EAC-Ready
Certification Scheme

BRINGING YOUR PRODUCTS TO THE DOORSTEPS OF EAST AFRICAN MARKETS

SGS.COM/PCA

SGS

Why **East Africa**?
Why **EAC-Ready** certification?

Economies in the east african community (EAC) are growing rapidly. To guide this expansion and enhance the movement of goods across borders, EAC leaders are adopting a common set of east african standards (EAS) to standardize, regulate and control product quality and safety.

EAC is a regional intergovernmental organization incorporating seven partner states:

1. Republic of Burundi
2. Democratic Republic of the Congo
3. Republic of Kenya
4. Republic of Rwanda
5. Republic of South Sudan
6. Republic of Uganda
7. United Republic of Tanzania (including Zanzibar)

Covering 4.8 million square kilometers, the EAC has an estimated population of 283.7 million (>30% urban dwelling) and a combined gross domestic product of USD 305.3 billion.

Operating in the EAC is a great opportunity for global businesses looking to expand their market for products and services.
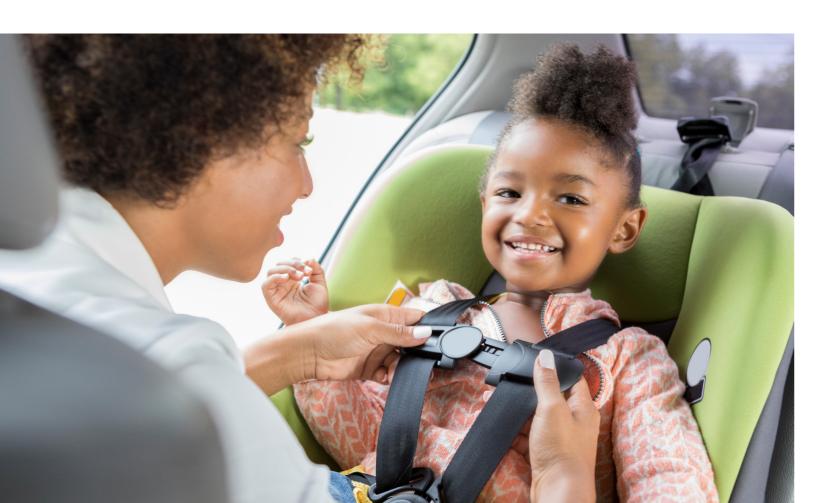
SGS AND EAST AFRICA

We have operated in the East African region for nearly 20 years and are recognized as a trusted service provider of pre-shipment verification of conformity (PVoC) services. PVoC programs are operated by many EAC member states to ensure products imported into their countries comply with mandatory standards.

EAC-READY CERTIFICATION

Simplify the process of entering East African markets with EAC-Ready product certification. Products certified under this voluntary scheme are deemed to conform to relevant EAS – a set of common and binding standards for all EAC member economies. Certification therefore provides a clear pathway to entering markets in all seven member states.

EAC-Ready certification is not a replacement for the PVoC programs operated by EAC members. Instead, EAC-Ready certification is an effective business strategy that enables companies to easily satisfy the requirements of the multiple PVoC programs currently being operated by EAC members.

This cost-effective solution offers considerable savings in time and other resources, reduces normal PVoC transaction interventions and empowers faster shipping and clearance times.

Features and **benefits**

Access growing markets in the east african economic region by utilizing compliance to east african standards through the EAC-ready certification scheme.

SCOPE/COVERAGE
Applies only to products where an East African Standard (EAS) exists. Suppliers may be located inside or outside of the EAC region.

EAC-READY VS. PVOC
This scheme does not, and will not, interfere with current PVoC programs operated by EAC members.

The EAC-Ready scheme complements PVoC programs by making the process of securing mandatory certificates of conformity (CoC) under PVoC programs easier for certified goods.

ACCREDITED PRODUCT CERTIFICATION
EAC-Ready certification follows ISO/IEC 17065:2012 standard requirements.

We are accredited as a product certification body by the GCC Accreditation Center (GAC), which is a member of and signatory to the International Accreditation Forum (IAF).

BENEFITS OF EAC-READY CERTIFICATION
- Commercial advantage – gain competitive advantage when promoting goods to EAC importers by demonstrating conformity to relevant EAS standards

- Save time and money – for example: EAC-Ready certified products will easily secure a statement of license under the PVoC program. This enables faster issuance of CoC, with all potential non-conformity being resolved prior to shipping
- Boost confidence – built long term trust in your products among EAC members
- Enhance EAC regional image through EAC-Ready certification marking on certified goods

Assessment components

Depending on the nature of the product and certification scheme, the verification procedure may include one or more of the following conformity assessment activities:

PRODUCT TESTING

Technical determination of one or more characteristics of an object according to specified requirements (standard, regulation) and procedures (test method). Testing is conducted against relevant EAS.

DOCUMENTARY REVIEW

Technical evaluation of documents (e.g. test reports and related information) provided by an entity to determine compliance with a standard or regulation.

EAC-Ready
✓ Certified
✓ EAS 123:2022
✓ EAS 3333:2022

SGS-CH-23-001

FACTORY AND DESK AUDITS

Systematic, independent and documented process to obtain audit evidence and objective assessment with a view to determining the extent to which audit criteria are fulfilled. It entails a physical (or virtual) visit to the entity's premises (factory audit) and/or interviews and screening of records to gather evidence on the item being audited (desk audit).

Audits may include an examination of the product's design, process or installation and a determination of its conformity with specific requirements or, on the basis of professional judgment, with general requirements. This could include visual examination, measurement or testing, evaluation of technical documents, e.g. design drawings, etc., and comparison of the findings with the requirements of specification documents or generally accepted good practice.

CERTIFICATION

Once a positive decision on certification is reached, the applicant enters into a certification agreement with SGS. This contains all the necessary terms and conditions to which the applicant must comply during the course of the certification period. It also elaborates on the rules for the use of the SGS EAC-Ready certification mark, as well as defining reasons for suspension and withdrawal of certification.

Products covered by certification are allowed to carry the SGS EAC-Ready certification mark for the complete period of validity.

EAC-ready
certification process

The applicant submits application for EAC-Ready product certification

→ SGS establishes the certification plan

→ Preliminary review and definition of certificate issuance requirements

Communication of requirements, certification agreement and service invoice to applicant

Receives:
1. Requirements for CoC issuance
2. SGS invoice

Completes payment of invoice

Formal acceptance of application

INITIAL CERTIFICATION AUDIT

Document review (at Certification Center premises)

Initial factory audit (if possible, digital audit)

Initial product testing
Certification audit team:
1. Identifies products to be sampled and tested
2. Identifies competent* laboratory for testing product(s) (agreed with applicant)
*Normally an ISO/IEC 17025 accredited laboratory

Certification review covering:
1. Factory audit report
2. Product test report(s)

Corrective actions ◀┄ **NO** ┄ **CONFORMS?**

YES

Certification decision → Granting of certification

Certification maintenance surveillance
• Periodic surveillance (annual)
• Special surveillance (when required)

Receives certification for the product

LEGEND:

SGS

Applicant

SGS:
Your **trusted partner**

We are recognized as the global benchmark for sustainability, quality and integrity.

Unique global network of over 2,650 offices and laboratories

Experts with unrivaled technical competences and product knowledge

Leading force in conformity assessment for any product falling under the program's scope

Accredited to conduct product certification services in multiple markets

Extensive experience acquired through developing and implementing multiple product certification programs

More than 100 years of proven objectivity, reliability and integrity

Trusted partner of businesses, governments and trading communities around the world

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WHEN YOU NEED TO BE SURE

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