



**MINISTERIAL DECREE**

**Introduction of a mandated pre-shipment Verification of Conformance (VoC) for products imported into Somaliland.**

The Ministry of Trade and Tourism of the Republic of Somaliland hereby announces the introduction of a mandatory pre-shipment verification of conformity program (VoC) for goods imported into Somaliland.

The VoC program aims to provide numerous advantages for the end consumers and citizens of Somaliland by reducing sub-quality, unsafe, counterfeited and non-compliant goods. The control of import against harmonized standards will in addition create a fair marketplace for the traders and local manufactures.

The conformity assessment process and issuance of Certificates of Conformity (CoC) should be performed and delivered in the country of origin or supply before shipment to Somaliland. The CoC will be required at the Customs clearance and Ministry of Trade and Tourism in Somaliland for every consignment and products covered by the VOC program.

The Ministry of Trade and Tourism has appointed Cotecna Inspection (sole and exclusive); an international leading provider of inspection, testing and certification to deliver the VoC services, throughout the world.

To assess the conformity of a shipment, the VoC process will follow one of the four levels of compliance, named "routes". The choice of the route depends on the profile of the exporter and the nature of the goods. These are:

- Route A for exporters with infrequent shipments or sensitive goods
- Route B for exporters with regular shipments (registered products)
- Route C for manufacturers with regular and high-volume shipments (licensed products)

One month following the date of issuance of this letter 15<sup>th</sup> March, 2022, the pre-shipment verification of conformity program (VoC) for goods imported into Somaliland will be mandatory as of 16<sup>th</sup> April, 2022.

As a consequence, large traders are informed to submit their Certificate of Conformity by this date before shipment.

If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact the Somaliland Ministry of Trade and Tourism.

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