs (CKD) motor vehicles and motor bikes imported for local assembly subject to PVoC?**



- CKD for vehicles imported by registered manufacturers to be released under a green channel (i.e. No CoC required).
- For detailed information Refer to Section 2.1 point 4.

2.5  **Are manufacturing plants, machinery and parts thereof imported solely for own use subject to PVoC?**



- Manufacturing plants and industrial spares for own use imported by registered manufacturers to be released under a green channel (i.e. No CoC required).
- For detailed information Refer to Section 2.1 point 2.


2.6  **Are goods under the value of USD 1000 (CIF) exempt from PVoC?**



No, as in number 19 above, there is no minimum values threshold for PVOC. However, courier shipments through JKIA which are currently cleared under the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between KEBS and Courier Industry Association of Kenya (CIAK) shall continue to be cleared as specified in the MoU.

**FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS****2.7**  **Are products, which are meant for donation, covered under PVoC?**

In relation to the recent notice of KEBS jointly with KRA from 1st December 2015 onwards all goods imported to Kenya are subject to Pre-Export Verification of Conformity with the exception of following products stated as per Section 2.1.

2.8  **Are finished petroleum products subject to PVoC requirements?**

Yes, petroleum products will be subjected to inspection under the PVoC program.

2.9  **Are consolidated cargoes subject to PVoC?**

Yes. PVoC is required for all goods including consolidated cargo.

2.10  **Are used motor vehicle parts subject to PVoC?**


Yes, used motor vehicle parts will be subjected to inspection under the PVoC programme.

3.0 ESSENTIAL REQUIREMENTS**3.1**  **What is the official voltage rate for Kenya?**

Official voltage ratings of Kenya is 230 V or a range indication of 220-240V i.e. +/-10% for single phase and 400 V or a range incorporating this voltage i.e. +/- 10% for three phase supply.

3.2  **Can a product having a power cord with European plug configuration be certified under PVoC?**

No, the shipment should be rejected and non-conformity report should be issued.

3.3  **Can electrical products be shipped without the supply cord based on the confirmation that the importer will provide the supply cord (detachable) to the consumers on purchase?**

Electrical products exported without the cords are considered as incomplete products. All electrical products that are exported should have a supply cord (detachable/non-detachable) attached to it.

3.4  **Can a CoC be issued for products with declared voltage of 220V but which can accommodate a higher range of voltage i.e. 230V?**

CoC is not to be issued unless the declared voltage is 230V or a range indication of 220-240V.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

4.0 PENALTIES

4.1  **What happens to goods that arrive at the Port of entry without CoCs?**



- Shipments will be subject to destination inspection at a fee of **15%** of the Cost, Insurance and Freight value of the goods as required by the Legal Notice number 78 of 15/07/2005 irrespective of the fact whether the shipments have undergone PVoC process in the Country of Supply or not.
- The goods shall be held at the entry point and tested at KEBS testing laboratories (testing charges to be separately paid by the importer for according to the labs fees)
- Goods will be released to importer if quality requirements are met.

5.0 REQUEST FOR CERTIFICATE (RFC)

5.1  **The exporter/importer details stated in the IDF and RFC are not the same. In such instances, can the Intertek Offices issue the CoC stating the exporter/importer details as per the RFC?**



CoC's shall only be issued on the basis of the Exporter and Importer details as indicated in the IDF.

5.2  **Quantity mentioned on the RFC is less than the quantity mentioned on the IDF. Can the Intertek Offices**



The CoC issued should match the quantity mentioned on the IDF. However, in case if it is being shipped as a partial or has a minor difference, then it's acceptable.

6.0 CERTIFICATE OF CONFORMITY (COC)

6.1  **Can the Intertek Offices issue one CoC against two or more IDF's?**



- NO. Each IDF should have its own CoC(s)
- A CoC and/or its partials can be issued per IDF.

6.2  **Is it necessary that the Exporter's information/contact details on the IDF match the details given in the RFC /CoC? Will Customs reject the CoC if the exporter details are not the same in the CoC and on the IDF?**



Yes, it is important that the details match because the Customs and KEBS store and update the data of all IDF's and CoC's for verification.

7.0 STATEMENT OF REGISTRATION (SOR)


7.1  **Can the Intertek Offices accept Statement of Registration (SoR) of other appointed PVoC agents?**



Yes, Statement of Registration (SoR) of other appointed PVoC agents should be accepted by Intertek Offices.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

7.2  **Will other appointed PVoC agents accept Intertek Statement of Registration (SoR)?**



Yes, Intertek's SoR's should be accepted by other appointed PVOC agents.

7.3  **Can an Exporter use the same Statement of Registration (SoR) for all their clients?**



Yes, the Exporter can use one Statement of Registration (SoR) for all his clients supported by his authorization letter.

8.0 TESTING

8.1  **Does KEBS have Standards for ALL goods imported into Kenya?**



KEBS have standards for many of the goods that are locally manufactured or imported. However, products not having Kenya Standards will be inspected against the relevant international standards or standards applicable in the country of origin.

8.2  **How can a test report be verified if there are no available standards?**




In absence of the standards, the test results should be compared against the manufacturer's declaration / specification / MSDS.

8.3  **If the complete product is tested in a Laboratory, can the spares parts for that product be certified without the need for test reports?**



Yes, if the same manufacturer ships the spare parts then these parts need not be tested.

9.0 INSPECTION AND MARKING

9.1  **Can a product be shipped if the marking on the product is not in English or Kiswahili language?**



Products, which do not have markings (including Instructions where applicable) in English or Kiswahili, should be rejected.

9.2  **Can products be shipped if the country of origin is marked in abbreviated form on the package?**
















Yes, the products can be shipped provided that it is clear to the consumer that the product was made in XXXX from the manufacturer's address details. Exporters/Manufacturers should be advised to use the full name of the Country for the Country of Origin in their subsequent shipments or in a reasonable time frame so that the Country of Origin is clear. Well known abbreviated forms such as USA, UK, UAE...can be accepted without any restrictions.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

10.0 OTHERS

- 10.1**  **Are goods certified by KEBS under the Diamond Mark scheme still subject to PVoC?**
-  > Diamond Mark Certification serves the same objectives as the PVoC program. Goods certified under the Diamond mark will therefore be cleared on the basis of a valid Diamond Mark Permit
-  > For detailed information Refer to Section 2.1 point 7.
- 10.2**  **Are goods imported under Duty remission schemes e.g. MUB, EPZ, subject to PVoC?**
-  Yes, these goods will be subjected to inspection under the PVoC program.
- 10.3**  **Is ISM still mandatory for finished products intended for sale in Kenya in light of the expanded scope of PVoC?**
-  Yes ISM is mandatory for all imported products that are intended for sale in Kenya.
- 10.4**  **Are Authorized Economic Operators (AEOs) exempted for PVoC?**
-  No. AEOs are not exempted from PVoC but will be accorded expedited clearance by KRA under the Green Channel.
- 10.5**  **Can KRA and KEBS merger Excise stamp and ISM?**
-  The different marks serve different purposes. The feasibility of the proposal will be studied by the two organizations.
- 10.6**  **Should the Exporter provide the HS codes for their products?**
-  Yes, the exporter should provide the HS codes for all products included in the Shipment