

STANDARDS ORGANISATION NIGERIA CONFORMITY ASSESSMENT PROGRAMME (SONCAP)

ISSUED – FEBRUARY 2016

THE PROGRAMME

The Standards Organisation of Nigeria (SON) introduced a Conformity Assessment Programme (CAP), known as SONCAP, based on a policy of the Federal Government of Nigeria to check and control the importation of substandard and unsafe products. The Policy has been effective since September 1st 2005 and, after a period of grace, became mandatory as from 1st December 2005.

Under SONCAP, SON regulated products to be exported to Nigeria are required to submit to verification by a SON Independence Accredited Firms (IAFs) to confirm compliance with Nigeria Industrial Standards (NIS) or other approved international Standards.

THE OBJECTIVES

- To protect the health, safety and property of users/consumers of imported regulated goods;
- To prevent economic loss to importers and/or users caused by the purchase of substandard products;
- To avoid the necessity to destroy substandard products as this may have environmental, health and safety consequences;
- To facilitate trade by:
 - Enabling fast track Customs clearance of regulated goods on arrival in Nigeria
 - Ensuring a level playing field, in terms of quality, for both imported and locally manufactured regulated products so as to prevent unfair market competition
 - Encouraging investment in Nigeria



THE SOLUTION

The appointment of SGS in April 2009 which was renewed in November 2012, in addition to other Independence Accredited Firms (IAFs), provides a wide global coverage of SONCAP Offices and laboratories thereby making it easier for importers in Nigeria and exporters abroad to comply with SONCAP. Furthermore, as the choice of IAFs is left to the importer and/or exporter, competition will lead to enhanced levels of service delivery thereby facilitating compliant trade.

SGS has the advantage to offer a "One-stop-Service" to deliver customized solutions through 10 business lines across 10 geographical regions.

SGS SERVICES

- Verifies the manufacturer and facilities
- Carries out selective sampling of products at the manufacturer's or exporter's premises for submission to an approved testing laboratory
- Conducts technical reviews of all documents required e.g. Test Reports, Product Data sheets, commercial invoices, packing lists, etc.

ROUTES TO CERTIFICATION

The Standards Organisation of Nigeria (SON) has defined three routes that may be applied as appropriate conformity assessment procedures for product(s) subject to SONCAP, according to type, risk and effect on the health, safety and environmental protection.

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The routes are:

Route A: For Unregistered/ Unlicensed products (Conformity Verification): Each shipment to be imported requires inspection, sampling, testing to applicable standards & FCL "Full container load "stuffing" supervision and sealing, based on risk assessment.

Route B: For Registered Products (Registration and Conformity Inspection): Registration of products is done following verification of supplier/ manufacturer, Inspection, sampling, testing as per applicable standards and FCL supervision and sealing is required at least in 40% of the shipments.

Route C: For Licensed Products (Product Certification Systems): Licensing of products is based on detailed evaluation of the product, including testing and factory audit and regular surveillances at least twice a year.

SONCAP Certificate (SC): is issued for per shipment,

Compliance with SON requirements is confirmed by the issuance of:

- **Product Certificate (Unregistered):** Issued per shipment and valid for 6months, is issued upon satisfactory completion of systematic inspection and product sampling, applicable only to route A

- **Product Certificate (Registered):** Valid for one year, issued upon satisfactory completion of Supplier's/ Manufacturer's verification, applicable to routes B
- **Product Certificate (Licensed):** Valid for one year, issued upon satisfactory completion of audit of Manufacturer's factory: applicable to routes C
- **A SONCAP Certificate (SC):** Issued for every shipment, upon shipment verification: documentary verification (including Product Certificate and satisfactory Test Report) and depending upon routes A, B or C

WHY SGS?

As the world's leading inspection, verification, testing and Certification Company we provide competitive advantage and deliver trust. Recognized as the global benchmark for quality and integrity, SGS employs more than 85,000 staff and operates a network of over 1,800 offices and laboratories around the world.

In addition to Nigeria, SGS is currently active in Conformity Assessment Programmes in various countries such as Algeria, Botswana, Burundi, Egypt, Ethiopia, Gabon, Ghana, Kenya, Korea, Kurdistan, Kuwait, Mongolia, Niger, Qatar, Russia, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Tanzania, Uganda.



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WHEN YOU NEED TO BE SURE

SGS