



EXPORTER GUIDE TO **SAUDI ARABIA**

SFDA Food Programme

SFDA FOOD VERIFICATION OF CONFORMITY (VOC) PROGRAMME

The Saudi Food and Drug Authority (SFDA) Food programme is a mandatory conformity assessment programme developed by the SFDA to ensure the quality and safety of food and beverage products imported into the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

The main purpose of the SFDA is to ensure safety of food and drugs for human and animal consumption, and the safety of biological and chemical substances, and electronic products, being imported into the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

1

SFDA Food Regulated Products

All food products are regulated in the SFDA food program. Currently, only products from these countries require mandatory COC.

1. For Egypt

- > Anise
- > Cumin
- > Dry Cowpea
- > Leafy vegetables
- > Frozen and processed vegetables and fruits
- > Milk and milk products

2. For Jordan

- > ALL type of food products of animal and vegetable origin
- > ALL type of Fresh Fruits & Vegetables
- > ALL type of Agricultural crop
- > ALL type of Spices

3. For Sudan

- > Beef & Sheep & Camel

4. For Somalia

- > Beef & Sheep & Camel

5. For Sri Lanka

- > Tea

6. For India

- > ALL type of Agricultural crop & Spices

7. Brazil (as of 1st April 2026):

- > Poultry and poultry products (from SFDA-approved establishments only)

8. UAE (as of 1st April 2026):

- > Infant and Child Formula (Milk) products.

2

Prohibited/Banned Products

No certificates should be issued for shipment with any of the below prohibited products to The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia:

- > Pig's meat, fat, hair, blood, entrails, and everything extracted from it.
- > Frog meat.
- > Nutmeg and its powder.
- > Indian paan (Tanbul).
- > Any drink bearing the name "Zamzam".
- > Wines and liquors of all kinds.
- > Stuffed animals.
- > All other foodstuffs that contain animal blood.

*Always check SFDA website on updates regarding country wise **banned products**.

3

General Requirements

- a. Exporter/manufacturer/establishments registration with SFDA.
- b. Importer active account in FRCS (SFDA Food products registration portal)
- c. Products registration number (PRN) for all the produce imported to KSA under importer FRCS account
- d. Comply with the specific technical regulation and standards

4

Labelling Requirements

All food products need marking / labeling as per GSO 9 requirements. All the details of marking by product category will have to be available for specific food products.

General Labeling requirements:

- > Name of the product.
- > List of ingredients.
- > Nutritional labeling.
- > Net weight and drained weight.
- > Name and address of manufacturer or packer.
- > Country of origin.
- > Expiration dates and instructions of storage and use.
- > Lot identification.
- > Irradiated foods indications.

Food labels shall be in Arabic and, where one or more language(s) are used besides Arabic, all the information provided in another language shall be identical to those written in Arabic.

5

SFDA FOOD CERTIFICATION PROCESS

The conformity assessment programme aims to ensure safety and security of food and feed, safety and security of pesticides and ease commercial traffic flow while maintaining safety of food and reinforcement of consumers and clients' confidence in food control authority

Step-by-Step Process

1. The exporter / importer will have to fill out the Request of Certification (RFC)
2. Once we receive your request, a dedicated and local coordinator will review your request.
3. Your coordinator will check all the necessary documentation and from that, define the scope of service.
4. To comply with importing SFDA's regulations, your dedicated coordinator will guide you through the needed verifications and will schedule them (testing of samples and inspection). After satisfactory results, a Certificate of Conformity (COC) will be issued for the shipment request received.
5. After satisfactory results, a Certificate of Conformity (COC) will be issued for the shipment request received.

6

FEES & CONDITIONS

COTECNA FEES

Please [contact us](#) to provide you with a detailed quotation as per the product list and SFDA requirements.

7

CONTACT INFORMATION & USEFUL DETAILS

Cotecna Technical Office

Cotecna Saudi Arabia Office

Riyadh Gallery mall, Olaya road,
Cotecna Saudi Limited

Elham ALSHAIKH

elham.alshaikh@cotecna.com

Cotecna Management Office

Cotecna Saudi Ltd.

Office no.208, Block A, Al Hudaiba Awards Bldg.
Opp.Etihad Museum, 2nd December Street
Dubai-UAE

Kamlesh PARMAR

kamlesh.parmar@cotecna.ae

To learn more about the SFDA Food programme, or to get a certificate for your exports, please [send us a request](#).