



EXPORTER GUIDE TO SOMALILAND

VERIFICATION OF CONFORMITY PROCESS

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SOMALILAND VERIFICATION OF CONFORMITY (VOC) PROGRAMME

The Republic of Somaliland's Ministry of Trade and Tourism regulates the mandatory **Pre-shipment Verification of Conformity** programme for products exported to Somaliland.

The VOC programme aims to protect Somaliland consumers and the environment by reducing sub-standard, unsafe and counterfeit products imported into Somaliland. The programme will also promote fair competition for local manufacturers and traders.

To ensure harmonized compliance to the set safety standards and regulations, The Somaliland Ministry of Trade and Tourism appointed Cotecna Inspection S.A (Cotecna) to issue Certificates of Conformity (COC) on its behalf.

Every consignment of regulated products exported to Somaliland must be accompanied by a Certificate of Conformity issued by Cotecna.

This guide covers the requirements of obtaining the mandatory Certificate of Conformity needed for customs clearance.

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REGULATED PRODUCTS

The majority of products imported into Somaliland are regulated and will require a Certificate of Conformity.

The regulated products are found under the following **HS Chapters**: 02-05, 07-11, partially 12, 13-27, 30-35, 38- 40, 44-66, 68-76, 78-87, 90-92, 94-96

For a comprehensive list of regulated and exempted products or to find out if your product is regulated please contact your nearest **Cotecna office** or **Cotecna Somaliland**.

CERTIFICATE OF CONFORMITY PROCESS

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The conformity assessment process and issuance of Certificates of Conformity (COC) is performed and delivered in the country of origin or supply, before shipment to Somaliland. The COC will be required for the **Customs Clearance** and **Business Process** in Somaliland for **every consignment** of products regulated under the VOC programme.

Note: To start the conformity process, fill out and submit the Cotecna **Request for Certification (RFC)** form.

The pre-shipment certification process includes one or a combination of the following kinds of verification to ensure the product is compliant with Somaliland, Regional or International standards:



1. Documentation verification

The exporter/applicant must provide Cotecna with the following documents for verification:

- i) A filled out **Cotecna Request for Certification form**
- ii) Commercial Invoice
- iii) Packing List
- iv) Valid conformity documents (such as laboratory test reports issued by an ISO 17025 accredited laboratory, technical data, analysis certificates, Quality Management System certificate, etc) and any other relevant documentation.



2. Laboratory testing in the exporting country

If the product test report is not available or is missing essential test criteria, Cotecna will take samples from the shipment and perform the necessary tests in an ISO 17025 accredited laboratory.



3. Physical inspection in exporting country

Cotecna will physically inspect the goods and ensure that essential markings comply with Somaliland standards, take samples (see above) and seal the container if required.



4. Certificate of Conformity

Cotecna will issue a Certificate of Conformity (COC) only if the product meets the Somaliland requirements, following a successful completion of the evaluation, inspection and testing. **Without a valid COC, Somaliland Customs will not clear goods for importation.**



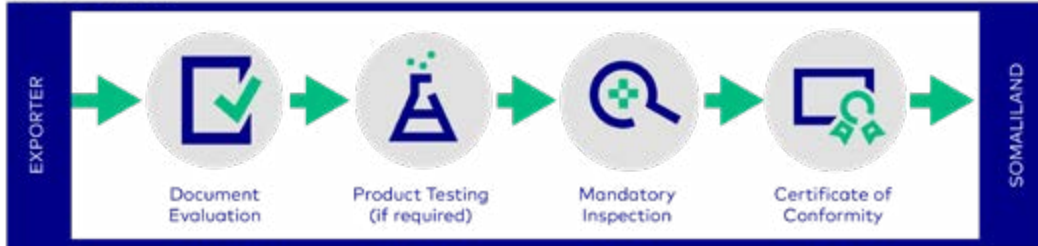
4

CERTIFICATE OF CONFORMITY ROUTES

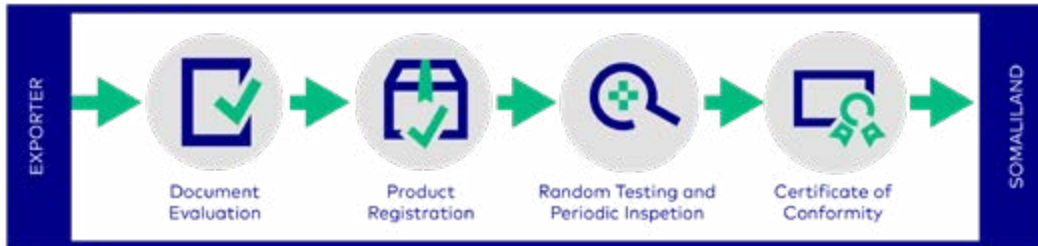
To assess the conformity of a shipment, the VOC process will follow one of the three levels of compliance, named **"routes"**. The choice of the route depends on the profile of the exporter and the nature of the goods.

The Somaliland conformity routes are:

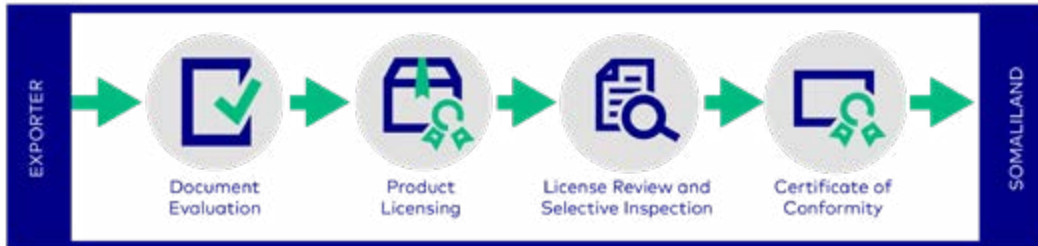
ROUTE A



ROUTE B



ROUTE C



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FEES

Routes	Ad Valorem fee as a percentage of the declared FOB value (%)	Minimum fee in United States Dollars (\$)	Maximum fee in United States Dollars(\$)
A	0.7	300	3000
B	0.5	290	3000
C	0.4	270	3000
D	0.9	300	3000

This programme is subject to the [Cotecna General Terms and Conditions](#).

For more information, exporters can contact their nearest [Cotecna office](#) and importers in Somaliland can directly contact: [Cotecna Somaliland](#)

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