intertek
Total Quality. Assured.

Trade with Assurance in Nigeria

Enabling exporters and importers to comply with Nigeria's Standards Organization of Nigeria Conformity Assessment Programme (SONCAP)

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Trade with Assurance in Nigeria

To protect consumers and safeguard public health and safety, the **Standards Organisation of Nigeria (SON) introduced the SONCAP programme.**

Established in 2005, **SONCAP** helps prevent substandard, unsafe, and counterfeit products from entering the Nigerian market by ensuring regulated products comply with applicable standards before shipment.

As an approved Conformity Assessment Body, Intertek supports exporters and importers throughout the **SONCAP** compliance process, enabling smooth customs clearance, seamless market access to Nigeria, and helping businesses Trade with Assurance.

What is Intertek's role?

As an authorised authority, Intertek's Total Quality Expertise supports importers and exporters to comply with the Nigeria **SONCAP** programme by:

- Providing conformity assessment - Product Certificate (PC) and SONCAP Certificate (SC) issuance through authorised services.
- Offering guidance on applicable standards and regulatory requirements providing support in preparing documentation and navigating certification routes.
- Supporting testing, inspections, and product registration activities Facilitating smoother customs clearance in Nigeria.

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About Nigeria

Capital

Abuja

GDP (million current US$)

$374 984

Year 2023

IMPORT (million current US$)

$40 968

Year 2024 (Projected Estimate)

Information taken from: data.un.org

Certification Requirements

Under SONCAP, regulated products must comply with applicable Nigerian Industrial Standards (NIS) or approved equivalent standards before importation into Nigeria.

Two mandatory certificates are required:

- Product Certificate (PC): Issued for compliant products under all certification routes and required for E-Form M processing.
- SONCAP Certificate (SC): Issued for each compliant shipment and required for customs clearance.

Both certificates are issued in the exporting country following conformity assessment activities, including documentation review, product testing, and inspection. Failure to comply may result in customs delays, penalties, or rejected shipments.

Required Documentation

Every consignment containing regulated products must:

- Have a valid Product Certificate (PC) issued by an approved Inspection and Accreditation Firm (IAF), such as Intertek.
- Be accompanied by a SONCAP Certificate (SC) issued by your local Intertek office prior to shipment for customs clearance in Nigeria.
- Comply with applicable Nigerian Industrial Standards (NIS) or approved equivalent standards, as confirmed by the SONCAP Certificate (SC).
- Be aware that Nigerian authorities may conduct random compliance checks. Most products are covered under SONCAP unless specifically exempted or prohibited by SON or other Nigerian authorities.

WHAT ARE THE REQUIRED DOCUMENTS FOR CERTIFICATION?

The following certification requirements must be met before regulated products can be exported to Nigeria

The following documents shall be submitted prior to the issuance of the **Product Certification (PC)**

Test Reports
(if available) **issued by an ISO/IEC 17025 accredited laboratory**

Quality Management System (QMS)/ Factory Audit
(where applicable)

Other substantiating documentation

The following documents shall be submitted prior to the issuance of the **SONCAP Certificate (SC)**

Proforma or Commercial invoice

Product Certificate copy
(PC1 for Route A, PC2 for Route B and PC3 for Route C shipments)

Copy of E-Form M

Packing list
(if available)

Other substantiating documentation

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CERTIFICATION PROCESS AND ROUTES

Three streamlined certification routes are available to support exporters, applicants, and manufacturers. Each route provides a clear pathway to compliance, ensuring products reach their destination efficiently and with assurance.

Under the SONCAP Programme, a mandatory Product Certificate (PC) is issued with a validity period of six months to one year, subject to the applicable certification rules, while a SONCAP Certificate (SC) is required and issued for every shipment.

For Occasional Exporters

Route A

Unregistered or Unlicensed Status

PC 1 is issued to all type of Applicants with occasional exports to Nigeria and may be used for single shipment within 6 months from the date of issue.

PRODUCT CERTIFICATE 1

1. Exporter/Importer Contacts Intertek Office
2. Product Certificate 1 Application Review - PRL Form
3. Submission of Test Data. Intertek Offices Arrange Testing if Test Data is Not Available
4. Intertek Reviews the Reports
5. Intertek issues Product Certificate 1
6. Exporter/Importer Contacts Intertek Office
7. SONCAP Certificate Application Review by Intertek Office - RFC Form (Including Valid PC 1)
8. Mandatory Shipment Inspection
9. Intertek verifies compliance
10. Intertek Issues the SC

For Frequent Exporters

Route B

Registered Status

PC 2 is issued to applicants and may be used for multiple shipments for a period of one year from the date of issue.

PRODUCT CERTIFICATE 2

1. Exporter/Importer Contacts Intertek Office
2. Submission of Test Data. Intertek Offices Arrange Testing if Test Data is not available
3. Product Testing (if required)
4. Intertek Reviews the Reports
5. Intertek issues Product Certificate 2
6. Exporter/Importer Contacts Intertek Office
7. SONCAP Certificate Application Review by Intertek Office - RFC Form (Including Valid PC 2)
8. Selective Inspection
9. Intertek verifies compliance
10. Intertek Issues the SC

For High volume Exporters

Route C

Licensed Status

PC 3 is issued to manufacturers and may be used for multiple shipments for a period of one year from the date of issue.

PRODUCT CERTIFICATE 3

1. Exporter/Importer Contacts Intertek Office
2. Product Certificate 3 (Licence) Application Review by Intertek Office - PRL Form
3. Product Testing (if required)
4. Factory Audit of the Manufacturing unit
5. Intertek Reviews the Reports
6. Intertek Issues Product Certificate 3
7. Exporter/Importer Contacts Intertek Office
8. SONCAP Certificate Application Review by Intertek Office - RFC Form (Including Valid PC 3)
9. Random Inspection
10. Intertek verifies compliance
11. Intertek Issues the SC

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REGULATED PRODUCTS

The SONCAP conformity assessment programme applies to a wide range of imported products, while certain product categories are exempt from its requirements. The regulated and exempted products are outlined below.

Regulated Products

The Nigeria SONCAP Regulated products include the following but are not limited to:

- Toys
- Electrical and Electronics
- Automotive
- Chemical Products
- Building & Construction Materials
- Mechanical Materials & Gas Appliances
- Paper and Stationery
- Protective Safety Equipment
- Textile and Textile Products
- Footwear
- Medical Devices
- Furniture
- Arts and Crafts
- Leather, Plastic and Rubber Products

Life-Endangering Products

The following life-endangering products require mandatory inspection and testing. These products are not limited to the categories listed:

- Electrical and Electronic products such as Electrical cables, fuses, Switches, Solar Panels etc.
- Building products such as Cements, Iron and Steel products, Gypsum, Gas Heater etc.
- Automotive Products such as Automobile Glass, Safety Belts, Brake pads, Tyres etc.
- Chemical Products such as Fertilizers, Paints, Brake Fluid, Stabilizers etc.

Exempted Products

SONCAP programme exempted products include the following:

- Food products
- Medicines and Pharmaceuticals
- Medicals other than equipment and machines.
- Chemicals used as raw materials by bonafide manufacturers
- Military wares and equipment
- Imports classified as contraband by the Federal Government of Nigeria
- Used products other than automobiles

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FEE STRUCTURE

Fees for conformity assessment under Nigeria SONCAP are outlined below:

Certification Fees

TYPE OF CERTIFICATES	ROUTES	FEE (USD)
Product Certificate 1	A	$ 500
Product Certificate 2	B	$ 1000
Product Certificate 3	C	$ 2000
SONCAP Certificate	All Routes	$ 350

Other Costs Apply

FEE DESCRIPTION	FEE (USD)
PC additional Line Item	$60 with cap at 300 line items
Amendment of Certificate	$ 150

Notes

1. The above-mentioned SONCAP certificate fees cover the documentary verification, inspection of goods and container sealing (where applicable)
2. The above-mentioned fees exclude laboratory testing, re-inspection fees, applicable taxes and any other applicable charges.

Compliance Reminder

1. Selecting the appropriate certification route and completing conformity assessment prior to shipment helps avoid:
2. Clearance delays
3. Additional costs
4. Penalties or surcharges
5. Destination inspection or rejection of goods
6. Early engagement with an authorised SONCAP International Accredited Firm (IAF) is strongly recommended.

About Government and Trade Services
Trade with Assurance

Intertek Government & Trade Services helps governments and businesses trade with assurance by supporting regulatory compliance, reducing risk, and strengthening supply chains. We support import control and customs clearance through inspection, verification, and certification, while enabling smooth market access through Global Market Access (GMA) services. Backed by digital innovation, tailored commercial solutions, and sustainability-led services—enabling safer, faster, and more efficient global trade.

KEY:

SONCAP : Standards Organization of Nigeria Conformity Assessment Programme

PC : Product Certificate

SC : SONCAP Certificate

RFC : Request for Certification

PRL : Request for Registration and Licence

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