

SABS

South African Bureau
of Standards

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PRE-SHIPMENT VERIFICATION OF CONFORMITY

PVoC Programme

Stakeholder Briefing — Introduction, Implementation & Guidance

For Importers · Exporters · Industry Associations · Public Stakeholders

Programme Phase

Phase 1 — China / CCIC Pilot

Audience

All Stakeholders

Status

ACTIVE

Table of Contents

01

What is PVoC?

Programme definition, purpose and policy context

07

The Certificate Framework

PC1, PC2, PC3 and the CoC explained

02

Why PVoC Was Introduced

The problem: unsafe imports and market gaps

08

End-to-End Process

Step-by-step from registration to clearance

03

The MOU and CCIC Partnership

How the programme was established

09

How to Register with CCIC

Practical guide for exporters

04

Why Unregulated Products?

Scope and rationale for product selection

10

Importer Obligations

What SA importers must do

05

Why China? The Phase 1 Pilot

Trade rationale and pilot approach

11

Customs Integration

SARS Single Window and border control

06

Phase 1 — What It Seeks to Achieve

Objectives, standards and timelines

12

Future Phases

Country expansion and programme evolution

SECTION 01

What is PVoC?

Programme definition, policy context and the mission of SABS in protecting the South African market

Programme Definition and Purpose

Pre-Shipment Verification of Conformity (PVoC)

A risk-based quality assurance programme that verifies selected products BEFORE they are shipped to South Africa

WHAT IT DOES

- Inspects and tests products at the country of export
- Issues a Certificate of Conformity (CoC) before shipment
- Integrates with SARS customs for border validation
- Ensures only compliant goods enter South Africa

WHAT IT IS NOT

- Not a new import tax or levy on importers
- Not a duplication of existing regulatory frameworks
- Not limited to products already regulated by NRCS or others
- Not a permanent fixed arrangement — it evolves by phase

WHY IT MATTERS

- South Africa has experienced rising volumes of unsafe imports
- Post-arrival inspection is too late — risk enters the market
- PVoC moves the verification to the source, before shipping
- Protects consumers, fair trade, and the SA economy

The Mission of the PVoC Programme

The PVoC Programme is designed to achieve four core outcomes:

1

Consumer Protection

Ensure that South African consumers are protected from products that are unsafe, substandard, or non-compliant with applicable standards. Every product entering under PVoC must pass inspection and testing before it reaches the market.

2

Market Quality

Improve the overall quality of imported goods. By verifying products at source, the programme raises the standard of goods available in South Africa and reduces the burden on post-arrival inspection systems.

3

Fair Competition

Support fair competition by ensuring that all products — whether local or imported — meet the same quality and safety benchmarks. Compliant businesses should not be undercut by substandard or counterfeit imports.

4

Port Efficiency

Enhance efficiency at ports of entry. When products are pre-verified before arrival, customs can process compliant shipments faster, reducing congestion and clearing times at South African ports.

SECTION 02

Why PVoC Was Introduced

The problem of unsafe imports, substandard goods and market gaps that created the need for this programme

The Problem: Rising Risk from Substandard Imports

South Africa has experienced a significant and growing influx of unsafe, substandard and counterfeit products. The existing post-arrival inspection approach was insufficient to address the scale of the problem.

WHAT THE MARKET WAS EXPERIENCING

- Rising volumes of unsafe consumer goods from high-volume import corridors
- Counterfeit and illicit products bypassing quality checks
- Substandard goods competing unfairly with compliant local and imported products
- Consumer harm — injuries, fires, health risks — linked to non-compliant products
- Regulatory capture: inspectors overwhelmed at ports of entry after goods arrived

WHY POST-ARRIVAL INSPECTION WAS NOT ENOUGH

- By the time goods arrive in SA, they have already been shipped and cleared for logistics
- Only a fraction of shipments could be physically inspected at ports
- Non-compliant goods could enter the market before inspection was complete
- Re-export and disposal costs were high — and difficult to enforce on foreign exporters
- Risk-based clearance alone could not close the gap without pre-verification at source

THE SOLUTION: Move verification to the country of export. Inspect and certify BEFORE shipment. Protect the border before goods arrive.

Policy Context and International Alignment

The PVoC programme is aligned with internationally accepted trade practices. Many countries with high import volumes have adopted pre-shipment verification as a standard protection mechanism.

INTERNATIONAL PRECEDENT	SA REGULATORY ALIGNMENT	WHAT PVoC DOES NOT DO
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kenya, Ghana, Nigeria and other African nations have operated PVoC programmes for years KEBS (Kenya Bureau of Standards) is a global leader in pre-shipment verification World Trade Organisation (WTO) principles support risk-based pre-shipment inspection when applied transparently International standards bodies (ISO, IEC) endorse conformity assessment at source 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Standards Act No. 8 of 2008 — SABS mandate to promote standards and quality National Development Plan — improving import quality supports industrialisation goals DTIC policy direction — protect local industry and consumers from unsafe imports AfCFTA commitments — non-discriminatory, standards-based trade facilitation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does not restrict trade — compliant exporters benefit from faster clearance Does not duplicate NRCS, SAHPRA or other regulatory bodies' mandates Does not target specific companies or entities — applies equally to all in-scope products WTO-defensible: applies by product and country of export, not by national origin

SECTION 03

The MOU and CCIC Partnership

How the PVoC Programme was established — the government-to-government foundation and SABS–CCIC cooperation agreement

The Foundation: Government-to-Government Agreement

The Phase 1 PVoC Programme rests on two foundational legal instruments: a Government-to-Government Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between South Africa and China, and an operational cooperation agreement between SABS and CCIC.

GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT MOU

What it is:	A bilateral agreement between the government of South Africa and the government of the People's Republic of China
Purpose:	To enable the implementation of pre-shipment verification of conformity for products exported from China to South Africa
Legal basis:	Provides the international legal foundation for SABS and CCIC to operate the programme across borders
Significance:	This is not a commercial arrangement — it is a government-endorsed, standards-based trade facilitation mechanism
Non-discriminatory:	The MOU framework will be replicated for other exporting countries as the programme expands to future phases

SABS–CCIC COOPERATION AGREEMENT

What it is:	An operational agreement between SABS and CCIC governing the day-to-day implementation of the PVoC Programme
CCIC's role:	CCIC is the appointed conformity assessment body for Phase 1 — conducting inspections, testing and issuing certificates
SABS's role:	SABS provides technical oversight, sets standards, manages data integration and conducts post-market surveillance
Quality assurance:	SABS monitors all CCIC activities to ensure consistency, impartiality and compliance with ISO/IEC 17020 and 17065
Future model:	As the programme expands, additional conformity assessment bodies may be appointed through an EOI process

Who is CCIC? Understanding the Phase 1 Partner

WHAT IS CCIC?

- China Certification and Inspection Group — a state-owned Chinese enterprise
- One of China's largest and most established conformity assessment bodies
- Operates in over 110 countries worldwide
- Accredited to conduct inspections and certification under international standards
- Has deep experience implementing PVoC-type programmes for multiple African nations

CCIC'S MANDATE UNDER PVoC

- Receive and process Product Certificate (PC) applications from exporters
- Conduct physical inspections and laboratory testing of products
- Issue Product Certificates (PC1, PC2, PC3) under SABS technical oversight
- Issue Certificates of Conformity (CoC) for each qualifying shipment
- Transmit all certification data electronically to SABS and SARS Single Window

CCIC ACCOUNTABILITY

- Operates under SABS technical oversight at all times
- Subject to ongoing audit and performance review by SABS
- Must comply with ISO/IEC 17020 (inspection) and ISO/IEC 17065 (certification) standards
- All certification decisions are traceable and fully documented
- Non-performance is grounds for review and replacement under the cooperation agreement

SABS RETAINS FULL TECHNICAL AND GOVERNANCE CONTROL. CCIC OPERATES AS THE APPOINTED CONFORMITY ASSESSMENT BODY — NOT AS AN INDEPENDENT AUTHORITY.

SECTION 04

Why Unregulated Products?

Understanding the scope: which products PVoC covers, which are excluded, and why the focus on the unregulated gap

The Regulatory Gap: What PVoC Targets

South Africa has multiple regulatory bodies that already cover specific product categories. PVoC deliberately targets the GAP — products that fall outside these existing frameworks.

ALREADY REGULATED — EXCLUDED FROM PVoC

NRCS	Electrical appliances, building materials, automotive components — compulsory specifications already apply
SAHPRA	Medical devices, pharmaceutical products, health products — controlled by the Health Products Authority
Dept. of Labour	Gas equipment, pressure vessels, lifting equipment — subject to Occupational Health & Safety regulations
DALRRD	Agricultural inputs, veterinary products, plant and animal health products — regulated separately
SARS / Customs	Products already requiring import permits, licences or regulatory approvals from other agencies

PVoC TARGETS — THE UNREGULATED GAP

Products that are:

- Not subject to any compulsory specification or standard
- Not regulated by any other South African authority
- High-volume consumer goods with identified market risk
- As listed in the Phase 1 Product List (Annexure 1)

Why this approach?

- Avoids duplication — does not interfere with existing regulators
- Targets the highest-risk gap in the import compliance system
- Focused scope allows effective rollout and enforcement
- Proportionate and WTO-compliant by design

SECTION 05

Why China? The Phase 1 Pilot

The rationale for selecting China as the starting point and the design principles behind the pilot approach

Why China Was Selected as the Starting Point

#1

China's rank as
SA's largest import
source country

30%+

Of all SA imports
originate from
China

R220bn+

Annual value of
SA–China trade
(approx.)

Phase 1

Pilot model tested
in highest-volume
corridor first

Highest Import Volume

China is South Africa's largest single import source. The volume of consumer goods from China is substantial. Any PVoC programme must address this corridor first to have meaningful market impact.

Existing Cooperation Infrastructure

The government-to-government MOU and the CCIC cooperation agreement provide the legal and operational foundation needed to run the programme. This infrastructure did not need to be built from scratch.

CCIC's Established Capability

CCIC already has a network of inspection offices, laboratories and trained inspectors across China. This allows the programme to be operational rapidly without the lead time required to establish a new inspection body.

Precedent from Other Countries

Kenya, Ghana, Nigeria and other African nations have successfully run PVoC programmes covering Chinese exports. These provide operational lessons and a tested framework that SA can adapt and build upon.

The Pilot Design: Test, Learn, Expand

The Phase 1 pilot is designed deliberately as a test-and-learn model. It is not the final version of PVoC — it is the foundation from which the full programme will be built.

PHASE 1 NOW

- China only — CCIC as the appointed CAB
- Six-month transition period (voluntary participation)
- Selected product categories (Phase 1 product list)
- Systems testing with SARS Single Window
- Stakeholder training and capacity building
- Feedback incorporated before mandatory enforcement

PHASE 2 NEXT

- Mandatory participation for all in-scope products from China
- Additional exporting countries added via new MOUs
- Additional conformity assessment bodies via EOI process
- Expanded product categories based on Phase 1 risk data
- Regional focus: other high-volume African trade corridors

LONG-TERM VISION

- Non-discriminatory global PVoC framework
- Multiple approved CABs operating across all partner countries
- Full integration with digital single window systems
- Alignment with AfCFTA trade facilitation objectives
- Recognition of SABS Mark globally as a trusted conformity indicator

SECTION 06

Phase 1 — What It Seeks to Achieve

The specific objectives, standards framework and transition arrangements of the Phase 1 pilot

What Phase 1 Sets Out to Achieve**A****Establish Operational Systems**

Set up all the systems, processes and institutional arrangements needed to run PVoC effectively — including CCIC inspection infrastructure, SABS oversight mechanisms, and SARS Single Window integration.

B**Verify Compliance at Source**

Ensure that products exported from China and falling within the Phase 1 product list are inspected, tested and certified before they are shipped. Move the compliance check from the SA border to the exporting country.

C**Protect the SA Market**

Reduce the volume of unsafe, substandard and non-compliant goods entering the South African market. Protect consumers and provide a level playing field for compliant businesses.

D**Build the Evidence Base**

Use Phase 1 data to understand risk patterns, compliance rates and system performance. This evidence will inform the design of Phase 2 and subsequent country expansions.

E**Train and Capacitate Stakeholders**

Ensure that all importers, exporters, clearing agents and customs officials understand the PVoC process, their obligations, and how to use the systems correctly.

F**Demonstrate Scalability**

Prove that the PVoC model works at scale in a high-volume trade corridor, so that it can be confidently replicated for other exporting countries in future phases.

The Six-Month Transition Period

A six-month transition period has been built into the Phase 1 implementation. During this period, participation is voluntary — but stakeholders are strongly encouraged to prepare now.

MONTHS 1–2

Awareness and Registration

- Public announcement and stakeholder briefings
- CCIC registration open for exporters
- Importers briefed on requirements
- Training materials distributed

MONTHS 3–4

System Testing and Piloting

- SARS Single Window integration testing
- Pilot CoC submissions processed
- System bugs and bottlenecks identified
- Feedback from early adopters captured

MONTHS 5–6

Refinement and Preparation

- System refined based on feedback
- Processes and SOPs finalised
- Compliance guidance published
- Mandatory phase preparation complete

MONTH 7+

Mandatory Implementation

- All in-scope products require valid CoC
- SARS enforces at border — no CoC = no clearance
- Post-market surveillance active
- Phase 2 planning commenced

SECTION 07

The Certificate Framework

Understanding PC1, PC2, PC3 and the Certificate of Conformity — the certification architecture that underpins PVoC

Overview: Two Certificates, One System

Every PVoC shipment requires two certificates. They serve different purposes and operate at different stages of the supply chain.

CERTIFICATE 1**Product Certificate (PC)**

- Issued at PRODUCT level — certifies the product, not the shipment
- Must be obtained FIRST — before any CoC application is accepted
- Three types: PC1 (one shipment), PC2 (registered exporter, 12 months), PC3 (licensed manufacturer, 12 months)
- Determines the level of inspection intensity and customs risk classification
- Issued by CCIC under SABS technical oversight
- Without a valid PC, no CoC can be issued and no shipment will be cleared

CERTIFICATE 2**Certificate of Conformity (CoC)**

- Issued at SHIPMENT level — certifies the specific consignment being exported
- Can only be applied for AFTER a valid PC exists for the product
- One CoC per shipment — cannot be reused, transferred, or applied to a different consignment
- Must correspond exactly to: the PC, the product, the invoice, and the shipment details
- Is the SOLE document accepted by SARS for customs clearance under PVoC
- Digitally secured with a unique certificate number and QR code for authentication

PC1, PC2 and PC3 — Choosing the Right Route

PC1 Consignment-Based

Entry Level

Applies to

New exporters, first-time shipments, high-risk products, exporters returning after suspension

Valid for

ONE SHIPMENT ONLY — not reusable, not transferable

Inspection

100% physical inspection every single consignment

Customs risk

HIGHEST — strictest SARS validation applies

Next step

Qualify for PC2 after 3–5 compliant shipments with no critical failures

Each new shipment requires a completely new PC1. There are no exceptions to this rule.

PC2 Registered Exporter

Entry Level

Applies to

Exporters with minimum 3–5 compliant shipments, no critical safety failures, consistent documentation

Valid for

12 MONTHS from date of issue — multiple shipments

Inspection

Risk-based — reduced frequency compared to PC1

Customs risk

MEDIUM — faster clearance than PC1

Next step

Qualify for PC3 after factory audit, sustained compliance, verified quality system

The PC2 is linked to the exporter and product category. It must be renewed annually.

PC3 Licensed Manufacturer

Entry Level

Applies to

Manufacturers with ISO 9001 or equivalent, successful CCIC factory audit, proven compliance

Valid for

12 MONTHS from date of issue — multiple shipments

Inspection

Surveillance-based — periodic audits only

Customs risk

LOWEST — fastest clearance pathway

Next step

Products with a valid SABS Mark qualify directly for PC3 assignment

PC3 represents the highest level of trust in the PVoC system — earned through sustained performance.

SECTION 08

End-to-End Process

The complete journey from exporter registration through to customs clearance at the South African border

The Complete PVoC Journey — 9 Steps

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
<p>Exporter Registers</p> <p>Exporter / manufacturer registers with CCIC. Provides company and product information.</p> <p>Exporter → CCIC</p>	<p>PC Application</p> <p>Exporter submits Product Certificate application including technical docs, specs, test reports.</p> <p>Exporter → CCIC</p>	<p>Verification & PC Issued</p> <p>CCIC verifies product, conducts inspection/testing. g. SABS provides oversight. PC1/2/3 issued.</p> <p>CCIC + SABS</p>	<p>CoC Application</p> <p>Exporter applies for CoC for the specific shipment. Must attach the valid PC.</p> <p>Exporter → CCIC</p>	<p>Shipment Inspection</p> <p>CCIC inspects the physical shipment before export. Verifies against PC.</p> <p>CCIC</p>	<p>CoC Issued</p> <p>If inspection passes — CoC is issued. Digitally secured with QR code.</p> <p>CCIC (SABS oversight)</p>	<p>Data to SARS</p> <p>PC and CoC data transmitted electronically. SARS system updated before shipment arrives.</p> <p>CCIC → SABS → SARS</p>	<p>Importer Declares</p> <p>Importer submits customs declaration + CoC reference to SARS Single Window.</p> <p>Importer → SARS</p>	<p>Clearance Decision</p> <p>SARS validates CoC automatically. Goods cleared, inspected, or embargoed based on outcome.</p> <p>SARS + BMA</p>

SECTION 09

How to Register with CCIC

A practical step-by-step guide for exporters and manufacturers on entering the PVoC system

Step-by-Step Registration Guide for Exporters

Before any product can be exported to South Africa under PVoC, the exporter or manufacturer must register with CCIC and obtain a Product Certificate. This process is mandatory for all in-scope products.

STEP 1

Contact CCIC

Reach out to CCIC through their official PVoC registration portal or South Africa-dedicated office. Provide your company name, country, product categories, and South African importer details. CCIC will provide a registration form and application pack.

STEP 2

Prepare Your Documents

Gather all required documentation before applying. This includes: company registration certificate, product technical specifications and data sheets, available test reports and safety certificates, product images and samples, HS codes for all products.

STEP 3

Submit PC Application

Complete and submit the Product Certificate application to CCIC. Clearly indicate which certification route you are applying for: PC1 (new exporters), PC2 (if you have compliance history), or PC3 (if you have a quality management system and factory audit history).

STEP 4

CCIC Review & Classification

CCIC reviews your application, classifies your products by risk level, and assigns you to the appropriate PC route. SABS provides technical oversight of this classification. You will be notified of the outcome and any additional requirements.

STEP 5

Inspection & Verification

CCIC conducts the required inspection and/or testing based on your PC route. PC1: 100% physical inspection. PC2: Risk-based. PC3: Surveillance-based. For PC3, a factory audit will be required before the certificate is issued.

STEP 6

PC Issued — You Are Ready

Once all requirements are met, CCIC issues your Product Certificate. You are now registered and can apply for a Certificate of Conformity (CoC) for each shipment. Your PC reference number must be included in all future CoC applications.

Documents Required for PC Application

Prepare these documents before contacting CCIC. Missing or incomplete documentation is the most common cause of application delays.

COMPANY DOCUMENTS	PRODUCT DOCUMENTS	TEST & COMPLIANCE DOCS	FOR PC3 APPLICATIONS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Valid company registration certificate Business licence or trading licence Authorised signatory identification Contact details: address, phone, email, website Previous PVoC or quality certificates (if any) Confirm additional requirements with CCIC during the registration 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Full product description and product name HS code (Harmonised System tariff code) for each product Technical specifications and data sheets Bill of Materials (where applicable) Photographs of the product, packaging and labelling 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Available laboratory test reports from accredited labs Safety certifications (CE, UL, CCC, or equivalent) Factory quality management system certificate (e.g. ISO 9001) Previous inspection reports or audit records Declaration of conformity (where applicable) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ISO 9001 or equivalent QMS certificate (current and valid) Factory process documentation and quality manual Product traceability system records Previous surveillance audit reports Factory address and contact details for CCIC factory audit

⚠ **IMPORTANT:** All documents must be in English or accompanied by a certified English translation. Documents that cannot be verified will delay your application.

SECTION 10

Importer Obligations

What South African importers must do — responsibilities, compliance steps and practical guidance

What South African Importers Must Do

As the South African importer, you are the responsible party at the border. SARS will look to you for the correct documents. If your goods are stopped, the costs are yours. Prepare early.

1

Know Your Products

Confirm whether your products fall within the PVoC scope (Phase 1 product list). Check HS codes. If unsure, contact SABS/CCIC before placing any orders with your supplier.

2

Inform Your Supplier

Tell your supplier about PVoC requirements before they ship. They need to register with CCIC and obtain a PC before anything is dispatched. Do not assume they already know.

3

Confirm the PC Exists

Before your order is produced, ask your supplier for their PC reference number. Verify that it covers your specific products and has not expired. Never accept a shipment without a valid PC in place.

4

Confirm the CoC is Issued

Before goods are loaded for shipping, ask your supplier to confirm the CoC has been issued for that specific shipment. Get the CoC reference number and verify the details match your invoice.

5

Declare Correctly

When submitting your customs declaration to SARS, include the CoC reference number accurately. Ensure the HS code, product description, and quantity on the declaration match the CoC exactly.

6

Respond Within 2 Days

If your goods are embargoed, you have 2 business days to apply to SABS for inspection and testing. Missing this deadline escalates the matter and increases your costs significantly.

If Your Goods Are Stopped: What to Do

An embargo is not the end — but you must act immediately. Delay makes everything worse and more expensive. Here is exactly what to do if your shipment is stopped at the border.

DAY 1	DAY 1–2	SABS TEST	IF PASS ✓	IF FAIL ✗
<p>You Receive the Embargo Notice</p> <p>SARS sends you a formal notification explaining why the goods have been withheld. Read it carefully — note the reason, the case reference number, and the specific goods affected.</p>	<p>Contact SABS Immediately</p> <p>Call or email the SABS PVoC office: Info@sabs.co.za. You have 2 business days to apply for SABS inspection and testing. Missing this window escalates the case.</p>	<p>SABS Inspects and Tests the Goods</p> <p>SABS will conduct physical inspection and laboratory testing of the embargoed goods. All costs are borne by you as the importer. Cooperate fully and provide access without delay.</p>	<p>Goods Are Released</p> <p>If the goods pass SABS inspection and testing, they will be cleared for entry into the South African market. Future shipments from the same supplier will face elevated scrutiny.</p>	<p>Goods Are Rejected returned to the country of origin</p> <p>If the goods fail testing, they must be re-exported or disposed of. SABS will direct the disposal method. All re-export and disposal costs are the importer's responsibility.</p>

SECTION 11

Customs Integration

How PVoC connects with SARS — the Single Window, validation process and clearance decisions

The SARS Single Window — How It Works

The SARS Single Window is the digital platform that connects all trade documents in one place. It is the point where PVoC and customs converge — and where clearance decisions are made.

WHAT SARS /SABS WILL USE INTERNAL ICT SYSTEM AND SINGLE

- SARS will rely on the single window to validate CoC authenticity — verifies that the certificate is genuine using the digital reference and QR code
- SABS – use ICT system – which a communication platform between SABS and CCIC to verify PC linkage — confirms that the CoC is linked to a valid, current Product Certificate
- Product and HS Code match — checks that declared goods match the certified product
- Quantity consistency — verifies shipment quantity against the

WHAT THIS MEANS FOR IMPORTERS

- You must include the CoC reference number in your customs declaration — it is the key to clearance
- Discrepancies between your declaration and the CoC data will trigger inspection, regardless of the reason
- Compliant shipments flow smoothly — the system is designed to reward verified compliance

CLEARANCE DECISIONS

CLEARED	Valid CoC + PC — all checks pass Goods approved for entry
INSPECT	Data mismatch detected Physical inspection ordered
EMBARGO	Missing or invalid CoC / PC Goods withheld — 2-day rule applies
ESCALATE	Fraud suspected Enforcement action initiated
SEIZE	CoC revoked post-clearance Seizure / disposal enforced

SECTION 12

Future Phases

How the programme will expand — additional countries, product categories and conformity assessment bodies

Programme Expansion: Countries and Product Categories

PVoC is not a China-only programme. Phase 1 is the starting point. The programme is designed from the outset to expand to all major import corridors.

PHASE 1 (NOW)

Countries / Corridor

China / CCIC

Products in Scope

Selected unregulated consumer goods — Phase 1 product list

Conformity Assessment Bodies

CCIC (appointed)

Current Status

ACTIVE — Transition period

Timeline

Active now

PHASE 2

Countries / Corridor

China (mandatory) + up to 3 additional high-volume import countries (TBC)

Products in Scope

Expanded product categories based on Phase 1 risk data and market analysis

Conformity Assessment Bodies

CCIC + additional CABs via EOI process

Current Status

PLANNING — Post Phase 1 review

Timeline

Post Phase 1 evaluation

PHASE 3+

Countries / Corridor

All major trading partners exporting in-scope products to South Africa

Products in Scope

Full product scope — all unregulated categories with identified market risk

Conformity Assessment Bodies

Multiple approved CABs — non-discriminatory, open EOI process

Current Status

LONG-TERM VISION

Timeline

To be determined based on Phase 2 outcomes

Expression of Interest: Opening PVoC to Multiple CABs

As the programme grows, SABS will use a formal Expression of Interest (EOI) process to appoint additional conformity assessment bodies (CABs). This ensures the programme remains fair, competitive and non-discriminatory.

WHAT IS AN EOI?

- An Expression of Interest is a formal process by which SABS invites qualified conformity assessment bodies to apply to participate in the PVoC Programme
- Any accredited body that meets the technical requirements may apply — the process is open and non-discriminatory
- Approved CABs will operate under SABS oversight, following the same standards and rules as CCIC
- Multiple CABs operating in the same country creates competition and improves service quality for exporters
- The EOI process will be publicly advertised on the SABS website when Phase 2 planning commences

REQUIREMENTS FOR FUTURE CABs

- Accreditation to ISO/IEC 17020 (Inspection Bodies) or ISO/IEC 17065 (Certification Bodies)
- Technical capacity to conduct inspections and testing in the relevant exporting country
- Demonstrated experience with pre-shipment verification or conformity assessment programmes
- Ability to integrate electronically with SABS and SARS data systems
- Commitment to SABS governance requirements, reporting obligations and audit access
- Financial capacity and indemnity insurance to support operations at required scale

Benefits of the PVoC Programme for All Stakeholders

FOR CONSUMERS	FOR IMPORTERS	FOR EXPORTERS	FOR SA BUSINESS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protection from unsafe and substandard products • Confidence that goods on the market meet South African standards • Reduced risk of injury, fire hazard or health harm from non-compliant products • Greater market transparency and accountability 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Faster customs clearance for compliant shipments (PC2/PC3 suppliers) • Reduced risk of costly post-arrival inspections and embargo • Clearer rules and predictable processes for ordering and importing • Competitive advantage from working with verified, compliant suppliers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognition as a verified, compliant supplier — a competitive advantage • Access to the South African market with greater confidence • PC2 and PC3 routes reward compliance with reduced inspection burden • Opportunity to build a global reputation for quality and standards compliance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Level playing field — local producers not undercut by substandard imports • Market integrity — consumers trust the products they buy • Reduced risk of product recalls and liability from non-compliant goods • Contribution to SA's manufacturing and industrialisation objectives

Standards Applied Under PVoC

All products assessed under PVoC are evaluated against applicable South African and international standards. The standards framework ensures consistent, technically defensible certification decisions.

PRIMARY STANDARDS — SANS

- South African National Standards (SANS) are the primary benchmark for all PVoC assessments
- SANS are developed by SABS and adopted from international standards where applicable
- Where a SANS standard exists for a product, it takes precedence over international alternatives
- SABS maintains the definitive list of applicable SANS for each product category in the PVoC scope

SECONDARY STANDARDS — INTERNATIONAL

- Where no applicable SANS exists, recognised international standards are used as alternatives
- ISO (International Organisation for Standardisation) — general product standards
- IEC (International Electrotechnical Commission) — electrical and electronic products
- EN (European Norm) — European standards widely adopted in SA context
- The applicable standard for each product is published in the Phase 1 product list

RISK-BASED APPROACH TO TESTING

- Not all products require full laboratory testing for every shipment — testing requirements are determined by the PC route and the product's risk classification
- PC1 (highest risk): mandatory testing for all consignments where the applicable standard includes testable parameters
- PC2 (medium risk): selective testing based on CCIC and SABS risk assessment — testing frequency reduces as compliance is demonstrated
- PC3 (lowest risk): surveillance-based testing during periodic audits — routine shipments do not require full re-testing
- SABS reserves the right to require additional testing at any time based on market surveillance findings or risk intelligence

Summary: What Every Stakeholder Needs to Know**EXPORTERS**

- Register with CCIC before your first shipment
- Obtain the correct PC route (PC1, PC2, or PC3) for your product
- Apply for a new CoC for every individual shipment
- Ensure your shipment matches the PC and CoC exactly
- Build your compliance record to progress from PC1 to PC2 to PC3
- Cooperate fully with CCIC inspectors at all times

IMPORTERS

- Inform your supplier of PVoC requirements before ordering
- Confirm your supplier has a valid PC before goods are produced
- Get the CoC reference number before goods are shipped
- Include the CoC reference in your SARS customs declaration
- Respond to any embargo notice within 2 business days
- Bear all costs of non-compliance — inspect and test within the deadline

BOTH PARTIES

- No CoC = No clearance. No exceptions. No workarounds.
- PC1 is for ONE shipment only. It cannot be reused.
- Documents must match exactly — product, invoice, quantity, HS code
- Fraud leads to immediate suspension and enforcement escalation
- The SABS Mark enables PC3 but does NOT replace the CoC at the border
- Keep copies of all certificates — PC and CoC — for your records

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Does PVoC apply to all products from China?

No — only products in the Phase 1 product list (Annexure 1) and only those not already regulated by NRCS, SAHPRA, or other authorities. Check the product list before assuming your goods are in scope.

Q: Can I use the same CoC for multiple shipments?

Absolutely not. A CoC covers one specific shipment only. Using a CoC for a different shipment is fraud and will result in immediate embargo and enforcement action.

Q: What is the SABS Mark and how does it relate to PVoC?

Products with a valid SABS Mark qualify for direct PC3 assignment at the pre-export stage. However, they still require a CoC for every shipment. The SABS Mark does not substitute the CoC at the border.

Q: My supplier already exported to SA before. Do they still need a new PC?

Yes, if they are on PC1 — each shipment requires its own PC1. If they have a PC2 or PC3 (valid 12 months), they do not need a new PC for each shipment but still need a new CoC each time.

Q: Is participation voluntary during the transition period?

Yes — for the first six months, participation is voluntary. After the transition period, compliance becomes mandatory for all in-scope products. Use this time to register, test the system and prepare.

Q: My goods were stopped. Do I have to pay for everything?

Yes. All costs for inspection, testing, storage, and disposal when goods are embargoed are the importer's responsibility. This is why preparing correctly before shipment is critical.

What To Do Right Now

Do not wait for mandatory enforcement. Use the transition period to register, learn the process and position yourself for smooth compliance from day one.

If you are an EXPORTER

- 1. Download the Phase 1 product list from www.sabs.co.za/pvoc — confirm if your products are in scope
- 2. Contact CCIC at zafpvoc@ccic.com to start the registration process
- 3. Prepare your documentation pack (company docs, product specs, test reports)
- 4. Submit your PC application — choose PC1, PC2 or PC3 based on your compliance history
- 5. Work with CCIC through the inspection and verification process
- 6. Once your PC is issued, you are ready to apply for a CoC for each shipment

If you are an IMPORTER

- 1. Check the Phase 1 product list — identify which of your imported products are in scope
- 2. Contact all relevant suppliers in China and inform them of PVoC requirements
- 3. Ask each supplier to confirm their CCIC registration and PC status
- 4. Brief your clearing agent and freight forwarder on CoC submission requirements for SARS
- 5. Update your import procedures to capture PC and CoC reference numbers for every order
- 6. Bookmark pvoc@sabs.co.za — contact SABS if you have any questions or concerns

SABS

South African Bureau of Standards

PVoC Programme

Protecting South Africa. Enabling Trade. Raising Standards.

SABS Programme Office

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Thank you for attending this briefing. Questions and feedback are welcome.