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# Yearly Newsletter 2024

We are pleased to keep you updated on all the latest developments important to your business in the Saudi market. Below, you'll find the annual summary of the regulatory changes issued by the Saudi Standards, Metrology, and Quality Organization (SASO), ensuring your products are fully aligned with the standards for smooth trading in the Saudi Market. For more information, contact us at [info@tabseergroup.com](mailto:info@tabseergroup.com)



## Saudi Standards, Metrology and Quality Organization (SASO)



الهواصفات السعودية  
Saudi Standards



### «SASO» Approves the Executive Regulations for the Product Safety System

The Saudi Standards, Metrology, and Quality Organization (SASO) approved the Executive Regulations for the Product Safety System, during its 203rd meeting on 15/11/2024.



### «SASO» Approves the Technical Regulation for Tanks

The Saudi Standards, Metrology, and Quality Organization decided to approve the technical regulation for tanks designed for the transportation of dry gas, during its meeting No. (202), held on October 3, 2024.

### «SASO» Approves the Executive Regulations for the Standards and Quality System

The Saudi Standards, Metrology and Quality Organization (SASO) has approved the Executive Regulations for the Standards and Quality System during its 203rd meeting held on November 15, 2024.



## «SASO» approves the Technical Regulation for Special-Use Vehicle Equipment

The Saudi Standards, Metrology and Quality Organization decided during its meeting No. (201), held on 6/27/2024 AD, to approve the technical regulation for special-use vehicle equipment.



## «SASO» approves Technical Regulations for Communications and Information Technology Devices

The Saudi Standards, Metrology and Quality Organization decided during its meeting No. (196), held on 12/28/2023, to approve the technical regulations for communications and information technology devices.



## «SASO» approves the update of the regulation for issuing national recognition certificates

The Saudi Standards, Metrology and Quality Organization has decided during its meeting No. (45), held on 6/1/1445 AH, to approve the update of the regulation for issuing national recognition certificates according to the conformity assessment systems of the International Electrotechnical Organization (IEC) Document No. (M.E-173-19-04-04)



## «SASO» approves the Technical Regulations for Machinery Safety

The Saudi Standards, Metrology and Quality Organization has decided to approve the technical regulations for general requirements for machinery safety, during its meeting No. (196), held on 6/15/1445 AH.

## «SASO» approves Updating the Technical Regulations for Textile Products

The Saudi Standards, Metrology and Quality Organization has decided during its meeting No. (45), held on 01/06/1445 AH, to approve updating the technical regulations for textile products.



## «SASO» approves updating (153) standard specifications

The Saudi Standards, Metrology and Quality Organization has decided during its meeting No. (45), held on 01/06/1445 AH, to approve updating about (153) Saudi standard specifications in several sectors.



## «SASO» approves Amendment of (3) Technical Regulations

The Saudi Standards, Metrology and Quality Organization has decided during its meeting No. (114), held on 14\6\1445 AH, to approve an amendment of about (3) Saudi technical regulations, including:

- Technical regulation for Detergents
- Technical Regulation for Gas Appliances and their Accessories
- Technical Regulation for Paper and Cardboard



## «SASO» Issues A Circular Updating the Procedures for Granting the Saudi Quality Mark

The Saudi Standards, Metrology, and Quality Organization has issued a circular updating the procedures for granting the Saudi Quality Mark for the following products:

- Fiberglass lighting poles
- Iron lighting poles
- Engine radiators
- Fire extinguishers
- Pipe systems and accessories for electrical cable tools
- LPG gas appliances and accessories
- Ceramic tiles



## «SASO» approves updating (89) Standard Specifications

The Saudi Standards, Metrology and Quality Organization decided during its meeting No. (046), held on 12/3/1446 AH, to approve updates to approximately 89 Saudi standard specifications.

This includes around (38) standard specifications adopted from the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC), (33) standards from the International Organization for Standardization (ISO), (12) standards from the International Standard Specifications (ISO/IEC), (4) standards from the American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM), (1) standard specification from the European Committee for Standardization (CEN), and (1) standard from Underwriters Laboratories (UL).



المواصفات السعودية  
Saudi Standards

## «SASO» approves (177) Standard Specifications and adopts (430)

The Saudi Standards, Metrology and Quality Organization has decided to approve about (177) Saudi standard specifications and adopt (430) in several sectors. This comes up during its meeting No. (05/47/2024), held on 6/10/2024 AD.

## «SASO» approves (119) Standard Specifications and adopts (540)

The Saudi Standards, Metrology and Quality Organization has decided during its meeting No. (01/46/2024), held on 3/24/2024, to approve about (119) Saudi standard specifications and adopt ( 5 4 0 ) standard specifications in several sectors.

## «SASO» approves updating (17) Saudi standard specifications

During its 182nd meeting on 11/7/1445 AH, the Saudi Standards, Metrology and Quality Organization decided to approve updates to 17 Saudi standard specifications. These standards, adopted in its language from international and American standard specifications, include (4) from the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC), (2) from the International Organization for Standardization (ISO), and (11) from the American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) in multiple sectors.

## «SASO» approves updating (51) Standard Specifications

The Saudi Standards, Metrology, and Quality Organization decided during its meeting No. (103), held on 29/5/1445 AH, to approve updating approximately (51) Saudi standard specifications adopted in their original language from international and American standard specifications. These include (20) standard specifications adopted by the American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM), (24) adopted by the International Organization for Standardization (ISO), (6) adopted from the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC), and (1) adopted from the joint International Standard Specifications (ISO/IEC).



## The licensing regulations for energy efficiency service providers have been updated and approved

During its meeting No. (2024-01-03) dated 1445/11/09 AH, the Board of Directors of the Saudi Energy Efficiency Center decided to approve updating the licensing regulations for energy efficiency service providers.



## «SASO» Publishes Technical Guide for Technical Regulation for Food Safety of Tools and Appliances Used in the Kitchen

The Saudi Standards, Metrology, and Quality Organization (SASO) has published on its official website the technical guide for food safety regulations related to kitchen tools and devices. This guide outlines the regulatory requirements, the products covered, and how to obtain a certificate of conformity for these products.

## «SASO» Launches Advanced Platform for Technical Inspection Services

The Saudi Standards, Metrology and Quality Organization has launched an advanced platform to provide periodic technical inspection services. This comes as part of its efforts to improve the beneficiary's experience in obtaining periodic technical inspection services and to provide a more accessible and safer experience.



## «SASO» launches the Mobile Periodic Technical Inspection Service



The Saudi Standards, Metrology and Quality Organization launched the mobile periodic technical inspection service, through one of the companies licensed by the authority to provide this type of service, as part of a strategy to develop the quality of periodic technical inspection services and improve the beneficiaries' journey, as (16) mobile stations were licensed.



## January 1, 2025: Implementation of The First Mandatory Phase to Unify Charging Ports for Mobile Phones and Electronic Devices in The Kingdom

The Saudi Standards, Metrology and Quality Organization (SASO) and the Communications, Space & Technology Commission (CST) have announced the launch of the first mandatory phase for unifying charging ports for mobile phones and electronic devices in the Saudi market, set to begin on January 1, 2025. This regulation requires companies and suppliers to standardize charging ports to the "USB Type-C" model, in line with technical and administrative standards outlined in relevant technical regulations.

## SABER Electronic Platform



## SABER launches a chat service between commercial establishments and conformity assessment bodies

The SABER electronic platform has launched a chat service between commercial establishments and conformity assessment bodies. This service enables applicants to communicate directly with the notified body to streamline and accelerate communication between the establishment and the assessment body.



## Importers are required to obtain PCOC and SCOC via SABER

The Saudi Zakat, Tax, and Customs Authority (ZATCA) announced that all importers and companies must register imported products on the SABER electronic platform, starting from January 1, 2025. They will also be required to obtain Product Certificates of Conformity (PCoC) and Shipment Certificates of Conformity (SCoC) to complete shipment clearance procedures and avoid customs clearance issues.



## «SASO» Issues Updates to Technical Regulations in SABER

The Saudi Standards, Metrology and Quality Organization has issued a set of updates to the list of customs items that will be amended in the SABER electronic platform to become subject to technical regulations within 30 days, starting from October 12, 2024.

The updated customs tariff codes include technical regulations for lubricating oils, machinery safety, and building materials.

## «SASO» Introduced a new update to the product and importer declaration form for PCOC Requests

The Saudi Standards, Metrology and Quality Organization (SASO) has introduced a new update to the product and importer declaration form while requesting to obtain the Product Certificate of Conformity (PCOC). These products include Concrete Enhancers, Car Batteries, Rebar, Painted Iron Flats, Galvanized Iron Flats, Ceramics and Porcelain.



# GCC Standardization Organization



## "GSO" Approves (1130) Gulf Standard Specifications

The Technical Council of the Gulf Cooperation Council Standardization Organization approved about 1130 draft Gulf standard specifications during its 59th meeting. The meeting, chaired by Dr. Saad Al-Qasabi, Governor of the Saudi Standards, Metrology and Quality Organization, resulted in a set of decisions and recommendations to support the Gulf standardization process.



## **Adoption of (10) new Gulf technical regulations and withdrawal of (6) rules for several goods and products**

The eighth meeting of the Ministerial Committee for Standardization Affairs of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries took place at the end of October in Doha, the capital of Qatar. Approximately 10 new Gulf technical regulations were approved during the meeting, while 6 existing regulations concerning various goods and products were withdrawn. Additionally, the budget for the Authority for the fiscal year 2025 was approved.

## **Standardization Committee Accredits 17 Gulf Technical Regulations**

The Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Secretary General has adopted 17 new draft Gulf technical regulations for goods and products in different sectors and withdrew 2 draft Gulf technical regulations. The committee also has adopted new Gulf technical regulations and approved the conversion of 39 Gulf technical regulations into Gulf standard specifications.



## **GSO Technical Council Approves (365) Gulf Standards and Technical Regulations**

During its 57th meeting, the Technical Council of the GCC Standardization Organization (GSO) approved (349) new Gulf standards covering a wide range of goods and products.

## **Implementation of Gulf Technical Regulation for Water Conservation Tools Begins**

The GCC Standardization Organization has announced the phased implementation of the Gulf technical regulation for water conservation tools throughout 2024. The organization stated that the regulation will be enforced according to a tailored work plan for each member state, contributing significantly to sustainability efforts and the preservation of vital water resources.



## **Kingdom Wins Membership in SMIC Board of Directors and Accreditation Boards of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC)**

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia won membership in the Standards and Metrology Institute for Islamic Countries (SMIC) and the Standardization and Accreditation Boards of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) for the term (2025-2027). This decision followed its majority vote win in the 2024 elections held during the meetings of the Standards and Metrology Institute for Islamic Countries.



# Saudi Food and Drug Authority



## Modifying and Adding Substances to Registered Ones in Cosmetics Products

In a circular issued by it, the Saudi Food and Drug Authority (SFDA) decided to amend and add materials to the list of restricted materials in cosmetic products and to ban the import and manufacture of products that violate this circular starting from 12/1/2026 AD. The Authority indicated that products circulating in the markets are given a grace period to correct their conditions until 12/1/2028 AD, stressing that after this date, products that do not comply with this circular will be considered in violation, and will be dealt with in accordance with the Cosmetic Products System and its executive regulations.

## Implementation of Clearance Conditions for Cosmetic Product Invoices

The Saudi Food and Drug Authority has confirmed, in a circular, that importers, manufacturers of cosmetic products, and conformity companies must comply with the clearance conditions for cosmetic products and the raw materials used in their production. These conditions require the inclusion of the batch number, manufacturing date, or production date on invoices submitted with clearance requests. This procedure will be enforced for cosmetic product invoices starting from September 19, 2024



## SFDA Updates 'Guidelines and Requirements for Cosmetic Products Listing

The Saudi Food and Drug Authority (SFDA) has recently updated the Guidelines and Requirements for Cosmetic Products Listing to boost consumer awareness of regulatory procedures for product listing and clarify associated requirements. The updates include enhancing access to circulars on cosmetic products and their list of components, as well as revisions to the documents required for account sign-up and product listing in the unified online system (GHAD). Moreover, the updates feature an enhanced listing mechanism and improved access for listers.







## The SFDA approved 16 Gulf Standards Specifications in the Food and Feed Aspect

The Saudi Food and Drug Authority (SFDA) announced the approval of about (16) new Gulf standard specifications in the field of food and feed, which will enter into force soon. The new standards include many products such as meat, dairy products, and others.



## SFDA Outlines Products Requiring Approval Before Advertising

The Saudi Food and Drug Authority (SFDA) has highlighted the importance of obtaining approval before advertising products under its supervision, to ensure their safety and protect public health. The SFDA explained that medical devices, supplies, pesticides, animal feed, food products, and non-prescription medicines are not allowed to be advertised without prior approval from the SFDA.

## SFDA Enables Issuing SCOC from Destination Country in the Cosmetics Sector

The Saudi Food and Drug Authority (SFDA) has announced that obtaining a certificate of conformity (COC) for cosmetic product shipments from the destination country is possible using the "Cosmetic Products Clearance" system. This is done to streamline the import procedures by automating the appointment of conformity companies and electronically submitting clearance requests to accelerate the process of clearing cosmetic product shipments.



## Saudi Arabia has been Elected as Vice-Chair of the Codex Alimentarius Commission

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, represented by the Saudi Food and Drug Authority (SFDA), has been elected to the position of Vice-Chair of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CODEX) for a one-year term during the 47th session of the Commission held in Geneva, receiving the highest number of votes from member states.

**Zakat, Tax and Customs  
Authority (ZATCA)**



هيئة الزكاة والضريبة والجمارك  
Zakat, Tax and Customs Authority



## **Zakat, Tax and Customs Authority issues a guide for shipping brokers**

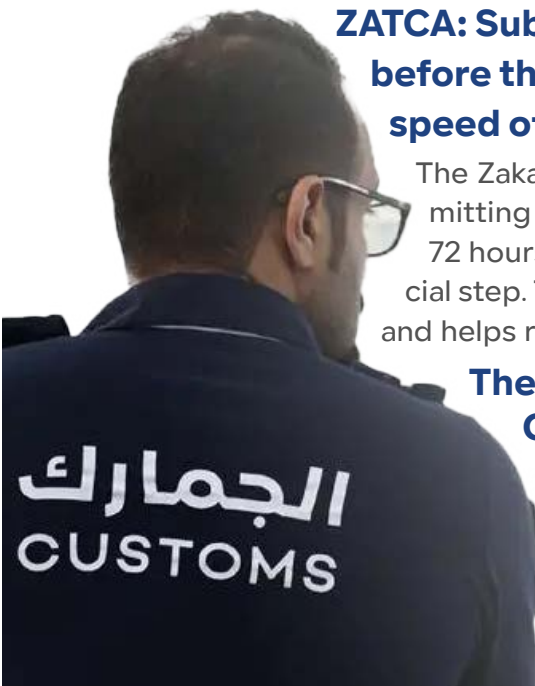
The Zakat, Tax, and Customs Authority has released a guide for shipping brokers that outlines the process for registering licensed shipping brokers at customs ports. This guide details the tasks and responsibilities assigned to shipping brokers following their registration, as well as the requirements for registering authorized individuals on behalf of the shipping broker with the Authority.

## **ZATCA: Submitting the customs declaration 72 hours before the arrival of shipments at ports enhances the speed of clearance and flexibility of customs operations**

The Zakat, Tax, and Customs Authority (ZATCA) has clarified that submitting the customs declaration and required documents for imports 72 hours prior to the arrival of the shipment at customs ports is a crucial step. This process ensures faster goods arrival, expedites clearance and helps reduce import costs.

## **The Official Gazette Publishes Amendments to The Controls Regulating Customs Procedures**

The Official Gazette Umm Al-Qura has published amendments to the controls governing customs procedures, as per Administrative Decision No. (1446-99-485) dated 5/4/1446 AH. These updates address the required documentation in the Unified Customs Procedures Manual and introduce modifications to customs clearance stages.



## **ZATCA updates Rules of Returned Goods Customs Duties Exemptions**

The Zakat, Tax and Customs Authority (ZATCA) has updated the Rules of Returned Goods Customs Duties Exemptions. The new amendments aim to update the requirements for exemption of the returned goods, and address the challenges pertaining to the temporarily exported goods to complete their manufacture or repair abroad.



## **The Official Gazette publishes the "Controls Regulating Customs Procedures"**

The Official Gazette, "Umm Al-Qura," has published the "Controls Regulating Customs Procedures" in its issue dated December 29, 2023. These controls were issued under Administrative Resolution No. (28624) on 5/23/1445 AH.

# Saudi Export Development Authority



المصدرات السعودية  
هيئة تنمية المصدرات السعودية



## Saudi Exports launches the Saudi Exports Incentive Program Guide

The Saudi Export Development Authority has launched the first electronic version of the Saudi Exports Incentive Program guide, which includes an introductory overview of the program, the most prominent incentives offered to exporters, the mechanism for submitting applications, and the conditions for benefiting from them.

Through this initiative, the authority aims to encourage Saudi companies to explore and expand into new global markets. The program offers nine targeted incentives, all designed in compliance with World Trade Organization (WTO) standards, to support exporters in achieving international success.



## Saudi Exports Introduces Customs Exemption for Export

The Saudi Export Development Authority has launched a new service, "Exemption for Export," aimed at boosting Saudi Arabia's industrial competitiveness. The initiative, developed in collaboration with the Ministry of Industry and Mineral Resources, allows industrial companies to benefit from customs duty exemptions on inputs used for the production of export goods, aligning with the Kingdom's Vision 2030 goal of diversifying the economy and boosting non-oil exports.

## Saudi Exports launches "Import from Saudi Arabia" service to enhance the presence of national products in global markets

The Saudi Export Development Authority has launched the "Import from Saudi Arabia" service, which aims to connect international importers with Saudi exporters to facilitate the import process and deliver national products to new global markets.



## Saudi Arabia ranks first in the Arab world and 20th globally in the "Quality Infrastructure for Sustainable Development" index

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia ranked first in the Arab region, in the Middle East and North Africa, and secured the twentieth position globally according to the Quality Infrastructure Index for Sustainable Development (QI4SD) for 2024. This index, published every two years by the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), shows that the Kingdom has advanced 25 ranks compared to the 2022 index.

