Bureau Veritas
Services

BUREAU VERITAS
Move Forward with Confidence

Verification of Conformity (VOC)

Consumer and environmental protection by implementation of national/international standards

BUSINESS CHALLENGE

Governments today give high priority to promoting international trade while protecting consumer health, safety and the environment. Most national standard organizations, acting within a legislative framework, call for the intervention of independent third-party companies as a way to maintain full control on goods entering the domestic market.

SOLUTION

What is VOC?
The Verification of Conformity service involves checking conformity of goods according to national standards or an international equivalent. At the same time it encourages importers and exporters to understand the need for compliance and its benefits. For ad hoc or first time shipments, importers go through the basic shipment process: documentary evidence is required to prove compliance with the required standards, or the goods can be tested in an approved laboratory.
The shipment will be subjected to physical verification to ensure that the documents match the products and that no deviations are found. Regular shipments can be treated under registration or licensing.

What are the key benefits?
- Protect consumers against dangerous, sub-standard or counterfeit products
- Provide a guarantee to the buyer that the goods ordered are those shipped.
- Ease trade operations by recognizing existing conformity proof to avoid unnecessary additional testing
- Conform with recommendations of the World Trade Organization "Technical Barriers to Trade" Agreement
- Protect domestic industry from unfair competition of poor quality imports
- Improve the environment
- Enhance the quality of exports

RELATED SERVICES

Bureau Veritas offers a wide range of services related to trade facilitation:
- Preshipment Inspection (PSI)
- Control by X-ray Scanner
- VeriVALUE database
- RAMSES (Risk Analysis Management Selection & Evaluation System) Software
- Inspection of Agrifood & Commodities
- Crude Oil & Petroleum products Inspection
- Inspection of Mineral Products
- Verification of Wood Products for Export
- Vehicle Inspection Services (VIS)
- Vehicle Damage Tracking (VDT)
- Vehicle Stock Control (VSC)
- Vehicle Lease Inspections
- General Trade Services

Some of these services are built to be compatible and can be combined to generate efficiency, consistency and optimization.

WHY CHOOSE BUREAU VERITAS?

Bureau Veritas acts as trade facilitation services provider on five continents and is one of the world's leading providers of import control and inspection services.
ISO 9001: 2000 certification ■ Certification of all its activities worldwide confirms that Bureau Veritas closely controls the quality of its services, from design to performance and verification. The Bureau Veritas Group also complies with ISO 17020.
Efficiency guaranteed by worldwide presence ■ Bureau Veritas relies on its international network, with a workforce of over 26,000 in 700 offices worldwide.
Proven experience ■ Bureau Veritas was founded in 1828. Through its dedicated subsidiary BIVAC International, it has more than 20 years' experience in trade facilitation services performed on behalf of numerous clients.
Founding member of IFIA (International Federation of Inspection Agencies) ■ The trade association for inspection agencies and other organizations that provide inspection, testing and certification services internationally. Bureau Veritas complies with the IFIA compliance Code and PSI Code of Practice.

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OUR APPROACH

The usual steps of VOC are as follows:

1- Import registration in the importing country

An Inspection Order (IO) containing details of the intended importation is submitted by the importer to the Bureau Veritas local office, or by the exporter to the BV office in the country of export for each transaction subject to the program. The IO data is sent electronically to the appropriate BV office.

2- Intervention in the manufacturing country

• Contact with the Exporter

The BV office in the country of export sends a notice to the seller to ask when and where the goods will be ready for inspection and to request the following information:

1- Technical details,

2- Any available conformity documentary evidence, such as:

- Third party Certificate of conformity
- Test reports

• Documentary Check

• Physical Verification

• Possible laboratory tests

• Compliance Certification

3- Customs clearance in the importing country

BV local office delivers the Certificate of Compliance to the importer. The Certificate identifies the goods and the applicable Standard. The certificate is required for customs clearance.

Detailed information on procedures in force in countries currently under contract is available from our local Bureau Veritas offices.

FAQ

Who pays for the inspection?

It could be the government, importer or exporter depending on the destination country (see corresponding datasheet on Web site).

Are all goods subject to inspection?

No, some goods may be prohibited and others can be exempted, depending on the destination country (see corresponding datasheet on Web site).

What is the difference with product certification?

VOC is limited to verification of conformity of goods per shipment to a specified country. Product certification usually applies to the product without any geographical limitation and is based on testing and factory audits.

What is the difference between PSI and VOC?

• PSI (Preshipment Inspection) is the assessment of quantity, price verification and customs classification prior to the shipment of goods. It provides advice to the customs in order they may collect the correct revenue.

• VOC (Verification of Conformity) checks conformity of goods to relevant national or international standards.

TRADE FACILITATION REFERENCES

•Angola
•Argentina
•Bangladesh
•Belarus
•Benin
•Bolivia
•Cambodia
•Central African Republic
•Chad
•Colombia
•Congo
•Côte d'Ivoire
•Democratic Republic of Congo
•Ecuador
•Egypt
•Gambia
•Ghana
•Guinea
•Iran
•Jordan
•Kenya
•Laos
•Lebanon
•Liberia
•Madagascar
•Mali
•Mexico
•Nigeria
•Paraguay
•Peru
•Russia
•Saudi Arabia
•Senegal
•Sierra Leone
•Venezuela

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CONTACT

For details about this service, please contact
Bureau Veritas – GSIT Division– VOC Department
By phone: +33 (0) 1 42 91 69 86
By e-mail: gsit@bureauveritas.com

FOR MORE INFORMATION

please visit:

www.bureauveritas.com