



Standards Organisation Nigeria

Exporting to Nigeria and complying with SONCAP

What is SONCAP?

To help eliminate the export to Nigeria of unsafe and sub-standard goods SON have introduced the Standards Organisation of Nigeria Conformity Assessment Program (SONCAP). SONCAP takes effect from 01 March 2005 and for products within its scope, it is applicable in addition to any existing import processes such as PSI.

Which Goods are affected?

SONCAP applies to certain categories of products known as Regulated Products. A full list of Regulated Products can be found at www.soncap.com but an overview is shown below:

- a) Toys
- b) Electrical and electronic products that could be used by members of the public whether in their homes or otherwise e.g. in residential, office, retail, leisure etc environments. Examples include, but are not limited to, household appliances, IT products, communication products, lighting products, audio-visual products etc.
- c) Motor vehicle tyres
- d) Automotive glass
- e) Vehicle spare parts
- f) Chemical products (such as motor oils, paints, bitumen, school chalk, kitchenware, tableware and dinnerware, tobacco and tobacco products)
- g) Construction Material, Mechanical Devices and Gas Appliances
- h) Paper and stationery items
- i) Protective Safety Equipment

What do I have to do?

Obtaining the necessary Certification under SONCAP is a two stage process.

Stage 1 – Obtain a Product Certificate

The Product Certificate is evidence that the product that you intend to ship complies with the standards recognized under SONCAP. A Product Certificate can be used repeatedly until the expiry of the products listed in it.

Stage 2 – Obtain a SONCAP Certificate

The SONCAP Certificate is the document that will be required to help ensure the release of goods from the destination port in Nigeria. The SONCAP Certificate is the evidence that all goods within a given consignment have a valid Product Certificate and where appropriate have been verified, through sampling or otherwise, that they are not sub-standard. A SONCAP Certificate can only be used once and is only valid for that particular shipment

All certification activities must be undertaken in the country of export

What should I do now?

Contact your local SON Country Office (SONCO) <http://www.soncap.com/pdfs/offices.pdf> for further information on SONCAP and to determine whether your exports fall within the scope of SONCAP. If required your local SONCO will initiate the relevant processes

Europe, Middle East, Africa

Estelle Mann
Tel: +44 1908 857815
Fax: +44 1908 857832
Email: estelle.mann@intertek.com

Americas

Francisco Ibern
Tel No. (1) 305-513-2816
Fax No. (1) 305-513-3001
Email: info.miami.gs@intertek.com

Asia

Alice Cheung
Tel: (852) 23109923
Fax: (852) 23702284
Email: info.hongkong.gs@intertek.com

This information sheet should be read in conjunction with the comprehensive Exporter and Importer Guidelines. These can be obtained from www.soncap.com or from your local SON Country Office



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Stage 1: Obtaining a Product Certificate

Exporter contacts local SONCO with:

- i) a completed RFPC form (Request for Product Certification)
- ii) an accredited Test Report showing that the Product to be shipped complies with safety/performance standards acceptable under SONCAP.

If the Exporter does not have a Test Report then the SONCO can help with obtaining such a Test Report



SONCO reviews the RFPC and Test Report and if acceptable issues a Product Certificate. If the Test Report is not acceptable then a rationale will be provided

Note: Once a Product Certificate has been issued it can be used repeatedly until its expiry

Stage 2: Obtaining a SONCAP Certificate

Exporter contacts local SONCO with:

- i) a completed RFSC form (Request for SONCAP Certification)
- ii) a copy of the Final Invoice

The exporter should ensure that the RFSC is completed with the Product Certificate reference numbers for all goods being shipped



The SONCO will review all submitted paperwork and take all steps it deems necessary to ensure that the goods being shipped are not sub-standard. This includes physical inspection, sampling, etc

Upon a satisfactory outcome a SONCAP certificate will be issued to the Exporter for that consignment.



The Exporter should forward the SONCAP Certificate to the Importer who will be required to produce it at the destination port in Nigerian port in order to help ensure the release of goods.

Note: Once a SONCAP Certificate has been issued it can only be used once and only for the relevant consignment