



Market access into the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia – Frequently Asked Questions

Are local manufacturers required to register their products on the Saber platform?

Saleem, the Saudi Product Safety program, is implemented on both imported or locally manufactured products intended to be placed in the Saudi Market. Local manufacturers have to register on the Saber platform to obtain the product certificate of conformity (PCoC). They would not need the shipping certification of conformity (SCoC) as they are not importing any products.

When can the client chose any of the local registered Standards, Metrology, and Quality Organization of Saudi Arabia (SASO) Conformity Assessment Bodies (CABs)? i.e. CABs located in Saudi Arabia?

The selection of CABs shall be according to the product country of origin, if the origin is in China, then the importer shall select the Asian and Australian region, and then select one of the CABs approved in the related regulation to this product. Selection of a CAB located in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is only possible if the product of origin is in the Middle East and North African region.

Is the barcode mandatory in Saber?

So far it is not mandatory.

If the product is not listed under any of the technical regulations, is the product still required to comply with the Saudi standards?

Yes, even if the product is not listed under any technical regulations, it still needs to comply with the Saudi standards. If Saudi Standards are not available, the international standards applies and this is a self-certification of the product.

For the models that are manufactured in more than one factory within the same geographical region, is one application enough to cover these models knowing that they are the same models but have different manufacturing factories?

One application can include products that share the same harmonized system (HS) Code which is the same manufacturer, same origin, and same brand. Therefore in this case the new application must be submitted since origin is different, and/or the factory is different.

Are there labelling requirements after obtaining the Communications and Information Technology Commission (CITC) type approval?

Only the CITC e-label must be placed on all mobile phones and tablets.

Is CITC still accepting the 4G mobile phones approvals?

Yes, 4G is the minimum accepted technology for mobile phones to be approved by CITC.

If we need to get SASO energy efficiency regulation (EER), do we have to also approach via Saber?

For Energy efficiency requests, it needs to be registered on another system. The link is provided here: <https://www.sls.gov.sa/Pages/en/registerapplicant.aspx>

UL can support you for the EER certification and license. Please contact your local UL office for more information.

What barcode format is in the product shipment process?

A barcode is not mandatory yet and SASO did not announce the criteria for the barcodes. it is worth mentioning that products for the Saudi Quality Mark are required to have the GS1 barcode.

Which Saudi scheme (SIRC, etc) would industrial electrical products fall under?

The SASO Technical Regulation for Machinery regulates the requirements for industrial electrical products, it is a modified adoption of the European Union machinery regulation.

For an accurate reply, please provide the HS Code, products datasheet and photos to your local UL representative.

Are there any updates on the validity of the SASO IECEE Recognition Certificate (SIRC)?

There are no official updates about changing SIRC validity. Currently, the validity is for one year.

How does this approval system interoperate with the system for Gulf Cooperation Council Gulf Mark (GCC G-Mark)?

The Saber system is linked with GCC Standardization Organization Gulf Conformity Tracking System (GSO GCTS).

When submitting an application for G-Mark products in the saber system, the applicant/importer must enter the GCTS certificate number and expiry date, then Saber system will validate the GCTS certificate in GSO GCTS system and also Saber system will verify if the Saudi Importer Commercial Registration (CR) number in GCTS system matches with Saudi Importer CR number in saber.

If it matches, the request for the product certificate will be directed automatically to the GSO Notified Body who first issued the GCTS Certificate, if the product information filled in Saber system comply/match with the GCTS Certificate, the GSO NB which also has access to Saber will approve the issuance of Saber product certificate of compliance (CoC).

Approximately how long does it take to obtain the Saber registration?

Typically one to two days if all documents available.

Are RoHS reports meeting EU RoHS Directive acceptable for meeting SASO regulations?

The following reply is based on the available information from SASO and as per the SASO draft Technical regulation (TR) for ROHS, if those reports are issued from accepted laboratories, then yes the RoHS reports are acceptable. This is because SASO applicable standards for ROHS are similar to those implemented in Europe.

HS codes basically drive the certification required correct?

Yes.

Does/will SASO recognize certification body (CB) certificates to IEC 62368-1:2014?

Starting from July 2021, only the 3rd version IEC 62368-1:2018 will be accepted.

Regarding RoHS it will be mandatory for a test report by a third party? Or a self-declaration is sufficient?

This is still not confirmed by SASO.

Does the RoHS requirement apply to radio product used inside vehicles?

RoHS scope still not defined by SASO.

Can one use EU RoHS documentation to demonstrate compliance with SASO RoHS?

SASO RoHS required documents have yet to be published by SASO.

Is IEC 60950-1 accepted for spare parts for legacy products after July 1, 2021?

IEC 60950 will not be accepted for any product compliance starting from July 2021.

Are test reports for RoHS mandatory or can an EU structural analysis be used instead?

RoHS requirements are still not confirmed by SASO.

Is there a list of products (HS codes) that will require IEC 62368-1:2018 for July 1, 2021? Is it the GSO List 1 products only?

The IEC 62368-1:2018 is the required safety standard for all audio/video, information and communication technology equipment.

What are the requirements for furniture?

Furnitures are not in our SASO notification scope.

Is SIRC required for industrial use display panels or industrial use computers? If so, does the importer or manufacturer obtains the certificate?

SIRC is required for all kind of display panels. You may check on saber system using the product HS code. Both manufacturer or importer can apply for the SIRC certificate.

Do you have to apply for CB certificate for the energy efficiency rating? If yes, what is required for LED and incandescent light sources?

For KSA market access for lighting products, you need to obtain the following:

- 1) EER certificate and label

- 2) SASOO IECEE (SIRC) Certificate. The CB test report will be required.
- 3) Saber product CoC
- 4) Shipment certificate

Why is a CB report more than 3 years old not accepted by SASO?

These are SASO regulations in which we need to comply with.

Who needs to register the product? Manufacturer, supplier, importer?

For Saber PCoC : the local importer

For SIRC: both manufacturer or importer can apply and get the certificate.

Water pumps has own certification category. Do we need SASO certification if our motor is part of pump?

Motors that are part of a pump and exported as a separate line item, are required to

- 1) obtain an EER exemption letter for the motor
- 2) obtain Saber PCoC (for the safety standard of IEC 60034-1) and shipment for shipment of the motors

If the final product in the shipment invoice are water pumps, then SIRC will be required if the pump is in scope of IEC 60335-2-41 and/or IEC 60335-2-51.

For SIRC, SASO only accepts SASO IEC 62368-1:2020 which is adapted from IEC 62368-1 3rd edition. Does that mean SASO will not accept IEC 62368-1:2014 (second edition)?

The IEC 62368-1:2014 (second edition) will not be accepted after July 1, 2021. Applications for IEC 62368:2014 can still be submitted till this date with an undertaking letter. Validity of the SIRC for those application will be 1 year from the issuance date.

Also where would Lithium Polymer/ Lithium batteries fall?

There is a TR for Batteries issued by SASO where it describes the applicable conformity assessment procedures for batteries into ISO 17067 Type 3 procedure where it mainly consist of technical evaluation and annual factory audit. If the result is satisfactory, a PCoC from the Saber system will be applicable.

The energy label is mandatory for all the lighting products, they will update the regulation following the new EU regulation?

SASO have their own standards for Lighting products like SASO 2870, SASO2902, SASO 2927 and this standards are based on testing methods of the EN/IEC/ISO standards.

If SASO is responsible to issue draft TR? Who is responsible for final TR ?

SASO is responsible for issuing the final TR, and they are welcoming the comments on the issued draft, if you have comments on it you can share it with us or you can reach SASO directly.

If a product is manufactured in another country and does not have a UL Mark, can it be imparted into KSA through the Saber system?

The UL Mark is different from the Saber system. A product can be registered in SASO Saber system to get the required certificate and enter the KSA even if it does not have UL Mark.

What happens if a product has to be registered but it is not? Will there a penalty fee? What is the amount of this fee?

It is an obligation for (manufacturer/importers) to register the products in Saber system and their products would not be allowed in the KSA market without the Saber registration/certification. There is no defined penalties for failing to register, but the shipments of these products will not be cleared from customs ports without the saber shipment certificate.

What are the fees related to register the products? Does it vary depending on the product?

The fees can vary from one type to another and it depends on the service requested and applicable conformity assessment procedures. Please contact your local UL office for more a quotation.

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