**Government Services & International Trade (GSIT)**

**pVoC PROGRAM of UGANDA**

From June 9th, 2010, the pre-export Verification of Conformity (pVoC) program set by Uganda National Bureau of Standards (UNBS) requires that goods imported into Uganda shall be accompanied by a pVoC certificate.

The primary objectives of the program are to improve the safety and quality of products, as well as to ease clearance procedures, promote fair competition and fight against counterfeiting of goods.

Nowadays, Governments give high priority to promoting international trade and protecting the health and safety of citizens as well as care for the environment.

Bureau Veritas has been appointed by UNBS for the implementation of the program and for the issuance of the required certificate.

Bureau Veritas verifies, in the region of export and prior to shipment, the conformity of the goods to Ugandan and/or international standards.

The verification consists of several steps such as verification of existing certificates and test reports, inspection of goods prior shipment, testing/analysis when necessary, registration and licensing.

Upon satisfactory verification, certificate is issued and provided to Importer/Exporter.

Bureau Veritas is one of the most widely represented Conformity Assessment companies in the world. This worldwide coverage is provided by 1,330 offices and laboratories located in 140 countries on every continent with a total workforce of more than 59,000.

Through its Government Services and International Trade division, Bureau Veritas makes a significant contribution to trade facilitation for the benefit of many countries.
PROCEDURE

1. Request for verification
   The Exporter/Importer lodges a request for verification with Bureau Veritas. This request should include:
   1. The list and designation of goods intended to be exported, name and address of the importer and exporter (pro forma invoice, …)
   2. Conformity documents (usually provided by the exporter) that may be available for the goods intended to be exported, such as: Third party certificate / Test reports / Reports of analysis according to safety/hygiene standards
   3. Information related to the location and provisional date of availability of goods to carry out the physical inspection of goods before shipment. (Filling up of the Request for Certificate (RFC) Form).

2. Routes to compliance
   To facilitate trade and to adjust intervention according to the risk, the pVoC program offers 3 different routes to demonstrate compliance:
   - Route A: applicable to any goods and any trader
   - Route B: for frequent traders of homogeneous goods that have been registered by Bureau Veritas
   - Route C: for manufacturer who had their goods licensed for Uganda

   **Documentary review / testing**
   Bureau Veritas reviews the information provided by the exporter and checks the adequacy against the Ugandan Standards. If necessary, samples are taken and laboratory testing/analysis is carried out.
   **Inspection**
   The objective of the inspection is to check that:
   - Goods presented for inspection are the ones identified during the documentary review,
   - Products comply with applicable standard.
   - Goods match the description in the import documents.
   In case of doubt, Bureau Veritas inspector may take samples for additional assessment.

3. pVoC certificate
   Bureau Veritas verifies the inspection report against the provided documents. Upon satisfactory result, the secured certificate of conformity is issued.
   This certificate shall be used for the clearance of the goods.
   When major non conformities are detected, a non conformity report is issued.