

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON INSPECTION OF ALL IMPORTS FOR ISSUANCE OF CERTIFICATES OF CONFORMITY

Further to our notice of 1st November 2015, we wish to notify the Public and Importers that the requirement for inspection and issuance of Certificate of Conformity has been expanded to cover **ALL IMPORTS**. These measures take effect for goods shipped from the country of supply/origin on or after **1st December 2015**.

This updated requirement has been found necessary in order to curb importation of substandard and illicit goods to protect the safety and health of consumers. These inspections will be undertaken by KEBS appointed Inspection agents as provided for under Legal Notice No. 78 of 15th July 2005 on the Verification of Conformity to Standards (PVoC) of Imports order. The inspection agents will also supervise and seal container load shipments of certified goods and indicate seal numbers in the respective CoCs.

Presentation of the Certificate of Conformity (COC) shall be a mandatory document for clearance of the goods under the scheme for both the Kenya Bureau of Standards and Kenya Revenue Authority.

These measures are intended to address the following challenges through which substandard and illicit goods enter the country:

- Mis-declaration
- Under valuation
- Concealment
- Constraints of determining quality at destination.

Benefits of this Inspection

By requiring all imports to be subjected to inspection before importation, a level playing field for all importers will have been created. The measure will also reduce delays in clearance of goods, reduce valuation and classification disputes.

Other benefits of the expanded inspection scheme are protection of consumer health and safety, protection of the environment, enhancement of national security and facilitation of legitimate trade thus making Kenya an attractive manufacturing hub.

Exemptions

To address the specific concerns of manufacturers with regards to importation of industrial inputs, machinery and spare parts for own use, a mechanism that provides for waiver of the requirement to undergo inspection and expedite their clearance has been established. A criterion for qualification for this waiver shall be developed and manufacturers shall be vetted to prevent abuse.

Further, goods already regulated by other government agencies such as the Pharmacy and Poisons Board (PPB), Kenya Plant Health Inspectorate (KEPHIS), Pest Control and Products Board (PCPB) have been exempted from these requirements. Other goods to be considered under exemption are printed matter (text books, magazines etc.) and those certified by KEBS under the Diamond Mark Scheme.

However, clearance of goods exempted from these new requirements shall only be undertaken by the two agencies in instances where they are not be mixed with other items that are subject to PVOC inspection.

Support Mechanism

Support committees of KRA and KEBS officers will be established at both Mombasa and Nairobi. These committees shall be charged with resolution of any emerging issues to ensure that importers are provided with adequate support for efficient clearance of goods at the entry points. In addition, the two institutions have also established help desks to respond to queries related to this inspection and the contact details are as follows:.

KEBS Email: inspections@kebs.org; **Tel:** +254 20 6948439/456

KRA Email:.....; **Tel:**

Information on Inspection agents and further implementation details can also be accessed through KEBS Website at: <http://www.kebs.org> and KRA Website at: <http://www.kra.go.ke>

Monitoring and Evaluation

A committee comprising of the Government's agencies involved clearance of goods and private sector players has been created with the responsibility for monitoring and evaluating implementation of the scheme.

J. K. NJIRAINI, MBS

CHARLES O. ONGWAE

COMMISSIONER GENERAL

MANAGING DIRECTOR

KENYA REVENUE AUTHORITY

KENYA BUREAU OF STANDARDS

Dated: 12th NOVEMBER 2015