



**MINISTERIAL DEGREE**

**Introduction of a mandated pre-shipment Verification of Conformance (VoC) for products imported into Somaliland.**

The Ministry of Trade and Tourism of the Republic of Somaliland hereby announces the introduction of a mandatory pre-shipment verification of conformity program (VoC) for goods imported into Somaliland.

The VoC program aims to provide numerous advantages for the end consumers and citizens of Somaliland by reducing sub-quality, unsafe, counterfeited and non-compliant goods. The control of import against harmonized standards will in addition create a fair marketplace for the traders and local manufactures.

The conformity assessment process and issuance of Certificates of Conformity (CoC) should be performed and delivered in the country of origin or supply before shipment to Somaliland. The CoC will be required at the Customs clearance and Ministry of Trade and Tourism in Somaliland for every consignment and products covered by the VOC program.

The Ministry of Trade and Tourism has appointed Cotecna Inspection (sole and exclusive); an international leading provider of inspection, testing and certification to deliver the VoC services, throughout the world.

To assess the conformity of a shipment, the VoC process will follow one of the four levels of compliance, named "routes". The choice of the route depends on the profile of the exporter and the nature of the goods. These are:

- Route A for exporters with infrequent shipments or sensitive goods
- Route B for exporters with regular shipments (registered products)
- Route C for manufacturers with regular and high-volume shipments (licensed products)

One month following the date of issuance of this letter 15<sup>th</sup> March, 2022, the pre-shipment verification of conformity program (VoC) for goods imported into Somaliland will be mandatory as of 16<sup>th</sup> April, 2022.

As a consequence, large traders are informed to submit their Certificate of Conformity by this date before shipment.

If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact the Somaliland Ministry of Trade and Tourism.

Mohamoud Hassan Sa'ad  
Minister of Trade, and Tourism  
Republic of Somaliland





# EXPORTER GUIDE TO SOMALILAND



23.02.2023 / 823

# 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.**



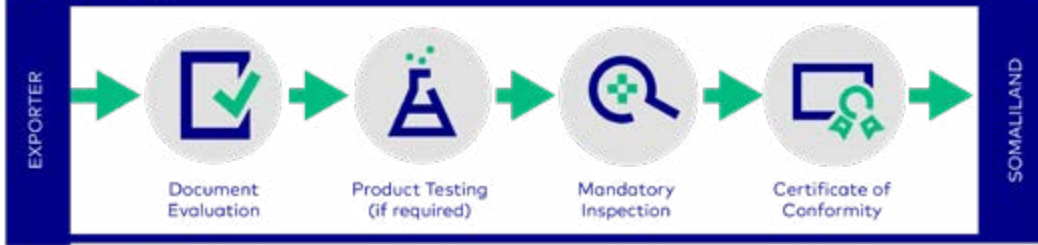
## 4

## CERTIFICATE OF CONFORMITY ROUTES

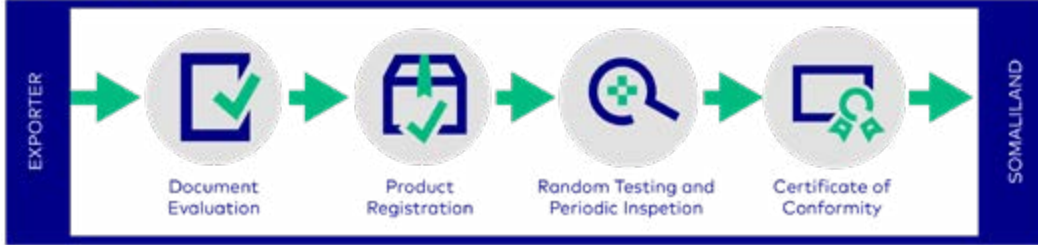
To assess the conformity of a shipment, the VOC process will follow one of the three levels of compliance, named **"routes"**. The choice of the route depends on the profile of the exporter and the nature of the goods.

The Somaliland conformity routes are:

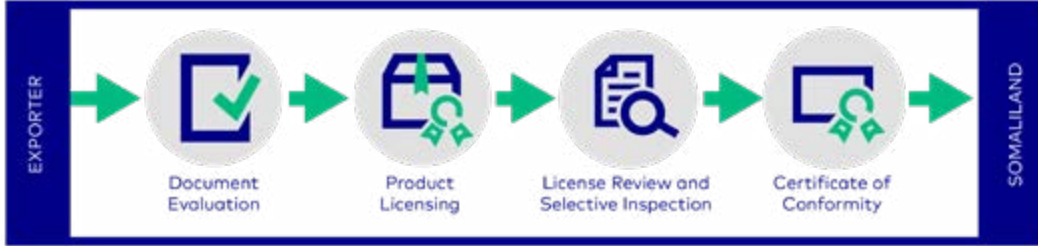
### ROUTE A



### ROUTE B



### ROUTE C



## 5

## 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](#)

**Disclaimer:** This data-sheet has been prepared for information purpose only and is not intended to be nor does it constitute the regulation of the country of importation. Every effort has been made by Cotecna to ensure the accuracy of the information contained herein at the time of its issuance but Cotecna does not guarantee its correctness and takes no responsibility for the contents of this data-sheet, makes no representation as to its accuracy or completeness and expressly disclaims any liability whatsoever for any loss howsoever arising from or in reliance upon the whole or any part of the contents of this data-sheet.



## What We Offer

Cotecna provides tailor-made services to ensure exporters' consignments comply with the Somaliland regulations and standards.

- > A dedicated agent to guide clients through the entire certification process.
- > Conformity assessment in the exporting country including documentary verification, consignment inspection, sampling and testing in in ISO 17025 accredited laboratories.
- > Rapid certification process.

## Certification of Conformity Process

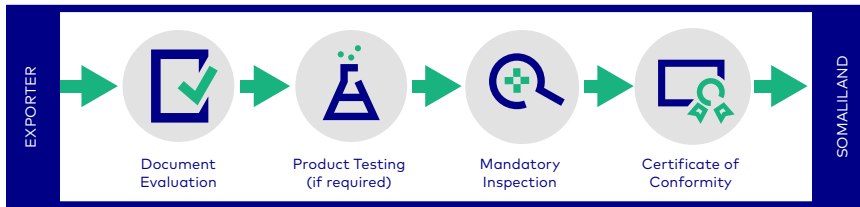
Exporters must take the following steps to obtain COCs:

1. Fill out and submit the Cotecna [Request for Certification](#) (RFC) form.
2. Cotecna will then assess your application and the accompanying documents to determine the certification scope. Certification scope can include product inspection, testing, shipment loading and sealing as required.
3. Report assessment to verify conformity
4. Upon satisfactory results, issue Certificate of Conformity (COC).

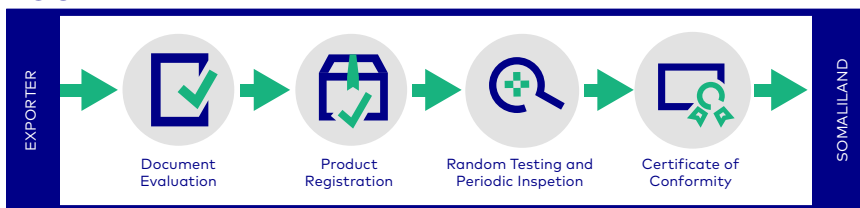
## Certification of Conformity

Somaliland uses three "routes" to determine conformity compliance. The choice of the route depends on the profile of the exporter and nature of goods.

### ROUTE A



### ROUTE B



### ROUTE C

