



A Guide for Bahraini Companies Exporting to the Saudi Market

Regulatory and Customs Requirements and Product
Registration Pathways



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From Bahrain to the Saudi Market

Saudi Arabia represents a natural and strategic market for Bahraini companies, thanks to its geographic proximity, convenient road transportation, economic integration among GCC countries, and the close alignment of business environments and consumer needs.

However, proximity to the Saudi market—or the fact that a product is manufactured in a GCC country—does not mean that it can enter Saudi Arabia automatically. Products are subject to requirements that vary according to their nature and the competent regulatory authority.

Depending on the product, exporters may need to complete registration with the Saudi Food and Drug Authority (SFDA), obtain a conformity certificate through the SABER platform, provide a GCC Certificate of Origin, submit test reports, or obtain additional approvals before shipment.

Bahraini export-development authorities also provide a range of export support services, including consultancy, market studies, logistics solutions, financing, and export credit insurance. These services help Bahraini companies expand into the Saudi market and other regional markets.

Key products exported from the Kingdom of Bahrain to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia include a diverse range of industrial, food, and petrochemical products, such as:

- Primary aluminum and aluminum products.
- Metal wires and cables.
- Iron, steel, and construction products.
- Industrial chemicals.
- Detergents and disinfectants.
- Plastic containers.
- Plastic pipes.
- Packaging materials.
- Processed food products.
- Juices and beverages.
- Dairy products.
- Sweets and dates.
- Cement.
- Ready-mix concrete.
- Medical supplies.
- Cosmetics.
- Personal care products.
- Ready-made garments and fabrics.
- Lifting and material-handling equipment.
- Kitchen products.

Why the Saudi Market?

The Saudi market is one of the largest consumer and industrial markets in the Middle East, offering significant opportunities for Bahraini companies across a wide range of sectors.

Key factors making Saudi Arabia a strategic destination for Bahraini exports include:

- The largest economy in the Arab region.
- More than 36 million consumers.
- Strong purchasing power.
- Major projects under Saudi Vision 2030.
- Continued expansion across industrial and commercial sectors.
- Ease of trade and movement of goods within the GCC.
- A developed investment environment that supports high-quality products.



Tabseer: Your Partner for Compliance and Market Access in Saudi Arabia

Tabseer provides integrated conformity assessment and technical compliance solutions to help companies meet Saudi and GCC regulatory requirements and streamline the process of bringing their products to market.

Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

- Product registration through the SABER platform.
- Issuance of Product Conformity Certificates (PCoC).
- Issuance of Shipment Conformity Certificates (SCoC).
- Obtaining the Saudi Quality Mark (SQM).
- SFDA-related certification and compliance services.
- Registration of food products and cosmetics through the Ghad system.
- Issuance of lifting equipment certificates.
- Obtaining the Oxo-Biodegradable Plastic Logo.

Gulf Cooperation Council

- Issuance of the Gulf Conformity Mark (G-Mark).

Sultanate of Oman

- Obtaining the Omani Quality Mark.

Arab Republic of Egypt

- Inspection and conformity assessment certificates.
- Carbon footprint calculation services.

Key Authorities in the Export Journey

First: Bahraini Authorities

Customs Affairs – Kingdom of Bahrain

Customs Affairs handles export customs declarations, document verification, Certificates of Origin, and procedures related to the movement of goods out of Bahrain.

I OFOQ System

Export customs declarations are completed electronically through the exporter, an authorized representative, or a licensed customs broker. The required invoices and supporting documents are submitted through the system, while goods may be subject to inspection based on the applicable risk-management procedures.

I Certificate of Origin

The Certificate of Origin confirms the country in which the goods were produced and is one of the key documents required to benefit from the applicable customs treatment for qualifying GCC-origin products.

Second: Saudi Authorities

- Saudi Standards, Metrology and Quality Organization (SASO)
- SABER Electronic Platform
- Saudi Food and Drug Authority (SFDA)
- Zakat, Tax and Customs Authority (ZATCA)



| Certificate of Origin for GCC-Origin Products

Bahrain provides a Certificate of Origin service for national GCC-origin products to enable eligible products to benefit from the applicable customs treatment when exported to other GCC countries.

However, eligibility for the relevant customs treatment depends on compliance with the applicable rules of origin, the accuracy of manufacturer and product information, submission of the appropriate Certificate of Origin, consistency between the certificate, commercial invoice, and customs declaration, and confirmation that the transaction is not merely the re-export of a foreign-origin product.

| Bahraini-Origin Products vs. Re-Exports

Bahraini-origin product	A product manufactured or substantially processed in Bahrain and meeting the applicable rules of origin.
Re-exported product	A foreign product imported into Bahrain and subsequently re-exported without acquiring Bahraini origin status; it is generally treated according to its original country of origin.

Important Note

Customs exemptions or preferential treatment based on origin do not necessarily mean exemption from VAT, excise tax, service or inspection fees, or SASO/SABER and SFDA requirements. Likewise, the “Made in Bahrain” label is a marketing tool used to highlight national products. It does not replace a Certificate of Origin or the Saudi approvals and regulatory requirements applicable to the product.

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المواصفات السعودية
Saudi Standards



سابر
saber



الهيئة العامة للغذاء والدواء
Saudi Food & Drug Authority



هيئة الزكاة والضريبة والجمارك
Zakat, Tax and Customs Authority

The SASO and SABER Compliance Pathway

Many industrial and consumer products are subject to Saudi technical regulations. The compliance process begins by determining whether the product:

- Falls under a Saudi technical regulation.
- Is not subject to a technical regulation.
- Is subject to self-declaration.
- Requires assessment by an approved conformity assessment body.

Shipment Conformity Certificate (SCoC)

A Shipment Conformity Certificate must be issued for each shipment and linked to the relevant invoice, products, and valid conformity certificates.

Do Not Ship Until You Have Confirmed:

- The product has been registered where required.
- The applicable conformity certificate is valid.
- The HS Code is correct.
- Invoice and product information are consistent.
- The Shipment Conformity Certificate has been issued.

Product Conformity Certificate (PCoC)

Depending on the product and applicable conformity pathway, the Saudi importer registers the product and selects an accepted conformity assessment body to complete the required assessment and certification process.



Food, Beverages, Cosmetics and Personal Care Products

I Before Export

Exporters should coordinate with a qualified Saudi importer registered with the relevant SFDA systems. The importer is typically responsible for managing local registrations and regulatory notifications and ensuring that the facility and products meet the applicable requirements.

I Food Labeling

Product labels must comply with applicable Saudi and GCC requirements and include the mandatory information in Arabic.

I Cosmetics and Personal Care Products

Registration and Notification through the Ghad System

Cosmetic products are registered and notified through the unified electronic Ghad system by a Saudi-licensed establishment authorized to conduct the relevant activity.

Marketing Claims

Marketing claims must comply with applicable regulations. Unauthorized medical or therapeutic claims—such as claims that a product can treat diseases or alter bodily functions—should be avoided, as they may affect the product’s regulatory classification or result in rejection.

Customs Clearance

Cosmetic products are cleared electronically. Exporters should ensure that the actual product matches the information submitted in the notification and the approved product label.



Medical Devices and Supplies

Medical devices and related supplies are subject to SFDA requirements. The applicable pathway varies according to factors including:

- Device classification.
- Risk level.
- Intended use.
- Intended end user.
- Country of manufacture.

Available certificates and accreditations.

The presence of an authorized representative in Saudi Arabia, where applicable.

Regulatory Note

The Marketing Authorization issued by SFDA is the authorization that permits a medical device to be marketed and distributed in the Saudi market. The applicable process varies according to the device classification and risk level.

Pathways for Selected Key Sectors

Electrical and Electronic Products	SABER registration, Product Conformity Certificate, electrical safety or energy-efficiency test reports, energy labels, and IECEE requirements where applicable. Plug, voltage, and product information requirements may also apply.
Children Toys and Low-Voltage Products	May be subject to the Gulf Conformity Mark (G-Mark), in addition to the applicable Saudi registration and shipment requirements.
Building Materials	May require Product and Shipment Conformity Certificates, test reports, factory inspection where applicable, and the Saudi Quality Mark for certain products or projects.
Plastics and Packaging Materials	May be subject to SABER requirements, food-contact material requirements, or the Oxo-Biodegradable Plastic Logo requirements, where applicable.
Machinery and Lifting Equipment	May require risk assessment, technical drawings and specifications, operation and maintenance manuals, test reports, conformity certificates, and pre-shipment inspection depending on the product.
Chemical Products	Require review of chemical classification, Safety Data Sheets (SDS), packaging and transportation requirements, permits for restricted or hazardous substances, and requirements of the competent Saudi authority.

Why Do We Use the Phrase “May Require”?

Because the final regulatory requirements are not determined by the sector alone. They depend on the actual product, its HS Code, applicable standards and specifications, and its intended use. For this reason, each product must be assessed individually before determining the exact compliance pathway.



Common Export Mistakes

Shipping Before Completing Regulatory Approvals

The arrival of goods does not guarantee that certificates or approvals can be obtained retroactively. Shipping before completing the required procedures may result in delays or re-export.

Using an Inaccurate HS Code

An incorrect HS Code may result in the application of a different technical regulation or unexpected certification requirements.

Assuming GCC Origin Eliminates Conformity Requirements

A Certificate of Origin relates to customs treatment, while SFDA and SASO/SABER requirements relate to product safety, quality, and regulatory conformity.

Inconsistent Product Information

Differences in the product name, manufacturer, model number, or other details between the invoice, certificate, and label are common causes of delays.

Incomplete Arabic Labeling

Adding an Arabic label at the last minute without regulatory review can lead to errors in ingredients, warnings, mandatory information, or marketing claims.

Working with an Unqualified Importer

The Saudi importer often manages local accounts, registrations, and customs clearance procedures. Choosing an experienced and qualified importer is therefore essential.

Relying Solely on Foreign Certificates

Certificates such as CE, FDA, or international test reports may support the technical file, but they do not automatically replace Saudi regulatory approvals and requirements.



Legal Disclaimer

This guide has been prepared for general information and awareness purposes only and does not constitute prior approval or authorization for any product or shipment.

Requirements may vary depending on the product classification, HS Code, intended use, applicable technical regulations, and updates issued by the competent authorities.

Companies should therefore conduct an independent technical assessment for each product and verify the latest applicable requirements before production, contracting, or shipment.



Contact Information

We help Bahraini companies access the Saudi market efficiently and with confidence through integrated technical compliance solutions, conformity certification management, and coordination with relevant regulatory authorities.

support@tabseergroup.com

+966920010756

www.tabseer.co