



EXPORTER GUIDE TO GABON



VERIFICATION OF CONFORMITY PROCESS

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Gabonese Conformity Assessment Programme PROGEC (Programme Gabonais d'évaluation de la Conformité)

The Gabonese Standard Agency AGANOR (Agence Gabonaise de Normalisation) regulates the mandatory Gabonese Conformity Assessment Programme PROGEC (Programme Gabonais d'évaluation de la Conformité) for products exported to Gabon.

PROGEC aims to protect Gabonese consumers and the environment by reducing sub-standard, unsafe and counterfeit products imported into Gabon. The programme will also promote fair competition for local manufacturers and traders. To ensure harmonized compliance to the set safety standards and regulations, AGANOR appointed **Cotecna Inspection S.A (Cotecna)** to issue Certificates of Conformity (COC) on its behalf. The Cotecna mandate covers the testing, inspection and certification of all PROGEC regulated products.

Every consignment of regulated products exported to Gabon must be accompanied by a valid Certificate of Conformity. The COC is mandatory for goods whose FOB value is equal or over 3000 Eur. This guide covers the requirements of obtaining the mandatory Certificate of Conformity needed for customs clearance.

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REGULATED PRODUCTS

PROGEC regulated products require a mandatory Certificate of Conformity (COC) for successful import. Upon arrival, regulated products without a valid COC will be denied entry into Gabon.

List of Regulated Products

- > Minerals: HS chapter 25
- > Chemicals & Plastics products: HS chapters 28, 29, 31, 32, 35, 38, 39
- > Perfumery, Cosmetic & other personal care products: HS chapters 33, 34
- > Rubber & Wooden products: HS chapters 40, 44, 45, 46
- > Stone, Ceramic & Glassware products: HS chapters 68, 69, 70
- > Iron, Steel & other metals: HS chapters 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83
- > Machinery/Mechanical appliances & Electrical/Electronic products: HS chapters 84, 85 and 94
- > Instruments & Apparatus: HS chapter 90
- > Miscellaneous Manufactured Articles: HS chapter 95

Food Products (HS Chap 1-24) are not subject to PROGEC requirements.

To find out if your product(s) is subject to regulation, please contact your nearest [Cotecna office](#) or [Cotecna Gabon](#).

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CERTIFICATE OF CONFORMITY PROCESS

The conformity assessment process and issuance of Certificates of Conformity (COC) is performed and delivered in the country of origin or supply, before shipment to Gabon. The COC will be required for the **Customs Clearance** and **Business Process** in Gabon for **every consignment** of products regulated under the PROGEC programme.

Note: To start the conformity process, fill out and submit the [Cotecna Request for Certification \(RFC\) form](#).

The pre-shipment certification process includes one or a combination of the following kinds of verification to ensure the product is compliant with Gabon, Regional or International standards:



1. Documentation verification

The exporter/applicant must provide Cotecna with the following documents for verification:

- i) A filled out **Cotecna Request for Certification form**
- ii) Commercial Invoice
- iii) Packing List
- iv) Valid conformity documents (such as laboratory test reports issued by an ISO 17025 accredited laboratory, technical data, analysis certificates, Quality Management System certificate, etc) and any other relevant documentation.



2. Laboratory testing in the exporting country

If the product test report is not available or is missing essential test criteria, Cotecna will take samples from the shipment and perform the necessary tests in an ISO 17025 accredited laboratory.



3. Physical inspection in exporting country

Cotecna will physically inspect the goods and ensure that essential markings comply with Gabon standards, take samples (see above) and seal the container if required.



4. Certificate of Conformity

Cotecna will issue a Certificate of Conformity (COC) only if the product meets the Gabon requirements, following a successful completion of the evaluation, inspection and testing. **Without a valid COC, Gabon Customs will not clear goods for importation.**



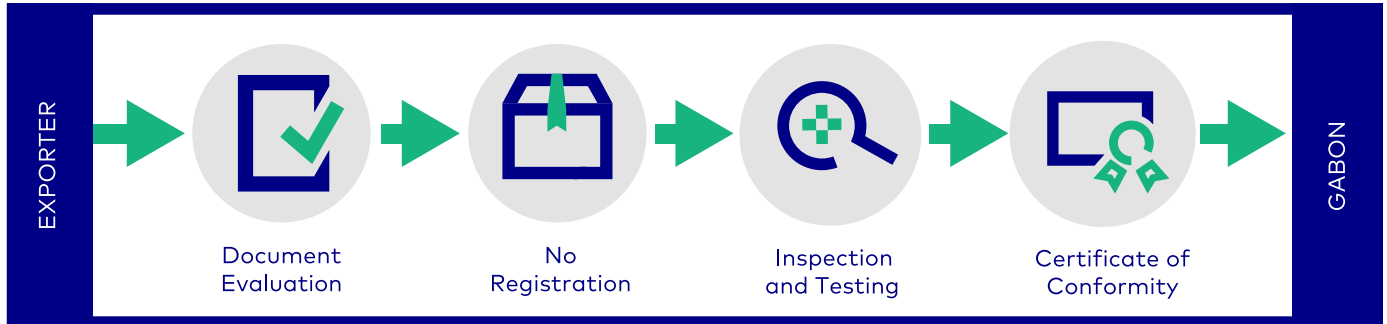
4

CERTIFICATE OF CONFORMITY ROUTES

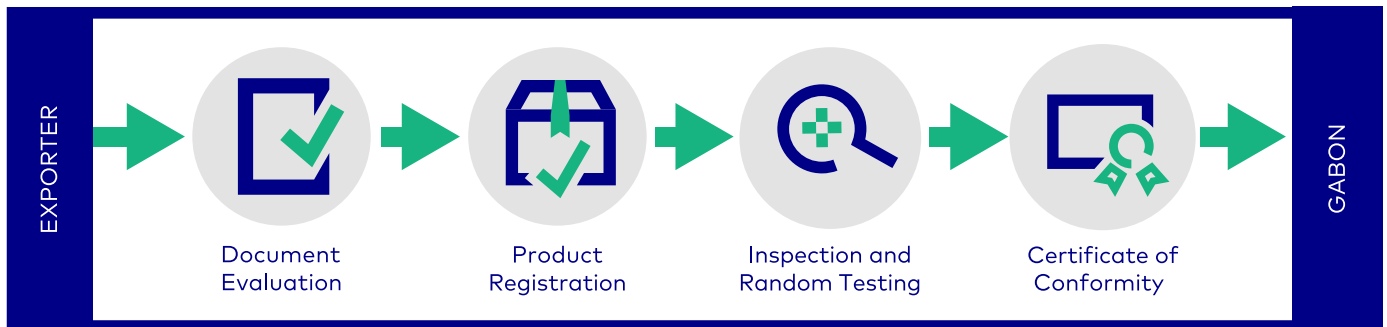
To assess the conformity of a shipment, the VOC process will follow one of the three levels of compliance, named **"routes"**. The choice of the route depends on the profile of the exporter and the nature of the goods.

The Gabon conformity routes are:

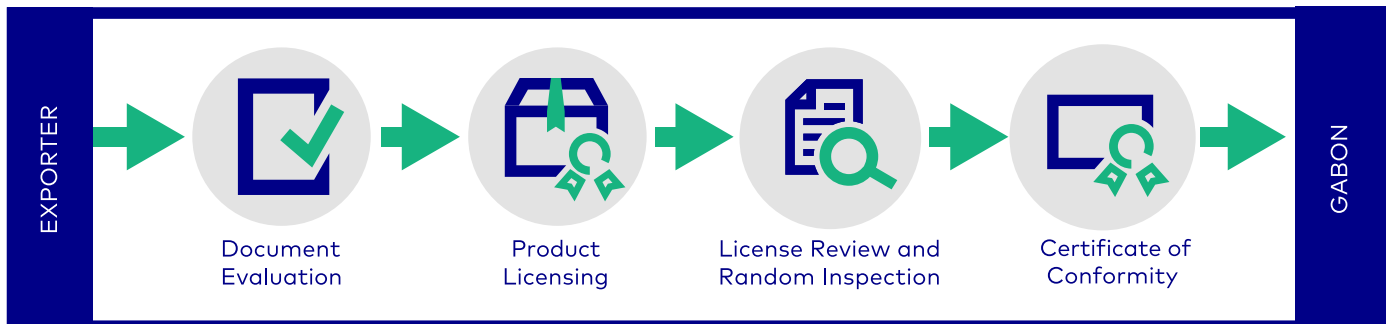
ROUTE A



ROUTE B



ROUTE C



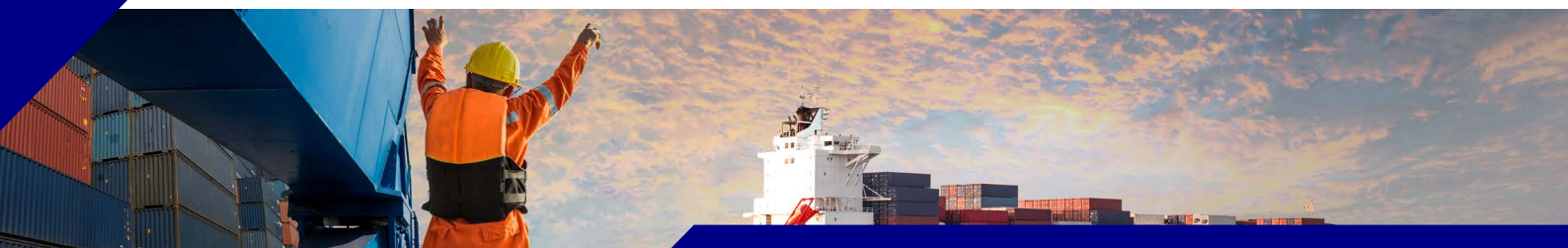
Gabon National Deviations

The following national deviations will be controlled:

Categories	Deviations
Language	> For consumer products, the markings and instructions required by the applicable standards must be indicated at least in French. Note: If the language used on the original label is not French, you can, instead of replacing this label, add a second one which contains all the mandatory information written in French. In the case where the label is replaced or supplemented by another, the mandatory information must faithfully reproduce those appearing on the original label > For industrial and professional products, the markings and instructions required by the applicable standard must be indicated in at least French or English. Note: If the language used on the original label is neither French nor English, instead of replacing this label, add a second label that includes all the mandatory information written in French or English. In the case where the label is replaced or supplemented by another, the mandatory information must faithfully reproduce those appearing on the original label.
Electrical products	> Type of plugs and electrical sockets: French type (EN50075, NF C61-314, type E(CEE7) or failing to guard against an adapter > Voltage: 220V (230V accepted) > Frequency: 50Hz
Cosmetic products	> Hydroquinone is prohibited in cosmetic products

Certification Fees

Routes Language	COC		
	Ad Valorem fee of the FOB value of goods	Minimum (in Euros)	Maximum (in Euros)
A	0.53%	250	7000
B	0.45%	300	7000
C	0.27%	220	7000



Product Registration (SOR)

Products/Lines	Annual registration fee (in Euro)
First 15 products	375
Each additional product (above 15)	20 (per product/line)

Above-mentioned fees are net of any duties and taxes and include:

- > Documentary verification
- > Physical inspection
- > Issuance of COC or NCR

The above-mentioned fees do not include the following:

- > Factory audit
- > Laboratory testing fees
- > Manufacturing Licensing
- > Sampling not done at the time of inspection and sampling of bulk shipments
- > Containers sealing and loading supervision if applicable
- > Re-inspection
- > Fees for additional services may apply

This programme is subject to the [Cotecna General Terms and Conditions](#).

Costs of the COC (certification and inspection), sealing and/or analysis are borne by the exporter and are quoted at the time of nomination.

For more information, exporters can contact their nearest [Cotecna office](#) and importers in Gabon can directly [contact: Cotecna Gabon](#)

Disclaimer: This data-sheet has been prepared for information purpose only and is not intended to be nor does it constitute the regulation of the country of importation. Every effort has been made by Cotecna to ensure the accuracy of the information contained herein at the time of its issuance but Cotecna does not guarantee its correctness and takes no responsibility for the contents of this data-sheet, makes no representation as to its accuracy or completeness and expressly disclaims any liability whatsoever for any loss howsoever arising from or in reliance upon the whole or any part of the contents of this data-sheet.

