



PRODUCT CONFORMITY ASSESSMENT

ENHANCING INTERNATIONAL TRADE

IN TODAY'S GLOBALIZED MARKETS AND FAST GROWING ECONOMY, THE INCREASING VOLUMES OF GOODS TRADED BETWEEN COUNTRIES IS NOT ONLY THE SIGN OF MUTUAL BENEFITS BUT ALSO A MAJOR SOURCE OF CONCERN FOR GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES DUE TO THE SAFETY AND TRACEABILITY OF THE PRODUCTS.

The exchange of products and services between countries means an increase in beneficial commerce with business partners as well as a productive crossing of borders. This interaction requires mutual understanding and adherence to internationally recognized standards that must adapt to the ever-changing spirit of the global economy.

With the world trade linked as one global market, the clients' focus is extending beyond timely delivery and acceptable quality and quantity. Each country's concerns pivot on **consistency** and **compliance** in trade practices as well as the **protection** and **safety** of their human, animal, and plant life resources. To ensure these concerns are addressed, an increasing number of governments have instituted Conformity Assessment as part of their plans for sustainable development.

SGS Product Conformity Assessment (PCA) is a solution designed to ensure that **products meet the specific requirements** set by a regulatory authority in the importing country.

The solution consists of **verifying product's compliance** with the requirements of applicable standards and technical regulations following a review by SGS product specialists, of reports from verification activities such as laboratory testing, physical inspection and factory audits. Conformity of products is evidenced by the issuance of a Certificate of Conformity (CoC), a document that is mandatory for customs clearance.

SGS CONFORMITY ASSESSMENT: GLOBAL SERVICES AND LOCAL SOLUTIONS

SGS PCA PREVENTS THE IMPORTATION OF UNSAFE, SUBSTANDARD OR COUNTERFEIT GOODS; IT SUPPORTS GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES TO ENFORCE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF OBLIGATORY LEGISLATIONS ESTABLISHED FOR THE PROTECTION OF CONSUMER'S HEALTH AND SAFETY AND THE ENVIRONMENT.

PCA helps **trade facilitation** and **protects the interests of traders**: importers benefit from a faster customs clearance process because verification activities have been completed prior to shipment, and exporters do not take the risk to have their goods rejected at the country of destination because of non-compliance with the requirements.

SGS PCA benefits consumers as well as regulators, manufacturers, and the trade community. It enhances sustainable development and facilitates trade and access to the global markets.

Although product conformity requirements will vary, regulators, traders and consumers have expectations about the product that converge toward safety, quality, ecology, reliability and/or interoperability.

SGS PCA is not only a solution to assure the conformity of the products to be traded on a specific market; it is primarily an integrated service combining other automated solutions. These solutions facilitate the trade, accelerate the movement of goods and provide factual risk data to support decision-making for further investigations and market surveillance.

Conformity Assessment programs support government authorities to enforce the implementation of obligatory legislations when public health, safety and the environment are at stake.



CONFORMITY ASSESSMENT PROCEDURE

DEPENDING ON THE NATURE OF THE PRODUCT AND CERTIFICATION SCHEME, THE VERIFICATION PROCEDURE MAY INCLUDE ONE OR A COMBINATION OF THE FOLLOWING ACTIVITIES:

- **Product Testing:** Technical determination of one or more characteristics of an object, according to a specified requirement (standard, regulation) and procedure (test method).
- **Inspection:** Examination of a product design, process or installation and determination of its conformity with specific requirements or, on the basis of professional judgment, with general requirements. It may involve visual examination, measurement or testing, examination of technical documents, e.g. design drawings, etc., or comparison of the finding with the requirements of specification documents or with generally accepted good practice in the field.
- **Factory and desk audits:** A systematic, independent and documented process to obtain audit evidence and objective assessment with a view to determine to which extent the audit criteria are fulfilled. It entails a physical visit to the entity's premises (factory audit) and/or interviews and screening of records to gather evidence on the item being audited (desk audit).
- **Documentary review:** Technical evaluation of documents (e.g. test reports and related information) provided by an entity, in order to determine compliance to a standard or regulation.





TEAMWORK

CONFORMITY ASSESSMENT IS A PARTNERSHIP NOT JUST BETWEEN THE EXPORTING AND IMPORTING COUNTRIES BUT BETWEEN THE REGULATORY AUTHORITY AND A THIRD PARTY CERTIFICATION BODY. THE SYNERGY BETWEEN THESE REPRESENTATIONS IS ACHIEVED THROUGH THEIR RESPECTIVE COMMITMENTS:

- Regulatory authorities define the scope of the program, set up the guidelines and procedures, then mandate a certification body for the overall supervision and execution
- The certification body verifies that the products meet the requirements of the program through the evaluation of reports from testing, inspection and site audits. This compliance is evidenced by the issuance of a Certificate of Conformity
- Exporters ensure their goods meet the regulatory requirements of the country of destination and provide all the supporting information to the certification body for conducting the assessment
- Importers ensure that their suppliers are aware of the technical regulations and the standard's requirements applicable to their products. They also make sure that consignment will be accompanied by a Certificate of Conformity

SGS IS YOUR TRUSTED PARTNER

SGS IS RECOGNIZED AS THE GLOBAL BENCHMARK FOR THE HIGHEST STANDARDS OF EXPERTISE, QUALITY AND INTEGRITY

- Its unique global network of more than 1,350 offices and laboratories around the world allows SGS to assist manufacturers while supporting importers in the application of Conformity Assessment procedures
- The unrivalled technical competence and product knowledge of its experts makes SGS a leading force in the verification of conformity of all products that may fall under the scope of a Conformity Assessment program
- SGS is accredited to conduct Conformity Assessment services for various countries and markets. Its extensive experience and acquired knowledge throughout the years are the key components in providing assistance for the development and implementation of customized Conformity Assessment programs for any country
- With more than one hundred years of proven objectivity, reliability and integrity, SGS is the trusted partner of governments and trade communities influencing change in opportunities, challenges and productivity

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WHEN YOU NEED TO BE SURE

