



Guide for Chinese Companies Exporting to the Saudi Market

Regulatory and Customs Requirements and Product
Registration Pathways



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From China to the Saudi Market

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is one of the most important trading markets for Chinese companies in the Middle East, and China holds a prominent position among the Kingdom's trading partners. China was the largest import partner of Saudi Arabia in Q4 2025, accounting for 27.2% of the Kingdom's total imports. China's share of Saudi imports also reached 28.7% in December 2025.

China has a broad industrial and manufacturing base, integrated supply chains, and significant manufacturing and export capabilities, making it a major source of a wide range of products for the Saudi market.

Key Chinese products exported to Saudi Arabia include:

- Electrical and electronic appliances.
- Smartphones and their accessories.
- Computers and information technology equipment.
- Industrial machinery and equipment.
- Vehicles.
- Automotive spare parts.
- Solar panels and renewable energy equipment.
- Construction and building equipment.
- Iron, steel, and metal products.
- Building materials.
- Ceramic products and sanitary ware.
- Plastics and their products.
- Packaging materials.
- Furniture and furnishings.
- Textiles and ready-made garments.
- Toys and children's products.
- Household tools and appliances.
- Medical equipment and devices.
- Chemical products.
- Paper and cardboard products.

Recent reports indicate continued growth in Chinese exports to Saudi Arabia, with products such as smartphones, solar panels, and vehicles having a clear presence among Chinese exports to the Kingdom.

Electrical machinery and equipment also represent one of the major categories of Saudi imports, highlighting the importance of this sector for Chinese exporters.

Despite the strong trade relations between China and Saudi Arabia, entering the Saudi market requires compliance with Saudi technical regulations and applicable requirements. These requirements vary according to the type of product and the relevant regulatory authority.

A product may require:



- Registration on the SABER platform.
- Obtaining a Product Certificate of Conformity (PCoC).
- Issuing a Shipment Certificate of Conformity (SCoC).
- Registration with the Saudi Food and Drug Authority (SFDA).
- Obtaining the Saudi Quality Mark.
- Obtaining the Gulf Conformity Mark (G-Mark) for products subject to the relevant Gulf technical regulations.
- Fulfilling additional regulatory requirements depending on the type of product.

The SABER platform provides services for product registration, conformity certificates, and shipment certificates before products enter the Saudi market.

Therefore, planning and completing compliance requirements before export are essential to successfully entering the Saudi market with Chinese products.

Why the Saudi Market?

The Saudi market is one of the largest consumer and industrial markets in the region, offering extensive opportunities for Chinese companies across various sectors.

Key advantages that make Saudi Arabia a strategic destination for Chinese exports include:

- The largest economy in the Arab region.
- A large consumer market.
- High purchasing power.
- Major projects under Saudi Vision 2030.
- Continued expansion across industrial and commercial sectors.
- Growth in infrastructure, technology, and renewable energy.
- Increasing demand for industrial products and equipment.
- Expansion of the construction and building sector.
- Growth of the automotive and mobility sector.
- Development of e-commerce and digital services.
- The Kingdom's strategic position as a regional trade and logistics hub.

The growing trade and investment relations between China and Saudi Arabia also support opportunities for Chinese companies in the Saudi market, particularly in energy, technology, supply chains, and emerging industries.



Tabseer... Your Partner for Compliance and Market Access

Tabseer provides integrated conformity assessment and technical compliance solutions to help Chinese companies meet Saudi and Gulf regulatory requirements and manage conformity procedures before their products enter the market.

Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

- Product registration on the SABER platform.
- Issuance of Product Certificates of Conformity (PCoC).
- Issuance of Shipment Certificates of Conformity (SCoC).
- Obtaining the Saudi Quality Mark (SQM).
- Issuance of Saudi Food and Drug Authority (SFDA) certificates.
- Registration of food products and cosmetics through the Ghad platform.
- 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

- Issuance of inspection and conformity certificates.
- Carbon footprint calculation services.

Key Authorities in the Export Journey

Chinese Authorities

General Administration of Customs of China (GACC)

The General Administration of Customs of China is one of the key authorities involved in customs and foreign trade procedures in China. Chinese Customs is responsible for activities related to customs supervision of goods, import and export procedures, and requirements applicable to certain products and establishments.

Ministry of Commerce of the People's Republic of China (MOFCOM)

The Ministry of Commerce of the People's Republic of China (MOFCOM) plays a key role in regulating and developing foreign trade and trade policies, including the general framework governing international trade and exports. Certain goods or sectors may be subject to additional controls or requirements depending on their nature.

China Council for the Promotion of International Trade (CCPIT)

Chinese exporters can benefit from the China Council for the Promotion of International Trade (CCPIT) in relation to foreign trade services, including Certificates of Origin. CCPIT procedures include company registration, submission of product information, application for Certificates of Origin, review, and issuance.

Chambers of Commerce and Local Authorities

Chinese companies can benefit from local trade authorities, chambers of commerce, and relevant organizations in manufacturing and export regions, depending on the company's location and business activities. These organizations provide certain services related to foreign trade, exporter support, and commercial documentation.

Chinese Customs Authorities and Ports

China's export system includes a large number of seaports and airports, including:

Shanghai Port.

Ningbo-Zhoushan Port.

Shenzhen Port.

Guangzhou Port.

Qingdao Port.

Tianjin Port.

Customs authorities and ports are responsible for procedures related to the departure of shipments from China in accordance with applicable regulations and procedures.

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)



Industrial and Consumer Products The SASO and SABER Pathway

Many industrial and consumer products exported from China to Saudi Arabia are subject to technical regulations issued by the Saudi Standards, Metrology and Quality Organization (SASO), with products covered by the platform handled through the electronic SABER platform. The compliance process begins by determining whether the product is:

- Subject to one of the Saudi technical regulations.
- Not subject to technical regulations.
- Subject to self-declaration.
- Required to undergo assessment by an accredited conformity assessment body.

Product Conformity Certificate (PCoC)

A Product Certificate of Conformity is issued for products subject to technical regulations after reviewing the technical file and demonstrating that the product complies with the relevant Saudi technical regulation through an accredited conformity assessment body.

Shipment Conformity Certificate (SCoC)

After fulfilling the Product Certificate of Conformity requirements, where applicable, a Shipment Certificate of Conformity is issued for each shipment imported into the Kingdom in accordance with the approved procedures. The SABER platform provides a service for issuing shipment certificates for commercial products imported from outside the Kingdom.

Before Shipment, Make Sure You:

- Register the product on the SABER platform.
- Obtain the Product Certificate of Conformity when required.
- Issue the Shipment Certificate of Conformity for the shipment when applicable.
- Confirm the accuracy of the HS Code.
- Ensure that product information is consistent across all documents.
- Ensure that labels and product information comply with Saudi requirements.
- Make sure that the manufacturer and country of origin registered in the product file are the same as those stated in the shipment documents.



Food, Beverages, Cosmetics, and Personal Care Products

Food, beverages, cosmetics, animal feed, and health-related products are subject to the supervision of the Saudi Food and Drug Authority (SFDA), with compliance procedures varying according to the type of product.

I Before Export

The Chinese manufacturer or exporter should coordinate with a licensed Saudi importer and ensure that the required registrations, notifications, and regulatory requirements for the product have been completed before shipment.

I Food Labeling

Food labels must comply with applicable Saudi and Gulf requirements and include mandatory information in Arabic, such as:

- Product name.
- List of ingredients.
- Country of origin.
- Weight or volume.
- Production and expiry dates.
- Manufacturer and importer details.
- Storage and usage instructions, where applicable.

The Chinese manufacturer should review the final packaging and label design with the Saudi importer before beginning commercial production to avoid the need to reprint packaging or correct shipments after production.

I Cosmetics

Cosmetic and personal care products are registered through the unified electronic Ghad system by a licensed Saudi establishment. All product marketing claims must comply with the applicable regulations, and unauthorized therapeutic or medical claims should be avoided.

I Clearance

Electronic clearance procedures are completed after confirming:
Registration is complete.
The product matches the registered information.
Labels comply with the requirements.
All required documents are complete.



Medical Devices and Supplies

Medical devices and supplies are subject to the supervision of the Saudi Food and Drug Authority (SFDA).

The registration pathway varies according to:

- Medical device classification.
- Risk level.
- Intended use.
- Country of manufacture.
- Available international certificates.
- The presence of an authorized representative in the Kingdom, where required.

Note

The existence of international certificates or approvals issued by regulatory authorities or assessment bodies in China or elsewhere may support the technical file, but does not necessarily mean that Saudi requirements have been fulfilled. The applicable Saudi requirements for the device must be determined before export.

Key Sector-Specific Pathways

The final requirements remain linked to the product itself and not simply to the fact that it is a Chinese product.

Electrical and electronic products	Registration on the SABER platform, Product Certificate of Conformity, electrical safety test reports, energy efficiency requirements, and IECEE requirements where applicable.
Children Toys and low-voltage products	Gulf Conformity Mark (G-Mark), in addition to SABER platform requirements where applicable.
Building materials	Registration on the SABER platform, conformity certificates, test reports, Saudi Quality Mark for certain products, and Saudi Building Code requirements where applicable.
Plastic products	SABER requirements, Oxo-Biodegradable Plastic Logo for certain products, and requirements for food-contact materials where applicable.
Industrial machinery and equipment	Risk assessment, technical file, operating manual, test reports, and technical inspection for certain products.
Chemical products	Safety Data Sheet (SDS), chemical classification, and requirements related to the transportation and storage of hazardous or restricted substances, as well as relevant permits.



Why Do We Use the Phrase “May Require”?

Compliance requirements are not determined based on the sector alone. They depend on several factors, including:

- HS Code.
- Nature of the product.
- Intended use.
- Applicable technical regulation.
- Product components.
- Country of manufacture.
- Regulatory classification.

Therefore, each product must be assessed individually.

Most Common Mistakes When Exporting from China to Saudi Arabia

1) Shipping Before Completing Conformity Procedures

Some exporters begin shipping products before completing registration or obtaining conformity certificates, which may result in clearance delays or shipment disruptions.

2) Choosing the Wrong HS Code

Selecting an inaccurate HS Code may result in the application of different regulatory requirements that may not be appropriate for the product.

3) Assuming That Chinese Products Do Not Require Conformity

The fact that a product is manufactured in China or carries a Chinese Certificate of Origin does not exempt it from Saudi conformity requirements, SABER registration, or SFDA requirements where applicable.

4) Inconsistencies Between Documents

Common causes of delays include:

- Differences in the product name.
- Differences in the model number.
- Differences in the manufacturer's name.
- Differences in the country of origin.
- Differences in the brand name between the invoice, conformity certificates, labels, and technical file.

Manufacturer details and country of origin must be consistent across the product file, certificates, and commercial documents.

5) Using Non-Compliant Labels

Failure to provide mandatory information on the label or including incorrect information may result in observations or delays in clearance.

Chinese companies should also take Saudi language and labeling requirements into account when designing packaging intended for the Saudi market.

6) Working with an Unqualified Importer

The success of registration and clearance procedures depends to a significant extent on the Saudi importer's experience in managing technical files and dealing with electronic systems.

7) Relying Only on Foreign Certificates

Certificates such as:

- CE.
- UL.
- FDA.
- ISO.

Chinese test certificates or reports may support the product's technical file, but they do not automatically replace Saudi requirements when a technical regulation or specific regulatory requirements apply.



- Has the correct HS Code been identified?
- Is the product subject to a Saudi technical regulation?
- Does it require registration on the SABER platform?
- Does it require registration with the Saudi Food and Drug Authority?
- Is the technical file complete?
- Are the test reports issued by bodies that are appropriate and recognized for the required pathway?
- Does the product label comply with Saudi requirements?
- Has a qualified Saudi importer been selected?
- Is the Chinese Certificate of Origin ready, where required?
- Do the manufacturer details and country of origin match across all documents?
- Have the shipment requirements been confirmed before the shipment leaves China?

Before You Start Exporting from China to Saudi Arabia

Make sure you can answer the following questions:

Legal Disclaimer

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

Regulatory requirements may vary depending on:

- Nature of the product.
- HS Code.
- Intended use.
- Applicable technical regulations.
- Product components.
- Country of manufacture.
- Regulatory classification.
- Updates issued by Saudi regulatory authorities.

Therefore, each product must be assessed individually, and the latest applicable requirements should be verified before production, contracting, or shipment.



Contact Information

We help Chinese companies and manufacturers understand Saudi regulatory requirements, prepare conformity files, manage conformity certificates, and coordinate with regulatory authorities, supporting more efficient market entry for their products into Saudi Arabia.

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