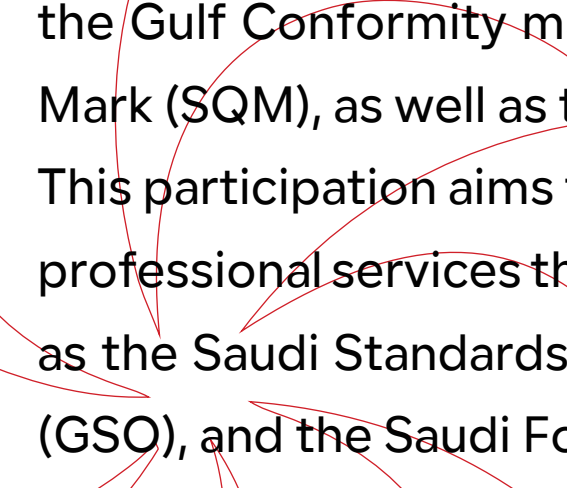


The Monthly Newsletter

This newsletter will document all industry and importation-related developments in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.



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"Tabseer" Participates in Canton Fair 2025 to Boost Presence in Chinese Market

Tabseer has announced its participation in the 137th session of the Canton Fair 2025, currently underway in Guangzhou, China. This move underscores the company's efforts to strengthen its services within the Chinese market and provide technical support to manufacturers and exporters keen on entering the Saudi and Gulf markets.

Tabseer showcased its comprehensive suite of services at booth numbers M06–M07. These services include the Gulf Conformity marking (G-Mark), the Saudi Product Conformity Certificate (PCoC), the Saudi Quality Mark (SQM), as well as technical consultations, translation, and technical review of documentation.

This participation aims to facilitate exports to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Gulf countries by offering professional services that ensure compliance with regulations and standards approved by official bodies such as the Saudi Standards, Metrology and Quality Organization (SASO), the GCC Standardization Organization (GSO), and the Saudi Food and Drug Authority (SFDA).

The Canton Fair, held biannually since 1957, is a prominent global trade platform that gathers thousands of manufacturers, buyers, and suppliers from across the globe. It covers a wide range of sectors including electronics, industrial equipment, consumer goods, and building materials, among others.

Recognized as one of the world's largest trade fairs, the Canton Fair attracts thousands of exhibitors from diverse industries and fields. It serves as a key meeting point for exporters, manufacturers, and buyers from over 200 countries, providing a strategic opportunity for forging partnerships and enhancing prospects for international market expansion.

"Tabseer" Engages with Business Leaders at Saudi-French Networking Event 2025

Tabseer participated in the Saudi-French Networking Event 2025, organised by the Saudi-French Business Council (CAFS). The event, held at the Federation of Saudi Chambers in Riyadh, brought together prominent business leaders and investors from both Saudi Arabia and France, alongside official figures and international guests. The initiative aimed to foster quality opportunities for expanding trade partnerships and strengthening communication between the business sectors of the two nations.

Tabseer's involvement in this high-profile event aligns with its broader strategy of enhancing international relations and exploring collaboration opportunities with global partners. This participation is geared towards expanding the scope of its services and reinforcing its presence in both the local and international economic landscape. Furthermore, Tabseer sought to strengthen ties with international manufacturers and suppliers, highlighting its role in facilitating product entry into markets with full compliance to technical specifications and standards, ultimately contributing to enhanced product quality and consumer protection.

Saudi Standards Mandate Importers to Provide Ministry of Industry-Approved Declaration for Shipment Certificates

The Saudi Standards, Metrology and Quality Organization (SASO) has issued a new circular mandating that, effective April 2025 ,17, importers must complete a declaration form approved by the Ministry of Industry and Mineral Resources when applying for shipment certificates through the SABER electronic platform.

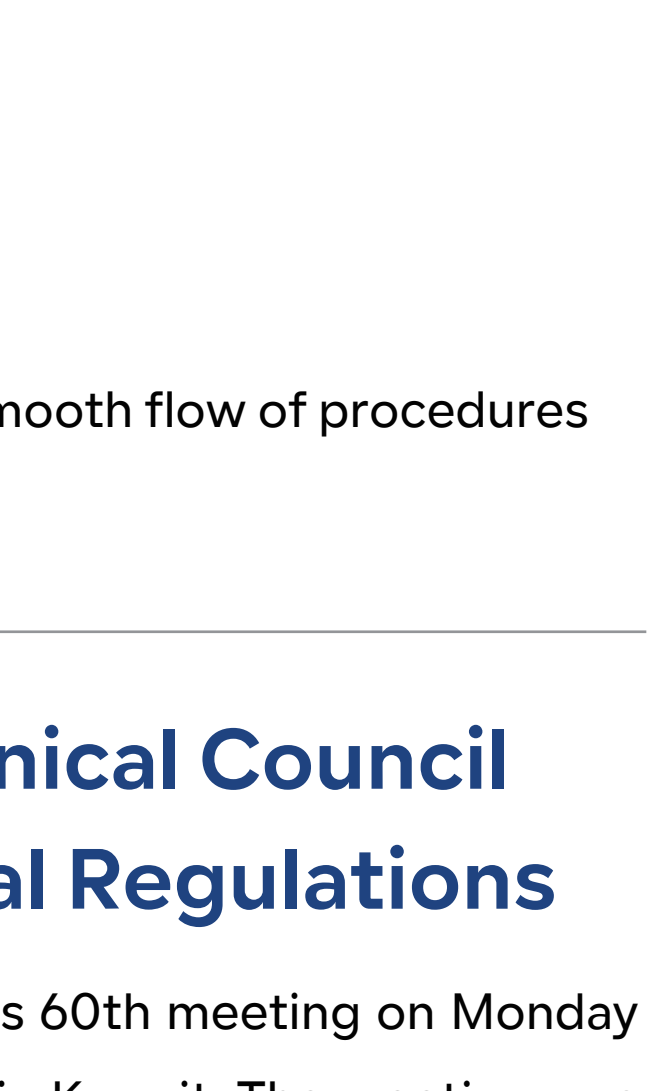
SASO emphasized that this declaration will be a fundamental component of the technical file attached to issued certificates. The organization stated that this step is part of ongoing efforts to enhance compliance with the technical and regulatory requirements for imported products.

Furthermore, SASO clarified that random samples will continue to be drawn from shipment certificates issued through the system to verify the availability of the approved declaration, particularly for newly added products or those previously covered by earlier circulars.

The circular specifically includes the following products under this new requirement:

- Cardboard paper
- Formica sheets
- Baby diapers
- Plastic pipes
- Earthenware pipes

SASO urged all importers to adhere to these new instructions to ensure the smooth flow of procedures and avoid delays or rejection of shipments at customs ports.



GCC Standardization Organization's Technical Council Endorses New Gulf Standards and Technical Regulations

Technical Council of the GCC Standardization Organization (GSO) convened its 60th meeting on Monday and Tuesday, Shawwal 1446 ,24-23 AH, corresponding to April 2025 ,22-21 AD, in Kuwait. The meeting was hosted by the Public Authority for Industry and saw the participation of the Saudi Standards, Metrology and Quality Organization (SASO), heads of national standardization bodies from member states, the President of the GSO, and a representative from the General Secretariat of the Gulf Cooperation Council.

During the session, the Council adopted a number of significant decisions in the field of standardization, including:

- Adoption of (199) new Gulf Standard Specifications.
- Approval of (7) draft Gulf Technical Regulations.
- Conversion of (221) Gulf Technical Regulations into Standard Specifications.
- Adoption of (15) translation projects for Gulf Standards and Technical Regulations.

This move aligns with the GSO's efforts to bolster economic integration among GCC member states and facilitate trade exchange by unifying technical standards and specifications at the Gulf level.

The Council also approved the action plans of the Gulf technical committees and adopted the general framework for the GSO's strategic plan for 2030-2026 AD. This aims to enhance the progress of Gulf standardization and support the GSO's objectives in achieving economic integration and facilitating trade among member states through the harmonization of technical specifications and standards.

Saudi Standards Organization Holds Workshop on Product Safety, Standards, and Quality Systems

Riyadh, Saudi Arabia: In a move underscoring its national role in promoting quality and safety, the Saudi Standards, Metrology and Quality Organization (SASO) convened an introductory workshop aimed at enhancing understanding of the product safety, standards, and quality systems. The workshop witnessed the attendance and participation of over 250 specialists from both the public and private sectors.

The workshop's objectives centered on highlighting the vital role of these two systems in ensuring consumer safety, as well as defining the responsibilities associated with placing and offering products in the Saudi market and the necessary compliance monitoring measures. Discussions also addressed the importance of improving the quality of products and services, thereby boosting market confidence and ensuring fair competition.

The workshop program featured an interactive session that covered several key themes, including the quality infrastructure and its components, alongside a review of relevant international studies and experiences.

Saudi Standards Officials Conclude Asian Outreach to Showcase Product Safety Services and Initiatives

The Saudi Standards, Metrology and Quality Organization (SASO) has concluded its Asian outreach tour, led by SASO Governor Dr. Saad bin Othman Al-Kasabi and involving SASO officials. The tour included visits to the Republic of Singapore, the Kingdom of Thailand, the Kingdom of Malaysia, and the Republic of Indonesia. The primary objective was to introduce the Saudi Product Safety Program, conformity assessment procedures, and the requirements for accessing local markets in the Kingdom in accordance with newly adopted regulations. This initiative aligns with SASO's efforts to showcase its services and initiatives to international manufacturers and exporters, aiming to elevate product safety levels in the markets through active engagement with relevant stakeholders. The tour also served to clarify the requirements of technical regulations, the implementation of conformity assessment procedures within the Product Safety Program, the harmonization of quality infrastructure concepts, and the enhancement of trade exchange.

The outreach also involved bilateral meetings with counterpart organizations, in addition to workshops designed to address key challenges faced by manufacturers and exporters in those countries. The overarching goals were to bolster bilateral trade in products and services and to strengthen strategic partnerships.

Zakat, Tax and Customs Authority Begins Issuing Licenses for Customs Consulting Profession

The Zakat, Tax and Customs Authority (ZATCA) has announced the commencement of accepting applications for licenses to practice the customs consulting profession for those interested in working in this field. This initiative aligns with regulations and requirements aimed at developing the customs consulting sector, enhancing the quality of services, and improving their efficiency to meet the aspirations of the logistics and commercial sectors in the Kingdom.

This move is part of ZATCA's ongoing efforts to foster a business-friendly environment characterized by transparency and efficiency in customs services, streamline customs procedures, and support the investment climate in the Kingdom. It is also in line with the objectives of Saudi Vision 2030 and contributes to ensuring the provision of reliable consulting services to commercial establishments, importers, and exporters, thereby supporting the Kingdom's goals towards building an integrated and economically stimulating customs system.

Through this step, ZATCA seeks to regulate the profession and establish standards for its practice, ensuring the qualification of highly competent customs consultants capable of providing accurate professional services that contribute to facilitating business, reducing costs for establishments, and ensuring compliance with customs regulations and laws.

Zakat, Tax and Customs Authority Launches "Asshamat" Initiative to Bolster Internal Audit in Government Entities

Riyadh, Saudi Arabia: The Zakat, Tax and Customs Authority (ZATCA) has launched "Asshamat," an initiative stemming from the core values and vision of internal audit within the Authority. This program is designed to support the objectives of government work governance, strengthen the role of internal audit across government agencies, and contribute to enhancing the efficiency and quality of internal audit activities through the sharing of expertise and knowledge, and the adoption of leading practices and models in the field.

The "Asshamat" initiative is built upon a set of ZATCA's strategic values, emphasizing adherence to professional standards, ensuring the integrity, evaluation, and enhancement of internal and self-control systems, and fostering an institutional environment that underscores the role of internal audit in promoting compliance with internal and external regulations, laws, and bylaws.

Furthermore, it aims to contribute to the achievement of ZATCA's strategic goals, alongside the development of a sustainable and highly skilled audit team, the pursuit of operational excellence, and the facilitation of the digital transformation of internal audit functions.

Zakat, Tax and Customs Committees Publish 2024 Customs Principles Compendium

The General Secretariat of the Zakat, Tax and Customs Committees has published the "Compendium of Principles Extracted from the Decisions of the Customs Appeal Committee for the Year 2024 AD" on its website. This initiative is a continuation of the General Secretariat's efforts aimed at raising awareness and enhancing transparency and accountability towards stakeholders and those interested in customs issues.

The compendium aims to clarify the principles derived from the decisions of the Customs Appeal Committee, thereby forming a comprehensive and integrated reference for members of customs departments, researchers, academics, and all stakeholders and those interested in matters related to customs transactions.

The compendium includes a range of principles, covering both procedural and substantive aspects, including those related to prohibited and restricted goods, and customs duties. It details the facts, reasons, and decisions pertaining to each extracted principle, with the principles categorized and classified by subject matter, enhancing the scientific and practical value of the compendium.

Implementing Regulations for Monitoring and Compliance with Water Efficiency and Conservation Standards Issued

The National Water Efficiency and Conservation Center has issued the "Implementing Regulations for Monitoring and Compliance with Water Efficiency and Conservation Standards." Mandatory implementation of these regulations will commence on Shawwal 1447 ,2 AH, corresponding to March 2026 ,21 AD. This step is part of ongoing efforts to enhance commitment to water efficiency and conservation across urban, agricultural, and industrial sectors, contributing to the achievement of water sustainability in line with the objectives of Saudi Vision 2030.

The National Water Efficiency and Conservation Center stated that the regulations comprise 15 key articles, covering their objectives and scope of application, water efficiency and conservation compliance standards, the roles and responsibilities of the Center and other relevant entities, as well as violations, monitoring and referral mechanisms, and concluding provisions.

The Center emphasized that these regulations aim to establish a comprehensive mechanism to ensure commitment to water efficiency and conservation for the realization of water sustainability. They also aim to guarantee the implementation of the Center's strategic plan and compliance with water efficiency and conservation standards, in addition to addressing the existing gap in monitoring and compliance, integrating with relevant authorities to enhance water efficiency and conservation, and ultimately establishing the legal basis for the monitoring mechanism and activating regulatory roles.

Saudi Arabia and Egypt Deepen Economic Partnership with Over \$35 Billion in Investments and \$16.3 Billion Trade in 2024

The Egyptian capital hosted the Saudi-Egyptian Investment Forum under the theme "Strategic Partnership for Development," reflecting the strong economic ties between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Arab Republic of Egypt. The event witnessed the participation of high-ranking officials, ministers, and business leaders from both sides, coinciding with a meeting of the Saudi-Egyptian Business Council organized by the Federation of Saudi Chambers in Cairo.

Participants emphasized the importance of bolstering the economic partnership and leveraging the comparative advantages of each country. Saudi investments in Egypt have reached approximately \$35 billion, and both nations aim to increase this figure to \$50 billion within the next four years. Furthermore, the volume of trade exchange in 2024 recorded over 61.1 billion Saudi Riyals (\$16.3 billion), marking a %29 growth compared to the previous year.

The Egyptian government highlighted the existence of around 6,000 investment licenses for Egyptian companies in Saudi Arabia, employing more than 80,000 individuals, concentrated in sectors such as construction, industry, and trade.

The economic partnership between the Kingdom and Egypt was strengthened by the signing of an "Agreement on the Encouragement and Protection of Mutual Investments" during the visit of His Royal Highness Prince Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, Crown Prince and Prime Minister, 1 to Cairo in October 2024. This agreement is considered a pivotal step in stimulating bilateral investments and providing a secure legal environment that supports investors in both countries.

Officials announced the establishment of new units and initiatives to facilitate the work of Saudi investors, including a dedicated unit for Saudi investments in Egypt, plans to establish a joint real estate fund, and the organization of a Saudi-Egyptian real estate forum.

The forum concluded with the signing of several memoranda of understanding between Saudi and Egyptian companies, further solidifying the two countries' commitment to comprehensive economic cooperation that supports sustainable development and serves the interests of the brotherly nations.

Saudi Food and Drug Authority Launches Pharmaceutical Innovation Conference with Wide Government and Academic Participation

The Saudi Food and Drug Authority (SFDA) inaugurated the Pharmaceutical Innovation Conference at its headquarters in Riyadh, coinciding with World Creativity and Innovation Day. The event saw the participation of representatives from relevant ministries, universities, and research centers.

The conference was attended by prominent entities such as the Ministries of Health, Industry, and Investment, the Saudi Authority for Intellectual Property, and the Research and Development Authority, in addition to King Saud University and the National Institute for Health Research, underscoring the conference's significance in supporting the future of pharmaceutical innovation both locally and globally.

The conference sessions addressed crucial themes including government support for innovation, drug development, the role of artificial intelligence in discovering treatments, as well as the regulatory aspects of innovative therapies and World Health Organization initiatives.

The conference is part of the SFDA's efforts to promote research and innovation and achieve its vision of being a global leader in the safety and quality of pharmaceutical preparations, in line with its fourth strategic plan.