

PRE-SHIPMENT VERIFICATION OF FOOD CONSIGNMENTS

EXPORTER AND IMPORTER GUIDELINES STATE OF QATAR

OVERVIEW

The Government of the State of Qatar, through the Qatar Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) - Food Safety and Environmental Health Division, has issued a guideline regulating the import of food product shipments.

Intertek has been approved by Qatar MoPH as a third-party certification body to verify the conformity of food shipments exported from various Countries of Supply to Qatar. Exporters/Importers trading food products to the State of Qatar need to comply with the requirements of the Qatar Ministry of Public Health through its Food Safety and Environmental Health Division (MoPH - FSD) to clear their food shipments at the Qatar Customs Ports/Borders.

Obtaining a Certificate of Conformity (CoC) for regulated food shipments such as Fresh Fruits and Vegetables, Poultry Products, Meat and its Products, Dairy Products, Honey, Marine Products, and other Processed Food to Qatar would benefit from a faster clearance of goods at the Qatar Ports/Borders.

However, starting from 13th November 2022, it is mandatory that shipments of Fresh Seafood products exported through Abu Samara land Port and Air shipments of such products from any Country of Supply be accompanied with a Certificate of Conformity (CoC) for its Customs clearance.

Exporters are requested to contact local Intertek Offices to understand and comply with the requirements of Qatar MoPH to ensure uninterrupted export of their products to Qatar by virtue of this new mandate.

4 STEPS TO EXPORTING YOUR PRODUCT



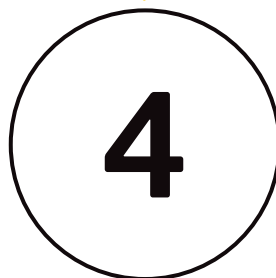
SHIPMENT COMPLIANCE



CERTIFICATION PROCESS



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SHIPMENT COMPLIANCE

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Regulated Products

Intertek can assist with the issuance of CoC for the regulated Food Product shipments supplied from allowed Countries of Supply (CoS) to Qatar:

- Processed Food Products
- Meat and Meat Products
- Milk and its Products
- Table Eggs and its Products
- Aquatic Organisms suitable for Human Consumption and their Products
- Honey and Bee Products
- Fresh Fruits and Vegetables (Unprocessed Plant Products)

Exempted Products under the Pre-Shipment Verification of Food Consignments Exported to Qatar

Exporters are advised to contact local Intertek Offices for more information on exempted products under Qatar Pre-Shipment Verification of Food products programme.



Prohibited, Banned and Restricted Products

- Products classified as HARAM (Prohibited) in Qatar such as but not limited to Pork and Pork products, Foodstuff and preparations from Animal blood, Wines, and Intoxicants.
- Food products from certain Countries of Supply are subject to Import Restrictions by Qatar MoPH. Details of these products and the corresponding restricted Countries of Supply are available on the MoPH website.
- For more information on the Prohibited and Banned list of countries and food products, Exporters may contact the local Intertek Offices.



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Qatar Requirements

All Food Products regulated by the Qatar MoPH shall meet the following requirements:

Registration with Qatar Authorities

The Food Product and the Importer shall be registered in the Ministry of Public Health electronic system "WATHEQ", and the Product shall have a valid Product Registration Number (PRN/QFR).



Marking and Labelling Requirements

Marking and Labelling information shall be in Arabic language. Other Languages may be used in addition to the Arabic Marking and Labeling provided that the information written in these languages is equivalent to the information written in Arabic text.

Laws, Regulations and Standards

- The Food Product must meet the Standards and other requirements as stipulated by the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) and Qatar MoPH.
- Expiration Dates and Shelf life of Food Products shall be in line with the GSO standards specified for certain products.
- Specific Food Products intended for the Qatar market shall be in compliance to the Halal requirements as per GSO 2055-1 with respect to its slaughtering & processing practices, and accordingly shall have a valid Halal Certificate and/or Halal Slaughtering Certificate.
- Shipping containers for Chilled and Frozen Food products shall comply with GSO 323.

Additional Documentation

- Original Invoice attested by Trade Authority of the Country of Origin.
- Regulated products shall be accompanied by any valid GMP/HACCP or similar food safety certificates.
- All slaughtered animal products and meat products must be Halal certified and shall be accompanied with original Halal Slaughter Certificates and Halal Certificates as applicable.
- Animal product shipments shall be accompanied with Veterinary Health Certificates, if applicable.
- Vegetable and Fruit product (Processed, Frozen, etc.) shipments shall be accompanied with Health Certificates, if applicable.

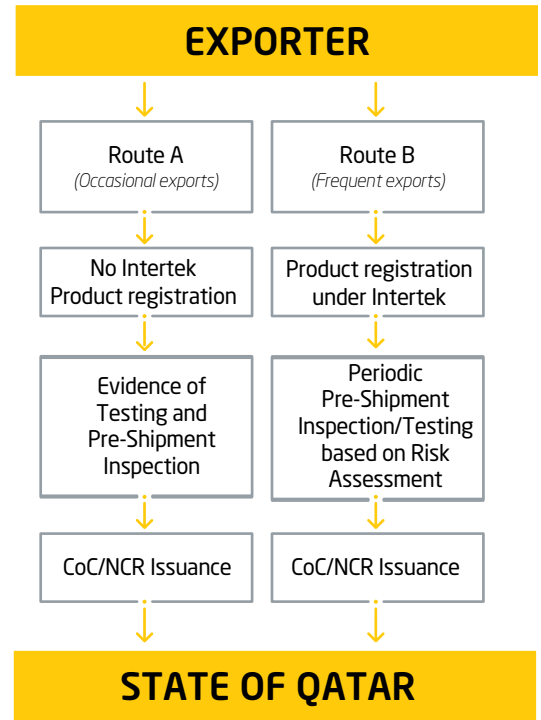


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CERTIFICATION PROCESS

The Food Product to be exported to the State of Qatar will undergo conformity assessment by Intertek for its safety requirements using various conformity verification techniques such as document evaluation, inspection, testing, container sealing, etc. Shipments meeting the Qatar MoPH/ GSO requirements issued with a Certificate of Conformity (CoC) by Intertek would benefit from a faster clearance of the shipments at the Qatar Customs upon its arrival at Qatar Ports/Borders.



Document Evaluation

Mandatory documents submitted along with the RFC will be evaluated (e.g. Food Safety Certificate, Halal Slaughter Certificate, Halal Certificate, etc.) to verify the details of product shipment and its compliance to requirements.

Sealing

Container Sealing is done using Intertek's seal, and the shipment must not be tampered with after sealing.

CoC

Food Consignments that comply with Inspection and Testing will be issued with a CoC which will help the Importer in clearing the shipment at the Qatar Customs.

Inspection

The food shipment will be subject to inspection, including verification of product label markings and other requirements as per approved GSO Standards and Technical Regulations.

Testing

The Food products will be tested based on the applicable GSO Standards and Technical Regulations. The tested sample of the products must comply with the requirements for establishing conformity of the shipment.



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Exporters applying for the CoC are responsible for the fee payment for the food shipment certification services to Intertek.

The Certification Fees do not include the fees for product testing. These fees will be separately quoted as required to be performed by Intertek for establishing compliance.




CONTACT




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FOR MORE INFORMATION

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Key:

CoC	Certificate of Conformity
FSD	Food Safety and Environmental Health Division
MoPH	Qatar Ministry of Public Health
RFC	Request for Certificate of Conformity
RLC	Registration and Licensing Centre
SoR	Statement of Registration