

The Annual Newsletter 2025



To keep you updated on developments that may impact your business in the Saudi market, we offer an annual summary outlining the most significant regulatory changes issued by the Saudi Standards, Metrology and Quality Organization (SASO) and the Saudi Food and Drug Authority (SFDA). This summary also includes relevant updates from the Zakat, Tax and Customs Authority, as well as the Gulf Standardization Organization (GSO) on products intended for distribution and sale within the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Saudi Standards (SASO)

SASO Updates Technical Regulations for Electric Vehicles

The Saudi Standards, Metrology and Quality Organization (SASO) approved updates to the technical regulations for electric vehicles during its 40th meeting, held on September 20, 2024. These regulations apply to "M" and "N" category electric vehicles with design speeds exceeding 25 km/h.

New Licensing Service Launched for Private Laboratories

SASO has announced the launch of a dedicated licensing service for private laboratories via the "SASO Gate" portal (sasogate.sasq.gov.sa). The service streamlines the licensing process for inspection, testing, and calibration in accordance with the executive regulations of the Private Laboratories Law.

SASO Issues New Guidelines for Technical Regulations

As part of the Saudi Product Safety Program, SASO has released a set of guidance manuals for various technical regulations. The initiative aims to enhance consumer protection, ensure public safety, and preserve the environment by verifying that market products comply with approved standards and technical requirements.

SASO and SDIAA Integrate Services into "Tawakkalin" App

In a move to bolster digital transformation, SASO has collaborated with the Saudi Data and AI Authority (SDIAA) to integrate specialized services into the "Tawakkalin" application. Users can now verify the validity of energy efficiency labels for appliances (such as ACs, refrigerators, and heaters), check tire efficiency, access fuel economy data, and track periodic motor vehicle inspection (MPI) status.

95 New Saudi Standards Approved

During its 10th meeting on January 2025, the Board of Directors of SASO approved the adoption of approximately 95 new Saudi standard specifications across various industrial and commercial sectors.

"Buy Quality" Campaign Promotes Saudi Quality Mark

SASO has launched an awareness campaign titled "Buy Quality" to educate consumers on the importance of selecting products bearing the Saudi Quality Mark. The campaign encourages the use of the "Tawakkil" app to verify product validity, ensuring high standards of efficiency and safety.

SASO Achieves Level 4 Enterprise Architecture Maturity

The Digital Government Authority has awarded SASO the National Enterprise Architecture Accreditation at Maturity Level 4. SASO is the first government entity within the economic and development ecosystem to reach this milestone.

Importers Required to Submit Ministry of Industry Declaration via SABER

Effective April 2025, SASO will require importers to provide a declaration approved by the Ministry of Industry and Mineral Resources when requesting shipment certificates via the SABER platform. This declaration will become a mandatory component of the technical file. SASO confirmed it will continue random sampling of certificates to ensure compliance.

Adoption of 50 New Standard Specifications

At its 14th meeting on March 2025, SASO approved the adoption of 50 new Saudi standards and the formal endorsement of two additional international standards across multiple sectors.

Energy Efficiency Regulations Updated for Air Conditioners

SASO has announced updates to several specifications within the General Technical Regulation for Energy Efficiency. Effective December 2024, new requirements will apply to large-capacity air conditioners regarding performance and testing, as well as minimum energy performance standards (MEPS) and labeling for small-capacity window and split-unit ACs.

Saudi Arabia Presides Presidency of SMIC

For the third consecutive term, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has been elected to chair the Board of Directors of the Standards and Metrology Institute for Islamic Countries (SMIC) for the 2027-2025 cycle.

SASO Urges Importers to Verify Vehicle Compliance via SABER

SASO has renewed its call for individual importers of new and used vehicles to utilize the "SABER" platform before shipping. The service allows for pre-shipment verification of technical compliance, helping importers avoid shipment rejection. The platform enables electronic issuance of shipment certificates following inspection in the country of origin.

"Plan for the Future" Campaign Targets Manufacturers

SASO launched the "Plan for the Future" (Al-Misbah Li-Baileen) campaign to raise awareness among industrial facilities regarding Management System Standards. The campaign highlights how these systems improve product quality, enhance customer trust, and ensure sustainable business growth.

Second Phase of Energy Efficiency for Dishwashers to Begin

SASO has confirmed that starting December 2025, it will cease the registration of any new certificates of conformity for dishwashers that do not meet the Phase 2 energy efficiency requirements (SASO 3029/2023).

Mandatory Industry Declarations Effective Immediately

As of September 2025, SASO has made it mandatory for importers of specified products to submit a Ministry of Industry and Mineral Resources-approved declaration form to obtain approval for shipment certificates.

Kingdom Wins Seat on ISO Technical Management Board

Represented by SASO, Saudi Arabia has won membership in the Technical Management Board (TMB) of the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) for the 2028-2028 term, reflecting the Kingdom's growing influence in global standard-setting.

First Quality Mark Issued for CO2-Cured Concrete

In a significant step toward a Circular Carbon Economy, SASO-supported by the Ministry of Environment, Water and Agriculture (MoEWA) has issued the first-ever Quality Mark for CO2-cured concrete. This initiative aims to reduce carbon emissions and supports Saudi Arabia's goal of reaching Net Zero by 2060.

New Directives on Refrigerant Gases for Cooling Units

SASO has clarified that R-22 gas is restricted until the end of 2029, with a total import ban effective in 2030. All conformity assessment bodies must issue certificates for air conditioning and refrigeration units.

Two Key Energy Efficiency Standards Updated

SASO has updated two Saudi national standards related to energy efficiency within the General Technical Regulation for Energy Efficiency.

SABER Updates Technical Regulations on SABER

The Saudi Standards, Metrology and Quality Organization (SASO) has announced an update to several customs codes on the SABER platform. Effective January 2025, these items will officially fall under mandatory technical regulations.

SABER Updates Customs Codes for Building Materials

SASO has announced a revision of customs codes for building materials will be on the SABER platform. Regulations starting March 2025, importers and manufacturers will have 30 days to update to comply with the new requirements. The Technical Regulation for Building Materials - Part 1: General Requirements for Building and Construction, aims at ensuring quality and safety.

New Customs Code Update Launched via SABER

SASO has released a new update for customs codes on the SABER platform. Starting June 2025, a technical regulation will be introduced, subject to alignment with the latest updates from the Zakat, Tax and Customs Authority (ZATCA).

Mandatory Shipment Conformity Certificates

Effective October 2025, it will be mandatory to include a Shipment Conformity Certificate on the SABER platform for all products, whether they are obtained before the issuance of the customs declaration to ensure seamless entry into the Saudi market.

Wide-Ranging Updates to Customs Codes for Regulated Products

SASO has announced further updates to customs codes on the SABER platform, set to take effect 30 days after publication. The regulations will cover several technical regulations, including:

- Paper and cardboard products
- Telecommunications and information technology (IT) devices
- Electronics and cleaning and maintenance products

Amusement Park Equipment Subject to New Regulations

SABER has released updated customs codes on the SABER platform, effective January 2025. These regulations will cover amusement park equipment, including:

- Amusement park devices that meet international safety and operational standards
- Amusement park devices that do not meet international safety and operational standards

145 International Standards to be Translated in Arabic

The Arabic Translation Management Group held its 15th meeting at the GSO headquarters on February 25-26, 2025. The group standardized 145 projects for translation, encompassing technical terminology and standards across the Arab world.

GSO Technical Council Adopts New Gulf Standards and Technical Specifications

The Technical Council of the GSO Standardization Organization (GSO) convened its 10th meeting in Kuwait on April 2025, 22-23. The council reached several landmark decisions to enhance the regional standardization landscape, including:

- Adoption of 19 new draft Gulf technical regulations
- Standardization of technical regulations into Gulf standards
- Adoption of 15 translation projects for Gulf standards and technical regulations

GSO Technical Council Issues Major Updates in Gulf Standardization

During its 10th meeting, the GSO Technical Council issued major updates to the regional standardization landscape. Key outcomes include:

- Approval of 14 draft Gulf technical regulations
- Standardization of technical regulations into Gulf standards
- Adoption of 15 existing Gulf standards and technical regulations

14 New Regulations to be Adopted by GSO

In its 10th meeting, the GSO Technical Council for Standardization Affairs adopted a series of executive decisions to streamline regional standards and safety.

14 New Regulations to be Adopted by GSO

In its 10th meeting, the GSO Technical Council for Standardization Affairs adopted a series of executive decisions to streamline regional standards and safety.

14 New Regulations to be Adopted by GSO

In its 10th meeting, the GSO Technical Council for Standardization Affairs adopted a series of executive decisions to streamline regional standards and safety.

14 New Regulations to be Adopted by GSO

In its 10th meeting, the GSO Technical Council for Standardization Affairs adopted a series of executive decisions to streamline regional standards and safety.

14 New Regulations to be Adopted by GSO

In its 10th meeting, the GSO Technical Council for Standardization Affairs adopted a series of executive decisions to streamline regional standards and safety.

14 New Regulations to be Adopted by GSO

In its 10th meeting, the GSO Technical Council for Standardization Affairs adopted a series of executive decisions to streamline regional standards and safety.

14 New Regulations to be Adopted by GSO

In its 10th meeting, the GSO Technical Council for Standardization Affairs adopted a series of executive decisions to streamline regional standards and safety.

14 New Regulations to be Adopted by GSO

In its 10th meeting, the GSO Technical Council for Standardization Affairs adopted a series of executive decisions to streamline regional standards and safety.

14 New Regulations to be Adopted by GSO

In its 10th meeting, the GSO Technical Council for Standardization Affairs adopted a series of executive decisions to streamline regional standards and safety.

14 New Regulations to be Adopted by GSO

In its 10th meeting, the GSO Technical Council for Standardization Affairs adopted a series of executive decisions to streamline regional standards and safety.

14 New Regulations to be Adopted by GSO

In its 10th meeting, the GSO Technical Council for Standardization Affairs adopted a series of executive decisions to streamline regional standards and safety.

14 New Regulations to be Adopted by GSO

In its 10th meeting, the GSO Technical Council for Standardization Affairs adopted a series of executive decisions to streamline regional standards and safety.

14 New Regulations to be Adopted by GSO

In its 10th meeting, the GSO Technical Council for Standardization Affairs adopted a series of executive decisions to streamline regional standards and safety.

14 New Regulations to be Adopted by GSO

In its 10th meeting, the GSO Technical Council for Standardization Affairs adopted a series of executive decisions to streamline regional standards and safety.

14 New Regulations to be Adopted by GSO

In its 10th meeting, the GSO Technical Council for Standardization Affairs adopted a series of executive decisions to streamline regional standards and safety.

14 New Regulations to be Adopted by GSO

In its 10th meeting, the GSO Technical Council for Standardization Affairs adopted a series of executive decisions to streamline regional standards and safety.

14 New Regulations to be Adopted by GSO

In its 10th meeting, the GSO Technical Council for Standardization Affairs adopted a series of executive decisions to streamline regional standards and safety.

14 New Regulations to be Adopted by GSO

In its 10th meeting, the GSO Technical Council for Standardization Affairs adopted a series of executive decisions to streamline regional standards and safety.

14 New Regulations to be Adopted by GSO

In its 10th meeting, the GSO Technical Council for Standardization Affairs adopted a series of executive decisions to streamline regional standards and safety.

14 New Regulations to be Adopted by GSO

In its 10th meeting, the GSO Technical Council for Standardization Affairs adopted a series of executive decisions to streamline regional standards and safety.

14 New Regulations to be Adopted by GSO

In its 10th meeting, the GSO Technical Council for Standardization Affairs adopted a series of executive decisions to streamline regional standards and safety.

14 New Regulations to be Adopted by GSO

In its 10th meeting, the GSO Technical Council for Standardization Affairs adopted a series of executive decisions to streamline regional standards and safety.

14 New Regulations to be Adopted by GSO

In its 10th meeting, the GSO Technical Council for Standardization Affairs adopted a series of executive decisions to streamline regional standards and safety.

14 New Regulations to be Adopted by GSO

In its 10th meeting, the GSO Technical Council for Standardization Affairs adopted a series of executive decisions to streamline regional standards and safety.

14 New Regulations to be Adopted by GSO

In its 10th meeting, the GSO Technical Council for Standardization Affairs adopted a series of executive decisions to streamline regional standards and safety.

14 New Regulations to be Adopted by GSO

In its 10th meeting, the GSO Technical Council for Standardization Affairs adopted a series of executive decisions to streamline regional standards and safety.

14 New Regulations to be Adopted by GSO

In its 10th meeting, the GSO Technical Council for Standardization Affairs adopted a series of executive decisions to streamline regional standards and safety.

14 New Regulations to be Adopted by GSO

In its 10th meeting, the GSO Technical Council for Standardization Affairs adopted a series of executive decisions to streamline regional standards and safety.

14 New Regulations to be Adopted by GSO

In its 10th meeting, the GSO Technical Council for Standardization Affairs adopted a series of executive decisions to streamline regional standards and safety.

14 New Regulations to be Adopted by GSO

In its 10th meeting, the GSO Technical Council for Standardization Affairs adopted a series of executive decisions to streamline regional standards and safety.

14 New Regulations to be Adopted by GSO

In its 10th meeting, the GSO Technical Council for Standardization Affairs adopted a series of executive decisions to streamline regional standards and safety.

14 New Regulations to be Adopted by GSO