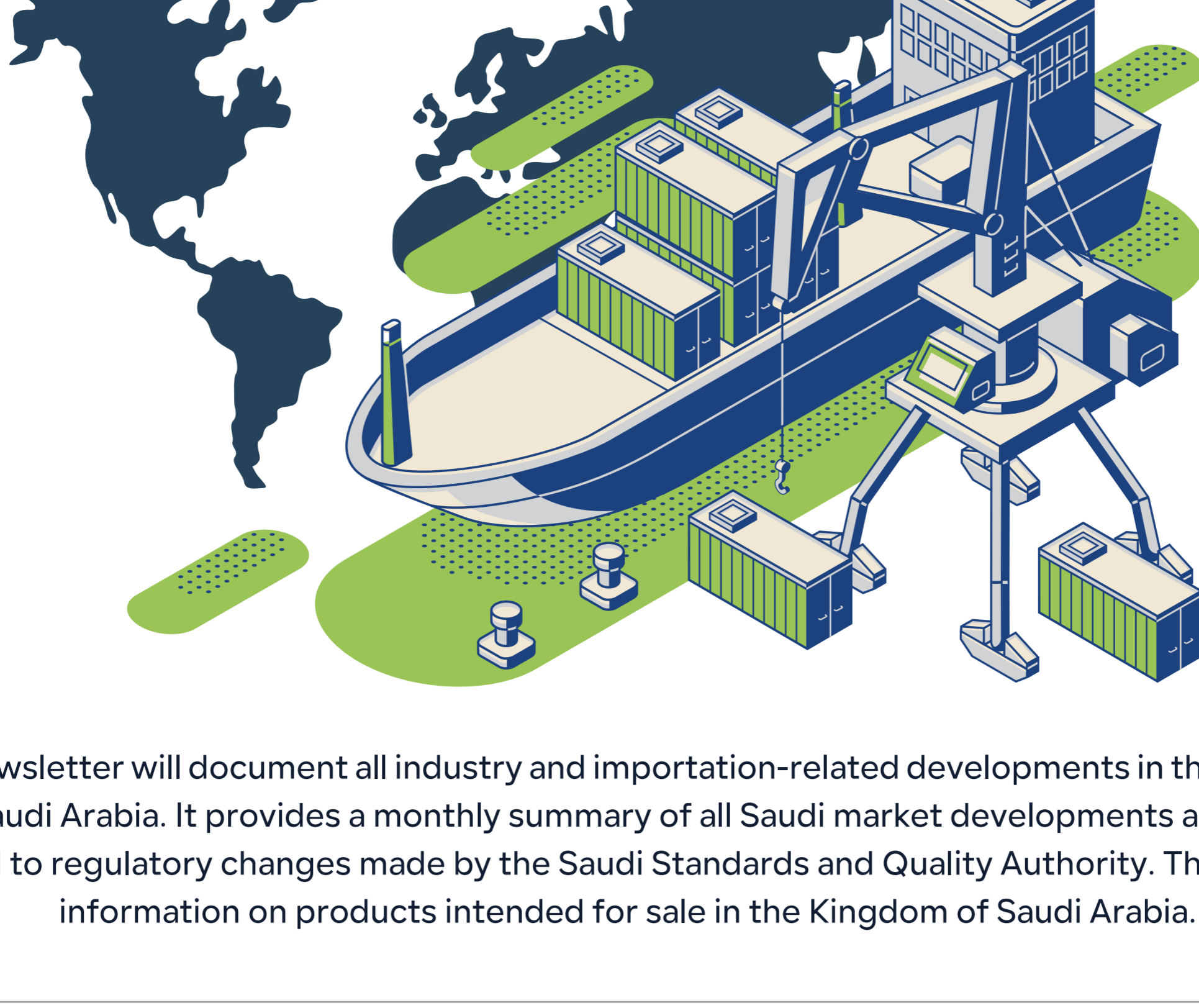


## The Monthly Newsletter

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



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### Tabseer Organizes a Virtual Workshop on the Requirements for Obtaining the Omani Food Quality Mark (Bottled Drinking Water)

Tabseer Company conducted an introductory virtual workshop on the requirements for obtaining the Omani Food Quality Mark for Bottled Drinking Water on Monday, May 18, 2026.

The workshop covered several key topics, including the preliminary responsibilities of the certification body, the legal documentation required to obtain the quality mark, the product's technical documentation, as well as testing and conformity evidence requirements.

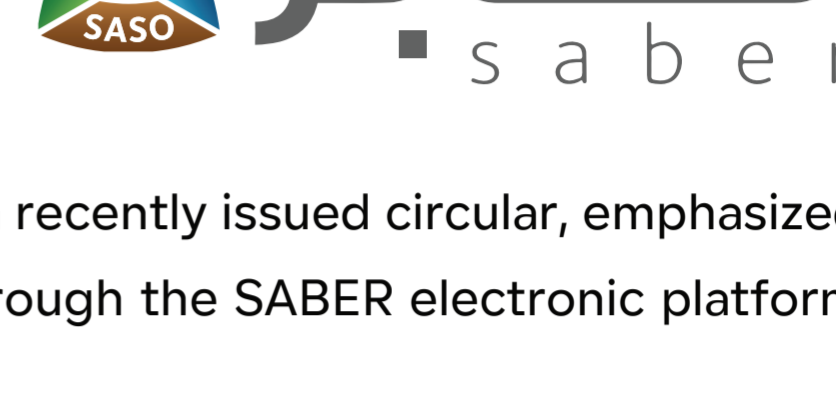
### Circular: Ban on the Import of Asbestos and Products Containing It

The Saudi Standards, Metrology and Quality Organization (SASO), in a recently issued circular, emphasized the mandatory implementation of the ban on the import of asbestos and all products and materials containing it. This measure is based on the requirements outlined in the Technical Regulation for Food Safety in Kitchen Utensils and Appliances.

The Authority clarified that conformity assessment bodies are prohibited from issuing any certificates of conformity for products containing asbestos. In addition, companies must provide a declaration confirming that their products are free from asbestos as an essential part of the technical file requirements.

The Authority further stressed that the necessary legal actions will be taken against any non-compliant parties, ensuring consumer protection and adherence to the approved regulations and standards.

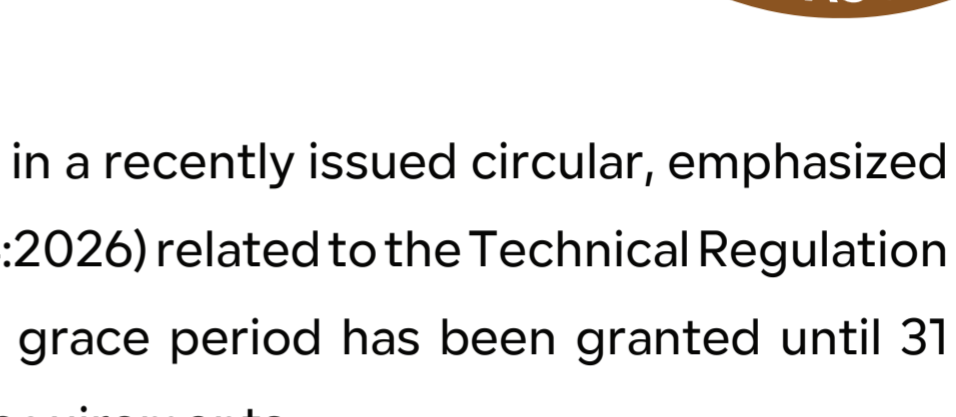
### Circular Regarding the Mandatory Upload of Technical Files on the SABER Platform Before Certificate Issuance



The Saudi Standards, Metrology and Quality Organization (SASO), in a recently issued circular, emphasized that all conformity assessment bodies must upload technical files through the SABER electronic platform before the stage of issuing a product conformity certificate decision.

The Authority clarified that legal action will be taken against any entities that fail to comply with the requirements outlined in the circular. It also urged all conformity assessment bodies to strictly adhere to the specified instructions and requirements to ensure compliance with the applicable regulations and procedures.

### Circular Regarding the Adoption of the Updated Standard (SASO 3114:2026)



The Saudi Standards, Metrology and Quality Organization (SASO), in a recently issued circular, emphasized the mandatory implementation of the updated standard (SASO 3114:2026) related to the Technical Regulation for Telecommunications and Information Technology Devices. A grace period has been granted until 31 October 2026 to allow stakeholders to comply with the updated requirements.

The Authority clarified that, upon the expiration of the grace period, all approved conformity assessment bodies must refrain from issuing any certificates of conformity for products covered by the circular unless they fully comply with the updated requirements, effective 1 November 2026.

SASO also stated that all valid Certificates of Conformity and Shipment Certificates issued under the previous standard (SASO CITC GEN-002) will be cancelled no later than 31 March 2027.

### SASO Organizes Metrology Forum in Celebration of World Metrology Day

The Saudi Standards, Metrology and Quality Organization (SASO) organized the World Metrology Day Forum 2026, in conjunction with the global celebration of World Metrology Day by national metrology institutes around the world. This year's theme, "Measurements for All Times, for All People" (or, if following the text literally: "Measurement: Building Trust in Policymaking"), was announced by the International Bureau of Weights and Measures (BIPM) and the International Organization of Legal Metrology (OIML).

The forum aimed to promote awareness of metrology and calibration and highlight their role in improving quality of life. It also introduced the "Taqees" Legal Calibration Program and showcased its key achievements, while shedding light on the efforts of the National Center for Measurement and Calibration and its partner organizations in advancing the Kingdom's metrology and calibration infrastructure.

### SASO Celebrates World Metrology Day Through Awareness Events and Workshops Across Several Regions

The regional branches of the Saudi Standards, Metrology and Quality Organization (SASO) in the Makkah Region and the Eastern Province organized a series of awareness events and workshops in celebration of World Metrology Day 2026. This year's theme, "Measurement: Building Trust in Policymaking," reflects SASO's ongoing efforts to raise awareness of the importance of metrology and calibration and their role in supporting quality of life and enhancing the reliability of services and commercial operations.

In Jeddah, SASO's Makkah Region branch hosted the World Metrology Day Forum 2026 at its headquarters, attended by a number of specialists and professionals in the fields of metrology, calibration, and quality.

The forum featured a range of presentations and specialized workshops highlighting the role of measurement in supporting development, enhancing data reliability, and improving service efficiency.

### Circular: Issuance of Certificates of Conformity for Shipments Within the Special Integrated Logistics Zone (SILZ)

The Saudi Food and Drug Authority (SFDA), in a recently issued circular, clarified that shipments entering the Special Integrated Logistics Zone (SILZ) at King Khalid International Airport are not considered to have entered the local Saudi market upon arrival in the zone. Therefore, a Certificate of Conformity is not required at that stage.

The Authority emphasized that conformity requirements must be fulfilled when the shipments are released and introduced into the Saudi market. Conformity assessments bodies are required to treat shipments and products located within the logistics zone as imports from abroad when they are intended for entry into the local market.

Accordingly, these shipments must be inspected and issued a Shipment Certificate of Conformity, in the same manner as shipments arriving directly from outside the Kingdom.

### Update to the Requirements Guide for the Regulation on the Designation of Conformity Assessment Bodies by the SFDA



The Saudi Food and Drug Authority (SFDA), in a recently issued circular, announced an update to the Requirements Guide for the Regulation on the Designation of Conformity Assessment Bodies, as part of its ongoing efforts to enhance regulatory procedures and improve the quality of services provided.

This update aims to strengthen compliance, clarify regulatory requirements and procedures, and contribute to improving the efficiency of operations related to conformity assessment bodies. It reflects the Authority's commitment to developing a more effective and transparent regulatory framework that supports stakeholders and ensures consistent conformity assessment practices.

### SFDA Emphasizes the Use of the Inspection Report Template for Meat and Meat Product Establishments

The Saudi Food and Drug Authority (SFDA), in a recently issued circular, emphasized the requirement for conformity assessment bodies to use the official Inspection Report Template for Meat and Meat Product Establishments when conducting inspections of facilities seeking approval to export to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

This directive comes as part of the Authority's regulatory and oversight responsibilities and is based on the Regulation on the Designation of Conformity Assessment Bodies and its associated requirements guide. The measure aims to enhance the efficiency of inspection procedures and strengthen compliance with the approved regulatory requirements and standards.

### Circular Regarding Powdered Milk Products Modified with Vegetable Oils

The Saudi Food and Drug Authority (SFDA), in a recently issued circular, emphasized that all conformity assessment bodies must strictly refrain from issuing any Certificate of Conformity for powdered milk products modified with vegetable oils, unless full and verified compliance with the technical regulation (GSO 2572 / SFDA) is ensured.

In particular, compliance with Clause (1.6), which relates to the mechanism for clearly indicating the product name on the food label, must be thoroughly verified.

This directive comes as part of SFDA's commitment to ensuring the quality and compliance of imported and locally marketed products with approved technical regulations and standards.

### SFDA Issues Good Pharmacovigilance Practices Guide for Advanced Therapies



The Saudi Food and Drug Authority (SFDA) has issued the guideline on the fundamentals of Good Pharmacovigilance Practices for Advanced Therapies, aiming to support the safety and efficacy of this type of treatment and strengthen the regulatory framework for monitoring its post-marketing safety.

The guideline outlines the requirements and controls related to the monitoring, evaluation, and management of risks associated with advanced therapies, including gene therapy, cell therapy, and related products. It is aligned with internationally recognized best practices and standards.

### GCC Ministerial Committee on Food Safety Holds 10th Meeting Reinforcing Gulf Joint Action Approach

The CEO of the Saudi Food and Drug Authority (SFDA), His Excellency Dr. Hisham bin Saad Aljadhey, represented the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia at the 10th meeting of the GCC Ministerial Committee for Food Safety of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries. The meeting was held virtually under the chairmanship of Her Excellency Dr. Jalila bint Al Sayyed Jawad Hasan, Minister of Health of the Kingdom of Bahrain and Prince Mohammed bin Abdulaziz International Airport in Madinah. Customs procedures for pilgrims arriving from participating countries are completed smoothly and efficiently, allowing them to enter the Kingdom and proceed to their accommodation without delay or waiting upon arrival.

During the meeting, the participants discussed a number of topics of mutual interest, including the GCC Unified Food Law, as well as updates on cooperation and coordination among GCC countries in the field of food safety.

The 10th meeting reflects the continued commitment of GCC states to a unified approach to joint action and harmonization of priorities, building on the strong ties among Gulf countries and ongoing coordination that enhances integration between food safety authorities. It also supports joint Gulf efforts aimed at protecting consumer health and improving food safety standards across GCC member states.

### Jaber Al Nuaimi Assumes Role as President of the GCC Standardization Organization

Engineer Jaber Mohammed Al Nuaimi has officially assumed his duties as President of the Gulf Standardization Organization (GSO), following a decision by the Ministerial Committee for Standardization Affairs of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC). He succeeds His Excellency Mr. Nawaf bin Ibrahim Al Manna (April 2024 – May 2026).

The Ministerial Committee for Standardization Affairs, which includes the GCC ministers of commerce and industry responsible for standardization matters in member states, approved during its 11th meeting—held virtually on 30 April 2026—the nomination of Qatar's representative to serve as President of the GCC Standardization Organization, effective 3 May 2026.

### GCC Standardization Organization Celebrates World Metrology Day 2026

The Gulf Standardization Organization (GSO), along with similar institutions and bodies worldwide, celebrated World Metrology Day, which is observed annually on 20 May. The occasion marks the anniversary of the signing of the Metre Convention in 1875, which established the foundations for international cooperation in the field of measurement and contributed to building a reliable and precise global measurement system that supports human progress. This year's celebration is held under the theme: "Metrology: Building Trust in Policy Making."

Engineer Jaber Mohammed Al Nuaimi, President of the Gulf Standardization Organization, stated that this year's theme reflects the growing role of metrology in supporting evidence-based decision-making, enhancing transparency, and strengthening public confidence in policy frameworks.

### ZATCA: "Track Shipment" Service Available for Individual Importers via ZATCA Smart App

The Zakat, Tax and Customs Authority (ZATCA) has clarified that its "Track Shipment" service is available to individual importers through the ZATCA mobile application for smart courier. The service enables users to track the customs journey of their shipments arriving via express courier companies within the customs operating scope.

ZATCA spokesperson, Mr. Hamoud Al-Harbi, explained that importers using express shipping can inquire about shipment status using either the tracking number or the customs declaration number. The system will then display the shipment status along with any applicable customs duties.

He also noted that the service is available through the Authority's official website via the electronic services page.

### ZATCA Provides Integrated Customs Services Under Makkah Route Initiative for Pilgrims

The Zakat, Tax and Customs Authority (ZATCA) continues its role in supporting the objectives of the "Makkah Route" Initiative, one of the Ministry of Interior's initiatives under the Pilgrim Experience Program, a key program of Saudi Vision 2030. The initiative aims to provide integrated customs services that facilitate the pilgrims' journey from their departure countries until they arrive in the Kingdom.

ZATCA delivers its services through the two "Makkah Route" terminals at King Abdulaziz International Airport in Jeddah and Prince Mohammed bin Abdulaziz International Airport in Madinah. Customs procedures for pilgrims arriving from participating countries are completed smoothly and efficiently, allowing them to enter the Kingdom and proceed to their accommodation without delay or waiting upon arrival.