



EXPORTER GUIDE TO THE REPUBLIC OF CONGO



EXPORTER GUIDE TO THE REPUBLIC OF CONGO (BRAZZAVILLE)

The Republic of Congo (Brazzaville) Ministry of Industrial Development and Private Sector Promotion through the **Congolese Agency for Standardization and Quality (ACONOQ)** regulates the import of certain products through its **Verification of Conformity** programme also called **Programme Congolais d'Evaluation de la Conformité (PCEC)**. The authority requires that all regulated products undergo a conformity assessment and have a valid **Certificate of Conformity (COC)**.

The VOC (Verification of Conformity) programme aims to protect the people and environment of Congo from unsafe and substandard products. The programme will also promote fair competition for local manufacturers and traders.

To ensure the harmonized compliance to set safety standards and regulations, ACONOQ 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 Congo regulated imported products.

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REGULATED PRODUCTS

All products exported to Congo, apart from exempted products, require a mandatory Certificate of Conformity (COC) for successful import.

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

SENSITIVE PRODUCTS

Products considered as sensitive products will require a mandatory COC obtained under [Route A](#).

Sensitive Products	Tariff Chapter	Tariff Headings
Milk	04	All tariff headings of Chapter 04
Rice	10	1006
Frozen fish	03	03.04 & 03.03
Frozen meat	02	-
Frozen poultry	02	02.07
Salt	25	25.01
Egg	04	04.07 & 04.08
Wheat Flour	11	11.01



EXEMPTED PRODUCTS

The following products are exempted from certification under the Congo VOC programme:

- > Gold and other precious metals
- > Precious stones
- > Works of art
- > Scrap metals
- > Explosives, arms, ammunition and other war materials intended for the national armed forces and law enforcement agencies
- > Fish, certain vegetables and fruit, fresh or chilled (nb: frozen products require COC)
- > Live animals
- > Plants and floricultural products
- > Printed and developed cinematographic films
- > Newspapers and current periodicals, postage or revenue stamps, stamped paper, banknotes, cheque
- > Books, passports
- > Personal effects and used household items
- > Personal gifts
- > Postal parcels of no commercial value and express mail
- > Commercial samples
- > Crude or partially refined oil
- > Certain donations from foreign governments, international organisations to the State, foundations
- > Charities, philanthropic organisations recognised as being of public utility
- > Supplies imported for their own needs by diplomatic and consular missions, by international Organisations
- > Complete imports with an FOB value of less than one million (1,000,000) CFA francs or the equivalent
- > Value in another currency
- > Postal parcels for e-commerce products

PROHIBITED/BANNED PRODUCTS

The following products or any products containing them are prohibited in Congo:

- > Cosmetic products containing hydroquinone above the authorized limits.
- > The following food additives:
 - Preservatives: E217, E232, E236, E237, E238 et E240;
 - Acidifiers: E430, E459, E487;
 - Flavours enhancers: E636, E638, E641;
 - Sweeteners: E956, E964;
 - Thickeners: E518, E1411, E1421, E1423, E1443, E1453;
 - Colours: E103, E111, E121, E125, E126, E128, E130, E143, E152, E154, E155, E161i, E164, E165, E166

NB: The above lists of products can be changed by ACONOQ when/if necessary.

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

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 Congo. The COC will be required for the Customs Clearance and Business Process in Congo for **every consignment** of products regulated under the Verification of Conformity programme.

1. Documentation verification

To begin the certification process, the exporter/applicant must provide Cotecna with the following documents for verification:

- i. A filled out Cotecna Request for Certification form
- ii. Proforma invoice where goods are listed
- iii. Import licence number (required for issuing the Certificate)
- iv. Valid conformity documents (such as laboratory test reports issued by an ISO 17025 accredited laboratory, technical data, analysis certificates,
- v. Quality Management System certificate, etc. and any other relevant documentation.

2. Laboratory testing in the exporting country when necessary.

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 Congo 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 Congo requirements, following a successful completion of the evaluation, inspection if necessary and testing. A valid COC will be required by Congo Authorities during the entry process into the country

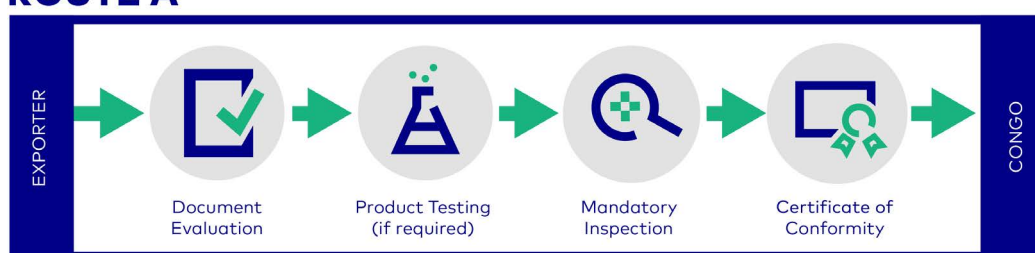


CERTIFICATION ROUTES

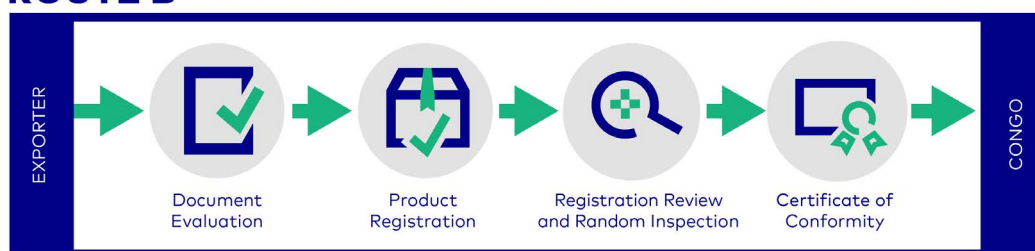
The pre-shipment certification process includes one or a combination of the following kinds of "routes" for verification. These routes help ensure the exported product is compliant with Congolese, Regional or International standards. The choice of the route depends on the profile of the exporter and the nature of the goods.

- > **Route A** is ideal for infrequent exporters and mandatory for sensitive products (see Regulated Products for the list of sensitive products).
- > **Route B** is ideal for regular shipments with non-sensitive homogeneous products and exporters whose products are registered.
- > **Route C** is ideal for manufacturers, official distributors and brand owners with regular and high-volume shipments to Congo and having a Quality Management System (QMS) applied to their production/manufacturing process.

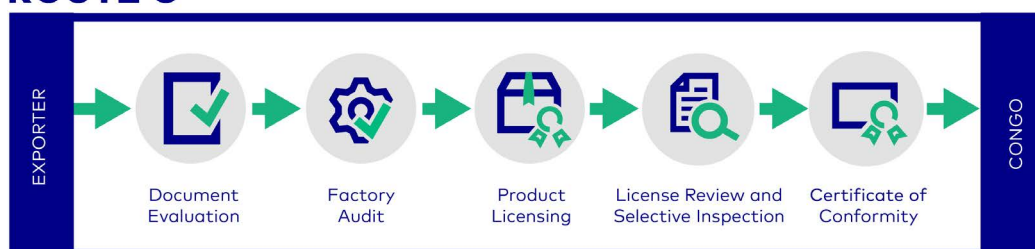
ROUTE A



ROUTE B



ROUTE C



Cotecna will issue a Certificate of Conformity (COC) only if the product meets the Congo requirements, following a successful completion of the evaluation, inspection and testing. A valid COC will be required by Congo Customs in the clearance process at import.

CERTIFICATION FEES

ROUTE	APPLICABLE FEE (% OF DECLARED FOB VALUE)	MIN. FEE IN EUR	MAX. FEE IN EUR
A	0.53%	300 EUR	7000 EUR
B	0.45%	300 EUR	7000 EUR
C	0.27%	200 EUR	7000 EUR

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

- > Documentary verification
- > Physical inspection
- > Issuance of COC or NCR (Non-Conformity Report)

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 the responsibility of the exporter and are quoted at the time of nomination.

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

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.

