

Custom Anti-Certification Process for Optical Separators in Nigeria



Overview

Maintain an impartial certification process, ensuring 100% of certification decisions are independent and free from bias.

Key Takeaways

Optical separators imported into Nigeria must comply with SONCAP regulations, including pre-shipment verification, product testing, and electronic certification, with specific attention to traceability and anti-fraud measures. Overview of SONCAP for Electronics

Optical separators fall under the electrical and electronics category regulated by the Standards Organisation of Nigeria (SON) under the SON Conformity Assessment Programme (SONCAP). SONCAP ensures that imported products meet Nigerian Industrial Standards (NIS) or approved international equivalents before shipment. The process involves:

- Pre-shipment verification at the country of export
- Testing and analysis in ISO/IEC 17025-accredited laboratories
- Physical inspection and sampling of products
- Audit of manufacturing processes and documentation

- Issuance of SONCAP Certificates (SC) for each consignment
- Electronic Certification and Anti-Fraud Measures

Recent updates to SONCAP emphasize electronic certification through the e-SONCAP system, which enhances traceability and reduces the risk of certificate forgery . Key features include:

- Electronic Product Certificate (EPC) for each product model, valid for one year
 - Mandatory SONCAP Certificate (SC) for each shipment, linked to the EPC
 - Real-time tracking of applications, inspections, and approvals
 - Verification of product specifications, including voltage, power rating, and labeling compliance
 - Anti-fraud measures to prevent counterfeit or altered certificates
- Compliance Requirements for Optical Separators

For optical separators, compliance typically involves:

- Safety standards: Conformance to IEC or equivalent standards relevant to optical and electronic components
 - Electromagnetic compatibility (EMC): Testing according to CISPR or similar standards to ensure minimal interference
 - Labeling: Products must display “SONCAP Certified” and the Nigerian importer's address
 - Voltage and plug compatibility: Products must support Nigeria's 230V/50Hz standard and approved plug types
 - Sampling and testing: Conducted under supervision of an Independent Accredited Firm (IAF) at the manufacturer's premises or designated labs
- Steps for Certification
- Obtain a Product Certificate (PC) for the optical separator model, proving compliance with NIS or approved standards.

- Apply for SONCAP Certificate (SC) for each shipment using the valid PC.
- Undergo pre-shipment inspection, including sampling, testing, and verification of labeling and specifications.
- Receive SC electronically, which is required for customs clearance in Nigeria.
- Monitor updates from SON for exemptions, testing requirements, or changes in standards .

Considerations for a Custom Anti-Certification Approach

While SONCAP is mandatory, companies can implement internal anti-certification measures to ensure compliance and prevent shipment delays:

- Maintain digital records of all certificates and test reports
- Use authorized SON-approved certification bodies to avoid fake certificates
- Conduct pre-audit checks to verify product conformity before submission
- Track shipment-specific SC validity to prevent customs rejection By following these steps, optical separator manufacturers or importers can ensure compliance with SONCAP while leveraging electronic traceability and anti-fraud measures to streamline customs clearance in Nigeria.

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