



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.

المنشآت السعودية Saudi Standards



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 48th meeting, held on September 2024, 17. 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 (sasoqa.sas.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 SDAIA Integrate Services into "Tawakkalna" App

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



95 New Saudi Standards Approved
During its 107th meeting on January 2025, 8, 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 "Ta'asak" 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 Declarations via SABER

Effective April 2025, 17, 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 60 New Standard Specifications
At its 140th meeting on March 2025, 23, SASO approved the adoption of 58 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 2026, 1, 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 A/Cs.



Saudi Arabia Preserves 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 2027-2029 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 Target Manufacturers
SASO launched the "Plan for the Future" (Alhizba Le Ba'deen) 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, 31, it will cease the registration of any new certificates of conformity for dishwashers that do not meet the Phase 2 energy efficiency requirements (SASO 3029:2025).



Mandatory Industry Declarations Effective Immediately
As of September 2025, 15, 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 2028-2026 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 Energy—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 now explicitly state the type of refrigerant used in certificates issued for air conditioning and refrigeration units.



Two Key Energy Efficiency Standards Updated
SASO has updated two major specifications listed under the "List of Products Subject to Energy Efficiency Requirements" within the General Technical Regulation for Energy Efficiency.

سابر saber



SASO Updates Technical Regulations on SABER Platform
The Saudi Standards, Metrology and Quality Organization (SASO) has announced an update to several customs codes on the SABER electronic platform. Effective February 2025, 5 (15 days from the announcement on January 21), these items will officially fall under mandatory technical regulations. The update focuses on telecommunications equipment, including:

- Railway and tramway signaling and control equipment.
- Specialized telecommunications instruments and tools.
- Interference factor meters.
- Telephone conversation measurement devices.

SABER Updates Customs Codes for Building Materials

SASO has announced a revision of customs codes for building materials on the SABER platform. These products will be subject to technical regulations starting March 2025, 17. Importers and manufacturers have been granted a 30-day grace period to comply with the new requirements. The updates specifically target products under the Technical Regulation for Building Materials - Part I: Sectors of Metals and their Alloys for Buildings and Constructions, aimed at bolstering quality and safety standards.



New Customs Code Updates Launched via SABER
SASO has scheduled a new wave of updates for customs codes on the SABER platform. Starting June 2025, 4, a specific set of items will become subject to technical regulations following a 30-day notice period. Additionally, SASO confirmed that certain customs codes will be replaced effective June 2025, 1, to align with the latest updates from the Zakat, Tax and Customs Authority (ZATCA).

Mandatory Shipment Conformity Certificates Effective October 1

Beginning October 2025, 1, it will be mandatory to issue a Shipment Conformity Certificate via the SABER platform for all products, whether they are regulated or non-regulated. This certificate must be 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 July 2025, 24. The revised codes will apply to products governed by several technical regulations, including:

- Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and clothing.
- Paper and cardboard products.
- Detergents and cleaning agents.
- Telecommunications and Information Technology (IT) devices.

Amusement Park Equipment Subject to New SABER Updates

Amusement Park rides and equipment are the latest categories to see updated customs codes on the SABER platform. SASO announced that these items will fall under the relevant technical regulations starting October 2025, 15 (30 days from the September 15 announcement). The updates aim to ensure that all entertainment and amusement park devices meet rigorous safety and operational standards.



**هيئة التقييس الخليجية
Gulf Standardization Organization**



General Standards Committee Approves 1,140 Draft GSO Standards for 2025
The General Committee for Standards, during its 43rd meeting held at the GCC Standardization Organization (GSO) headquarters in Riyadh, has approved 1,140 draft GSO standards for the year 2025. These projects are part of the extensive work programs scheduled for the Gulf technical committees throughout the current year.

145 International Standards to be Translated in Collaboration with ISO

The Arabic Translation Management Group held its 15th meeting at the GSO headquarters from February 25-24, 2025. The group approved 145 projects for the translation of international standards, which will be published in coordination with the International Organization for Standardization (ISO). Additionally, the group greenlit its 2025 technical work program, encompassing 153 projects aimed at unifying technical terminology and standards across the Arab world.



GSO Technical Council Adopts New Gulf Standards and Regulations in Kuwait
The Technical Council of the GCC Standardization Organization convened its 60th meeting in Kuwait on April 2025, 22-21. The Council reached several landmark decisions to enhance the regional standardization framework, including:

- Adoption of 199 new Gulf standards.
- 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.

GSO Technical Council Issues Major Updates in 61st Meeting

During its 61st meeting, the GSO Technical Council issued a comprehensive suite of decisions to update the regional regulatory landscape. Key outcomes include:

- Approval of 14 draft Gulf technical regulations.
- Adoption of 981 draft Gulf standards.
- Conversion of 25 technical regulations into standard specifications.
- Approval of 14 translation projects for standards and regulations.
- Withdrawal of 38 existing Gulf standards and technical regulations.



Ministerial Committee for Standardization Affairs Adopts 14 New Regulations
The GCC Ministerial Committee for Standardization Affairs, in its 10th meeting, issued a series of executive decisions to streamline regional trade and safety. The highlights include:

- Adoption of 14 new draft Gulf technical regulations.
- Conversion of 25 technical regulations into Gulf standards.
- Withdrawal of 34 outdated Gulf technical regulations.

الهيئة العامة للغذاء والدواء Saudi Food & Drug Authority



SFDA Updates Restricted Substances List for Cosmetics
The Saudi Food and Drug Authority (SFDA) has issued a circular amending and adding new substances to the list of restricted ingredients in cosmetic products. Under the new directive, the import and manufacture of products violating these updates will be prohibited starting December 2026, 1. Products currently available on the market have been granted a grace period until December 2028, 1, to rectify their status. After this deadline, non-compliant products will be considered violations and handled according to the Cosmetic Products Law and its executive regulations.

Amendments Approved for Executive Regulations of the Food Law

During its 44th meeting on December 2024, 15, the SFDA Board approved several amendments to the Executive Regulations of the Food Law. The updates include the addition of a new paragraph to Article 41 and the introduction of three new statutory articles. These changes are designed to strengthen regulatory procedures and enhance the efficiency of food safety oversight.



Ban on Geographical Slogans and Claims in Cosmetics
The SFDA has issued a directive prohibiting the use of phrases or logos suggesting a cosmetic product is intended for a specific geographical region. The Authority clarified that such claims violate the standards outlined in the Technical Regulation for Cosmetic Product Claims (SFDA/CO/GSO 2528). Manufacturers, importers, and warehouse managers must ensure products do not feature these slogans, as non-compliant shipments will be denied customs clearance.

SFDA Launches "SAIL" AI Lab to Drive Innovation

In a move to bolster digital transformation, the SFDA announced the launch of the "SAIL" Artificial Intelligence Lab. This specialized platform is dedicated to developing and adopting AI-driven technical solutions to improve innovation and the efficiency of the Authority's regulatory and operational processes.



Phase Three of Food Services Launched on "GHAD" Platform
The SFDA has announced the launch of the third phase of food sector services on its unified electronic platform, "GHAD," effective May 2025, 25. This phase includes:

- Food product registration and listing.
- Export services.
- Import and clearance services (integrated via the "FASAH" platform).

Full Transition to "GHAD" Platform, Legacy Systems to Retire

Following the completion of the final phase of food service integration, the SFDA will officially decommission all legacy electronic systems on June 2025, 18. The "GHAD" platform will thereafter serve as the sole unified portal for all food-related regulatory services.

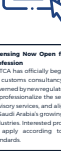


Major Updates to Cosmetic Technical Regulations
The SFDA has adopted updated versions of two key technical regulations in both Arabic and English:

- SFDA/CO/GSO 1943:2024: Safety Requirements for Cosmetics and Personal Care Products.
- SFDA/CO/GSO 2528:2024: Claims in Cosmetic and Personal Care Products. Notably, lists for prohibited, restricted, and permitted substances (preservatives, colourants, and UV filters) have been moved from the regulations to a dynamic digital list available on the SFDA website.

SFDA Suspends Conformity Assessment Body Over Violations

The SFDA has suspended the designation of a conformity assessment body after detecting multiple violations of regulatory requirements. Infractions included issuing certificates of conformity for shipments that did not meet approved standards, failing to perform adequate audits and inspections, and neglecting mandated sampling protocols.



New Food Labelling Rules to Enhance Consumer Transparency
Starting July 2025, 1, food establishments must comply with new transparency regulations for menus (both physical and digital). Key requirements include:

- Displaying the "Salt Shaker" icon next to high-sodium meals.
- Disclosing caffeine content in beverages.
- Providing the estimated time required to burn the calories consumed in a meal. These rules apply to all dining establishments and electronic food delivery platforms.

Usage of Vitamin A Derivatives Restricted in Cosmetics

The SFDA has issued a circular restricting the use of Vitamin A derivatives in cosmetics. New manufacturing and import bans take effect January 2026, 1, with a market correction period ending January 2028, 1. Non-compliance beyond this date will result in legal action under the Cosmetic Products Law.



Mandatory "Wasel" Integration for Temperature Monitoring
Effective October 2025, 1, all factories and warehouses for chilled and frozen food, as well as their transport fleets, must link their temperature and humidity sensors to the "Wasel" platform. This mandatory electronic link ensures real-time monitoring of meat, poultry, and fish storage conditions to guarantee food safety.

SFDA Mandates Use of "Recall and Disclosure" Platform

Manufacturers and distributors must now utilize the "Recall and Disclosure" platform to report products subject to warnings or recall orders. Launched on August 2025, 12, the service allows facilities to view official warnings and electronically disclose the quantities of affected products they hold, enhancing consumer protection.

Prohibited Substances List Expanded for Cosmetics
In accordance with Article 4 of the Cosmetic Products Law, the SFDA has added several substances to the prohibited list for cosmetic manufacturing. This move follows a periodic safety review aimed at ensuring all ingredients used in the local market are safe for consumer use.

New Product Conformity Certificate Service on "GHAD"

Beginning October 2025, 16, the SFDA will launch a new service on the "GHAD" platform allowing beneficiaries to register food products using a Product Conformity Certificate issued by an SFDA-accredited third-party body.

Strict Guidelines for Quality Grading on Food Labels
The SFDA has reminded food manufacturers and importers that any quality grades or classifications mentioned on food packaging must strictly adhere to the standards defined in approved technical regulations. False or non-standardized quality claims are prohibited.

هيئة الزكاة والضريبة والجمارك Zakat, Tax and Customs Authority



ZATCA Launches Digital Customs Declaration Amendment Service
The Saudi Zakat, Tax and Customs Authority (ZATCA) has introduced a new digital service allowing for the amendment of customs declarations directly through its website. Aimed at boosting operational efficiency, the service enables importers and customs brokers to request modifications to both import and export declarations. Once submitted, the requests can be reviewed and approved electronically by the Authority, significantly speeding up the logistics process.

Expanded Incentives Announced for Saudi Authorized Economic Operator (AEO) Program

ZATCA has announced a major upgrade to the Saudi Authorized Economic Operator (AEO) program, introducing new incentives for registered importers and exporters in collaboration with 14 government entities. The enhanced program offers administrative, procedural, and financial benefits categorized into three tiers for traders. Additionally, a fourth category has been introduced specifically for logistics service providers, including customs brokers and freight forwarders, to further streamline regional trade and supply chain efficiency.

ZATCA Seeks Public Input on New Importer Registration Project
In a bid to enhance user experience on the "FASAH" platform, ZATCA has proposed a development project for importer registration services. The project was posted on the "Fasah" platform to gather feedback and suggestions from stakeholders, with a deadline of January 2025, 30. The initiative aims to automate the verification of registration documents, reduce processing times, and streamline the onboarding journey for new importers through innovative digital solutions.

Licensing Now Open for Customs Consultancy Profession

ZATCA has officially begun accepting applications for customs consultancy licenses. This initiative is governed by new regulatory requirements designed to professionalize the sector, elevate the quality of advisory services, and align with the strategic goals of Saudi Arabia's growing commercial and logistics industries. Interested professionals are encouraged to apply according to the newly established standards.

Mandatory Advance Filing for Maritime Shipments Effective October 29
ZATCA has announced that advance filing of manifests and customs declarations will become mandatory for all goods arriving via sea ports starting October 2025, 29. Under the new regulation, importers and shipping agents must submit all necessary documentation before the vessel's arrival. This shift is intended to facilitate pre-clearance procedures, reduce port congestion, and accelerate the movement of goods into the Kingdom.

Saudi Arabia Adopts Amendments to Unified GCC Customs Tariff

The official gazette, Umm Al-Qura, has published Ministerial Resolution No. (H46-88-4) issued by the Minister of Finance regarding the adoption of amendments to the Unified GCC Integrated Customs Tariff. The revised tariff schedule is set to take effect across the Kingdom starting June 2025, 1.