

Saudi Standards, Metrology, and Quality Org. (SASO)

General Technical Regulation for Saudi Quality Mark

The update of this Regulation has been approved in SASO Board of Directors' Meeting No. 173, dated 29/04/1444 AH, corresponding to 26/12/2019.

Published in the official gazette on 13/06/1441 AH (07/02/2020)
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Third Edition

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Preamble

Subject to paragraph 3 of Article 4 of SASO Statute issued by the Royal Decree No. 216 on 17/6/1431 AH, stating, "Issue regulations for quality mark licensing procedures of local and imported products that conform to adopted national standards and grant the right of use thereof as well as implementing such regulations ",

Subject to paragraph 5 of Article 4 of SASO Statute issued by the Royal Decree No. 216 on 17/6/1431 AH, stating, " Grant quality marks for products, provided that the granting of quality marks for grantable products within the jurisdiction of the Saudi Food and Drug Authority shall be upon the Authority's approval ",

Subject to paragraph 7 of Article 4 of SASO Statute issued by the Royal Decree No. 216 on 17/6/1431 AH, stating "Coordinate efforts pertaining to standards, quality, conformity, metrology, and calibration assessment procedures in the Kingdom, and achieve mutual recognition with counterparts in other countries",

Subject to paragraph 14 of Article 4 of SASO Statute issued by the Royal Decree No. 216 on 17/6/1431 AH, stating "Review and develop control laws and regulations related to the Organization's field and propose amendments thereto in order to satisfy quality and safety requirements, and refer the same to competent authorities for review and issuance, in accordance with applicable procedures",

Subject to paragraph 1 of Article 6 of SASO Statute issued by the Royal Decree No. 216 on 17/6/1431 AH, stating "Subject to Article 4 of this Statute, SASO shall be the only authority in the Kingdom in matters relating to standards, conformity assessment procedures, and granting of quality, metrology, and calibration marks. All public and private sectors shall comply with Saudi standards in all purchases and activities",

Subject to Article 9 of SASO Statute issued by the Royal Decree No. 216 on 17/6/1431 HA, stating, "The Board shall be the authority in charge of managing SASO and running its affairs. It shall issue all the decisions necessary to achieve SASO's objectives in accordance with the provisions of this Statute, and it shall in particular:

3. Issue resolutions and implementing regulations relating to SASO's work procedure;
4. Approve the final version of Saudi standards and means of implementation thereof

"Determine the charges for the services rendered by SASO within its field, provided that the proceeds from such services are channeled into an independent account to be expended from for purposes determined by the Board in accordance with rules set by it",

Subject to these Articles, as mentioned above, SASO has issued this General Technical Regulation for Saudi Quality Mark.

Article1: Definitions

1.1 SASO: Saudi Standards, Metrology and Quality Organization.

1.2 Standards: approved national standards

1.3 Relevant Documents: mean, for example, specifications, technical reports and guides adopted by international or regional standardization body and/or SASO and are usually available to everyone, but do not amount to standard specification.

1.4 Technical Regulations: a document approved by SASO Board of Directors that provides the specifications of products, associated processes and production methods, including applicable administrative provisions; with which compliance is mandatory. It may include or pay attention to terms, definitions, packaging, and requirements of markings or labelling products, services, processes or production methods

1.5 Product: The output of manufacturing processes, the description, classes, specifications thereof are specified by standards, relevant documents, and relevant technical regulations.

1.6 Commodity: The final product provided to consumer through production, supply or distribution processes, and to be granted the Saudi Quality Mark.

1.7 Granting Body: The competent body in SASO or any conformity assessment body approved and authorized by SASO to perform conformity assessment activities in the field of certification.

1.8 Enterprise: Any factory or production unit having one location or more and producing the product, or any importer or distributor subcontracted with a factory or a producing unit that produces the product.

1.9 Regulation: The general technical regulation for Saudi Quality mark, which specifies the general conditions and rules for granting license to use Saudi quality mark.

1.10 Saudi Quality Mark: a mark approved by SASO indicating that an enterprise has an effective system in place to ensure that commodities are produced in accordance with the Regulation, Granting Procedure, relevant standards and/ relevant technical regulations.

1.11 Granting procedure: A program approved by the vice governor for conformity and quality, specifies the requirements to be complied with in order to issue the license to use the quality mark for a commodity, including working days for granting, based on the commodities listed in the application for the license to use Saudi quality mark.

1.12 Certificate of Conformity: A certificate issued by a granting body with regard to products, processes, systems, or individuals, based on a proof of conformity.

1.13 Inspector: A person assigned by granting body to carry out inspection duties described in this Regulation.

1.14 License: a certificate issued by SASO for an organization thereunder the organization may use the quality mark on the licensed commodities to indicate that they meet the requirements of this Regulation and specified granting procedure, and that the licensed commodities have been tested and are in conformity with relevant standards and/or technical regulations, and that the enterprise has an effective management system in place that ensures continuance of producing commodities with the required quality.

1.15 Suspension of the license: to suspend the enterprise right to use the mark for a limited period of time, after which the organization may reuse mark upon the granting body making sure that the reasons for suspension have been removed by the enterprise.

1.16 Cancellation of the license: to permanently cancel the enterprise license to use the quality mark, whereby the enterprise shall be required to reapply for a license to use the quality mark.

1.17 Initial Inspection: Initial assessment carried out by the granting body on the enterprise applying for a license to use the quality mark, for the purpose of studying the quality control system used in the enterprise and determining its compliance with the requirements of this Regulation and the specified granting procedures. The commodity may be sampled and tested to determine its conformity with relevant standards and/or technical regulations. Based on the results of such initial inspection, the granting to the enterprise of the license to use quality mark shall be decided.

1.18 Periodic Inspection: A periodic assessment carried out by the granting body on the enterprise that has obtained a license to ensure the enterprise's proper use of the mark, continuous compliance with the requirements of the Regulation and the specified granting procedures, and application of the management system. During such inspection, the licensed products may be sampled and tested for their conformity to relevant standards and technical regulations.

1.19 Renewal Inspection: Final inspection carried out by the granting body on the enterprise during the validity period of license to determine whether to renew the license for the enterprise.

1.20 Supplementary Inspection: Additional inspection carried out by the granting body on the enterprise to ensure fulfillment of certain requirements and/or assess the effectiveness of corrective measures. Supplementary inspection is to be performed based on a recommendation by the last inspection visit (initial, periodic, or renewal inspection). It may be carried out subject to a decision by Review and Decision-Making Committee.

1.21 Review and Decision-Making Committee: a committee formed by SASO to review and make decisions on granting the license for the commodity, or to renew, extend, suspend, or cancel the license for the commodity, based on the technical assessment results conducted by the granting body.

1.22 Impartiality Committee for Granting Certificate of Conformity: a technical advisory committee formed by SASO to review everything related to the activities of granting certificate of conformity, including granting license to use Saudi quality mark for commodity, with members from outside and inside SASO, to represent relevant bodies in order to achieve balance of interests.

1.23 Contract: An agreement licensing the use of the quality mark, thereunder the enterprise shall have the right to use the quality mark of SASO on the commodities for which the license is issued under specified conditions and terms and for a limited period, in accordance with the requirements of ISO 17065.

Article 2: Scope of Application

The provisions of this Regulation shall apply to enterprises that apply to SASO to obtain a license to use Saudi quality mark for products for which standards, granting procedures and/or technical regulations are available.

Article 3: Ownership of Quality Mark

Saudi quality mark is owned by SASO according to the trademark No. 79/1303 dated 18/01/1433 AH. In addition to local registration of quality mark, it may be registered internationally in countries where protection of quality mark is required.

Article 4: General Framework

SASO hereby authorizes the granting body to perform certain procedures to grant the license of quality, and the granting body shall testify that the enterprise has met the requirements of the Regulation and the specified granting procedures, and that the commodities are in conformity with relevant standards and/or technical regulations.

Upon issuance of the license, SASO shall give the enterprise the right to use the quality mark on the specified commodities. For some considerations, SASO may assign technical bodies to perform some managerial procedures, especially in the fields of the works of technical committees responsible for technical work.

Upon application of this Regulation and relevant granting procedures, the granting bodies and technical committees shall fulfill the professional requirements and the international practices, particularly:

4.1 Providing guarantees for impartiality towards manufacturers, importers, or distributors who applied to obtain the license, in addition to providing guarantees to the consumers of those products

4.2 Providing qualified persons and enough resources to perform the work properly to grant the license.

The granting body may assign some of the assessment procedures, such as audits, tests, and inspection, required under the Regulation and the granting procedures, to third parties, whether organizations or individuals. The granting body shall ensure that all partners perform all tasks assigned to them properly.

Article 5: The Right to Obtain the License

5.1 Every enterprise shall have the right to apply to SASO to obtain the license when relevant standards, granting procedure and/or technical regulation are available for the commodity.

5.2 After the enterprise meets the requirements of this Regulation and the granting procedure related to its commodities, the results will be submitted to the Review and Decision-Making Committee.

5.3 The license will be issued by a resolution from the vice governor for conformity and quality in SASO, and the license shall be valid for three years and may be renewed automatically unless the enterprise notifies otherwise 60 days before the end of the license.

Article 6: Technical Requirements for Granting License

The granting procedure shall specify technical requirements, standards and/or technical regulation to be complied with by the enterprise for every category of commodities, and shall be approved by the vice governor for conformity and quality in accordance with the requirements of this Regulation.

Article 7: Impartiality Committee for Works of Granting Certificates of Conformity

An advisory committee, under the name of Impartiality Committee, shall be established to work on everything related to the activities of granting the license and certificates of conformity granted by SASO.

7.1 Composition of the Committee:

The Impartiality Committee shall be composed of members from SASO employees and from outside SASO, representatives of the relevant authorities to achieve a balance of interests, provided that their appointment shall be as follows:

7.1.1 Representatives of the beneficiaries of the enterprises that obtained the license and certificates of conformity granted by SASO

7.1.2 Representatives of the enterprises that obtained the license and the certificates of conformity granted by SASO

7.1.3 Representative of the industrial associations (or chambers of commerce).

7.1.4 Representative of government agencies or ministries.

7.1.5 representative of non-governmental organizations (such as consumer protection/quality associations/accredited universities in the Kingdom/consulting offices).

7.1.6 Representatives of the granting body in SASO

Members shall be appointed by the vice-Governor for conformity and quality for a period of 3 years, which may be renewed for a second 3-year period if no action is taken to change them.

In addition to its main members, the meeting may be attended by observers or other qualified experts. SASO shall provide the committee with a technical secretariat.

7.2 Duties of the Committee:

In light of this Regulation, the committee shall provide advice on:

7.2.1 Developing policies related to the impartiality of commodity's conformity assessment activities.

7.2.2 An electronic system for granting the quality mark and certificates of conformity at SASO, rules and steps for the processes of conformity assessment of commodities, granting licenses and certificates of conformity, and maintaining impartiality, integrity, confidentiality and objectivity in all granting activities offered by SASO through the granting body.

7.2.3 Potential modifications to the commodity conformity assessment process system and this Regulation.

7.2.4 Commenting on the recognition agreements as indicated in Article 9.

7.2.5 Providing feedback to the granting body.

7.2.6 Providing observations to follow up on the granting body's work.

7.2.7 Providing observations to develop new applications for granting body.

7.2.8 Handling complaints, objections and disputes related to the granting body submitted by applicants or licensees, in accordance with Article 16 below.

7.2.9 Ensuring the implementation of the general policy, development and marketing of the Saudi Quality Mark and certificates of conformity, and expressing an opinion on the actions taken.

7.2.10 Ensuring that the mark-granting system and certificates of conformity at SASO comply with the requirements of the international standard ISO/IEC 17065.

7.3 Committee Meetings:

Committee meetings shall be held at least once a year and the committee chairman or deputy shall be responsible for the conduct of this meeting and the committee can meet (either in person or via the Internet) to conduct business.

Article 8: Review and Decision-Making Committee

The committee shall supervise the review of all information and results related to the assessment and any other relevant information and take a decision on whether or not to grant / renew / extend / suspend / cancel the license for commodities based on all results related to the assessment.

8.1 Composition of the Committee

It shall consist of member(s) who have the necessary expertise and technical competencies, in the areas of standardization, laws of specific sectors, and requirements for conformity assessment of commodities. If necessary, in addition to its main members, the meeting may be attended by observers or other experts with special qualifications who are invited to attend the discussions, in accordance with the meeting agenda.

8.2 Duties of the Committee

8.2.1 Reviewing the files of the concerned enterprises and the results of the commodity conformity assessment processes and evaluating the management system applied within the concerned enterprises in order to issue a decision on whether or not to grant / extend / renew / suspend / cancel the license.

8.2.2 Submitting proposals on any matter related to the improvement of the commodity conformity assessment work.

8.2.3 The decision taken by the committee shall be submitted within a period not exceeding 2 weeks and approved by the vice Governor for conformity and quality.

8.3 Committee Meetings

The committee meeting shall be held whenever necessary and within a period not exceeding 2 weeks from the date of the availability of all data and reports related to the relevant product. The committee chairman shall be responsible for the conduct of this meeting. The committee can meet (either in person or via the Internet) to conduct business.

Article 9: Mutual Recognition Agreements

SASO is the only organization authorized to enter into agreements with organizations and bodies at the regional and international level in relation to the quality mark and its recognition.

Article 10: Confidentiality

All parties involved in the licensing work, including members of the Impartiality Committee and other committees shall be committed to professional confidentiality. They shall maintain and protect all documents related to SASO from disclosure, damage, forgery or illegal possession.

SASO may allow access to all files or part thereof based on the request of accreditation bodies, legal authorities or the committees participating in the work of granting the license.

Article 11. Information about the commodities covered by the Saudi Quality Mark and Marking the Mark

11.1 Publication of Information about the Saudi Quality Mark:

SASO shall be responsible for supervising the publication of information on the commodities covered by the Saudi Quality Mark and its licensees, and shall monitor the expansion and spread of the mark in general.

11.2 Marketing the Saudi Quality Mark:

The granting body shall be responsible for marketing the Saudi Quality Mark, as well as advertising and marketing activities related to the Saudi Quality Mark. The granting body shall take all necessary and required procedures to expand the scope of the Saudi Quality Mark applications, after the approval of SASO.

The enterprises that obtained the license can also take the initiative, at their own expense, in organizing advertising campaigns for the application of the Saudi Quality Mark, under the supervision of SASO.

Article 12: Steps for Granting License

12.1 Submission of the Application:

The enterprise shall apply for a license to use the mark if it fulfills the following initial conditions for granting the license:

- a) The enterprise must be legally licensed, and its field of work shall correspond to the scope of the required licensing.
- b) Accepting all conditions set out in this Regulation and granting procedures, signing the contract, and ensuring that the commodities for which the license is required conform to relevant standards and/or technical regulations.
- c) Establishing and maintaining an effective management system that fulfills the requirements of the specific granting procedure, and ensures that the commodities shall continue to be produced in conformity with relevant standards and/or technical regulations, as specified in the license application.
- d) Announcing all modifications related to commodities, production equipment, or control equipment.
- e) Identifying and maintaining the tradename (trademark and reference) for the commodities to be granted the license, and to inform the granting body of any change in this tradename.

- f) Placing the Saudi Quality Mark in the manner and method described in the granting procedure. The use of the mark shall be limited to the types and classes of commodities licensed to use the mark and produced in accordance with the relevant standards and/or technical regulations.
- g) Keeping a record of complaints related to commodities bearing the mark and the measures taken in respect thereof, so that they are accessible to auditor upon request.
- h) Providing all necessary facilities to the granting body when conducting the audit and providing it, at any time, with all information, including methods of quality control and records related to production.
- i) Informing the granting body of any document advertising the commodities.
- j) Filling out the specified application form and attach all required documents.
- k) The organization shall submit an independent application to obtain a license to use the Saudi Quality Mark, as determined by granting procedure.

12.2 The granting body shall receive and study the application:

The application for granting the license and the documents attached thereto shall be studied. The organization shall be informed of the results of the study within 15 days from the date of submitting the application. Any missing documents shall be filed within 30 days from the date of submitting the application.

12.3 Initial Inspection and Tests:

- a) The granting body shall appoint a team to visit the enterprise and production lines to conduct an audit during the work of production lines. Samples may be taken from the final product of the enterprise (production line) for the commodities required to be granted a license and necessary tests may be conducted on such samples at the granting body laboratories or in any of the approved laboratories, as determined by SASO and provided for in the granting procedure.
- b) The enterprise has the right to object to conducting tests in one of the laboratories specified by the granting body, the granting body shall be notified in writing of the objection, and the reasons thereof.
- c) The granting body shall have the right to accept test reports for the commodities for which the license is required, which reports shall be issued by accredited laboratories as determined by SASO and provided for in the granting procedure.
- d) The granting body shall treat the information about the enterprise in strict confidence.

12.4 Grant of License:

- a) A report shall be prepared for the results of the inspection visit, including an assessment of the results of the tests and a recommendation regarding whether or not to grant the license. The report shall be submitted to the audit committee, and a decision shall be made in accordance Article 8 of this Regulation. The committee may request additional assessment or complementary audit visits to be performed at the expense of the enterprise, or request improvements to be made in certain points or production control work before the decision to grant the license is taken.
- b) If the conditions are met, the license shall be granted to the organization by a decision of the vice Governor for conformity and quality. The license shall be for a period of 3 years, renewable automatically unless the granting body records, during the follow-up work, any non-conformity of the commodity or any violation of the requirements, or the enterprise submits a suspension request 60 days before the end of license.

12.5 Follow up the file and renew the license (periodic audit / renewal audit / periodic tests):

- a) The granting body shall conduct a periodic audit of the licensed enterprise, at specific intervals throughout the year as determined by this Regulation and the granting procedures, provide that such audit shall be carried out at least once a year and shall include the same steps as the initial audit.
- b) The granting body shall have the right to take random samples of the commodities that have been granted the Saudi Quality Mark directly from the market, production lines or warehouses, to test such samples to ensure that they meet the requirements of this Regulation and the granting procedure and that they conform to relevant standards and/or technical regulations.
- c) The granting body shall follow up on the files of the enterprises that obtained the license through continuous monitoring of the results of conformity assessment and the implementation of periodic audits and/or sampling and/or periodic tests in accordance with this Regulation and related granting procedures.
- d) The granting body shall conduct the renewal audit on the licensed enterprise during the end of the license validity period, unless the enterprise submits a suspension request, which audit shall include the same steps of the initial audit as specified in this regulation and related granting procedures.

Article 13: License Scope Extension

13.1 The enterprise that obtained the license may submit an application to the granting body to extend the scope of the license to cover new commodities subject to the same standard and/or the granting procedure as the previously licensed commodities, which application shall specify the commodities to be licensed, the place of manufacture and the trademark according to the specified model.

13.2 The application to extend the license shall be studied, and the enterprise shall be informed of the results of the study and the conditions required for extension within 15 days from the date of submitting the application.

13.3 Extending the scope of license may require additional assessment procedures, preliminary audit visits, or repeating the initial tests.

Article 14: Procedures to be carried out by the licensed enterprise (in case of changes that affect the validity of the license)

14.1 Any modifications to the licensed commodities can only be made after obtaining the approval of the granting body (acceptance of modifications may require additional assessment procedures or repeating the initial tests...). The terms related to this agreement shall be sent to the enterprise within 15 days from the date of receipt of the application (Review and decision-making committee shall be informed and consulted about these proposed changes).

14.2 SASO shall be notified in writing of all modifications relating to production equipment and control and the management system in place, which may significantly affect the conformity of commodities.

14.3 The granting body shall be notified in writing prior to temporary, permanent, total or partial transfers of production to other undisclosed or (disclosed) manufacturing sites. The granting body shall inform the licensed enterprise, within 15 days from the date of receiving the request, of the required assessment procedures (tests or further inspection...) that it intends to implement on the new production site for the licensed enterprise to continue using the license.

14.4 The licensed enterprise shall inform the granting body in writing of every final halt in the production of the licensed commodities, or shall submit an application to cancel the license if it desires to give up the mark, which application shall be accompanied with a letter specifying the licensed commodities in the inventory and the period required for selling the same, which period shall not exceed 3 months. After the end of the specified period, the granting body shall take a decision to cancel the license, without the need to refer to the Review and Decision-making Committee.

14.5 The licensed enterprise shall inform the granting body of any legal amendments to the organization and/or change of enterprise name and/or trademark.

Article 15: License Suspension or Cancellation

In the event that the enterprise licensed to use the Saudi Quality Mark fails to comply with the provisions of this Regulation and/or the granting procedure, the enterprise shall be informed of the same.

The licensed enterprise shall be given a reasonable period to submit appropriate response to the granting body. After studying the response, and without specifying the legal consequences resulting from the abuse of the mark in accordance with Article 19 of this Regulation, one of the following decisions shall be taken:

15.1 Suspension of the license for a specified period, specifying the conditions for cancelling the suspension, in the following cases:

15.1.1 In the event that the granting body records, during the follow-up work, any non-conformity of the commodity or a violation of the requirements that directly affect the conformity of the commodity.

15.1.2 In the event that the enterprise fails to correct the violation within a period not exceeding 6 months for violations that require corrective measures and do not directly affect the conformity of the commodity.

15.1.3 If the enterprise stops producing the commodity bearing the mark for a period exceeding 6 months.

15.2 Cancellation of the License in the following cases:

15.2.1 If the enterprise fails to apply any amendments made to the standards and/or technical regulations applied to the commodity or any amendments made by SASO to this Regulation or the granting procedure.

15.2.2 If the enterprise does not wish to renew the license.

15.2.3 If the enterprise stops producing the commodity bearing the mark for a period exceeding 12 months.

15.2.4 If the license suspension period exceeds 6 months.

15.2.5 If the enterprise fails to take corrective measures during the specified license suspension period, in accordance with the conditions specified for cancelling the suspension.

15.2.6 If the enterprise fails to pay applicable costs to SASO or granting body.

15.3 Cancellation of the license shall not exempt the enterprise from paying any applicable costs to SASO or granting body.

15.4 The concerned party shall be informed of such decisions, the reasons for suspension or cancellation of the license and the date of commencement of implementation of the decisions. According to these decisions,

the licensed enterprise shall not be allowed to use the Saudi Quality Mark. The decisions may apply to all stages of production and/or marketing of the relevant commodities.

15.5 In urgent cases, particularly serious violations of safety obligations, the granting body may implement the decision to suspend or cancel the license immediately as a preventive procedure.

15.6 The decision to suspend or cancel the license shall deprive the licensed enterprise of benefiting from the use of the quality mark.

15.7 In cases of suspension or cancellation of the license, the enterprise shall submit to SASO a statement specifying the stored commodities bearing the mark, and SASO shall require the organization to perform the following, as needed:

15.7.1 Removing the mark in accordance with the legal procedures if the reason for the suspension or cancellation of the license is due to the enterprise failure to satisfy the requirements of this Regulation or the granting procedure, or non-conformity of the commodity with relevant standards and/or technical regulations.

15.7.2 Removing the mark from these commodities in an appropriate and agreed manner if the reason for canceling the license is due to non-renewal or non-payment of payable costs

15.8 SASO shall have the right to announce, in various media, the suspension or cancellation of the license for any enterprise.

Article 16: Objections

16.1 The applicant or the licensed enterprise shall have the right to object to the decision regarding non-granting, suspending or cancelling the license based on the supporting evidence by referring to the granting body. The applicant or the licensed enterprise shall be informed of the results of following up on his application.

16.2 If this decision is confirmed, the applicant or the licensed enterprise shall be notified by a registered letter or similar confirmation of the decision, in which case the applicant or the licensed enterprise shall have the right to file an appeal (second objection) of the decision taken by sending a request within a period not exceeding 15 days from the date of reporting to SASO.

16.3 SASO shall appoint members of Complaints, Objections and Disputes Committee to consider and review the appeal and take a decision.

16.4 The applicant or the licensed enterprise shall be notified of the final decision by registered letter or any equivalent method by SASO.

16.5 Objections and appeals shall not cancel decisions made during the period of consideration until the final decision is made.

Article 17: Conditions for Using Saudi Quality Mark

17.1 The Saudi Quality Mark shall be granted subject to the conditions and granting procedure provided for in Article 6 of this Regulation and the contract, which the licensed enterprise shall comply therewith. All licensed enterprise undertake to implement all necessary measures to ensure the continued fulfillment of these requirements.

17.2 The enterprise licensed to use the mark shall place the Saudi Quality Mark on the commodities specified in the license only and in accordance with the provisions mentioned in the relevant granting procedure. Accordingly, it shall have the right to display the mark and refer to it in the marketing documents of those commodities.

17.3 The Mark shall be printed, engraved, affixed or fixed to the commodities in a manner that is difficult to remove.

17.4 In the event that there is not enough space on the commodity or if the commodity does not allow the mark to be placed on it, the place of the mark shall be determined in agreement with the granting body.

17.5 The Mark shall be in accordance with the form shown in the figure contained in the relevant granting procedure.

17.6 The Quality Mark may not be displayed on communications.

17.7 Applicants shall not be entitled to obtain a license to use the mark before or during the process of examining and processing their applications.

17.8 The enterprise may refer to SASO to obtain official approval for the documents on which it wishes to display the quality mark.

17.9 The use of the Quality Mark does not mean that the granting body shall, in any case, assume legal responsibility on behalf of the manufacturer, distributor or importer of the commodity.

Article 18: Termination of the right to use the Saudi Quality Mark

The right to use the Saudi Quality Mark on commodities shall be terminated immediately where any of the cases stipulated in Article 15 of this Regulation occur or if the reference standards for commodities are no longer applied in accordance with the conditions stipulated in Article 21 of this Regulation. In the event of merging or liquidating the licensed organization, all the licenses granted thereto will automatically cease, and a new application for obtaining the license shall be submitted.

Article 19: Misuse of the Quality Mark

19.1 In addition to the decisions stipulated in Article 15 of this Regulation, any misuse of the Quality Mark by the licensed enterprisor or by a third party shall authorize SASO, in close cooperation with the granting body if required, to take any legal measures they deem appropriate under applicable laws.

19.2 Any person who uses the mark without a license, or who continues to use the mark or advertise its use by any means despite the issuance of a decision to suspend or cancel its license, or who forges the market, shall subject to the penalties specified in relevant laws in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, in addition to any other legal and administrative penalties as set out in any other law.

Article 20: Modifications to the requirements for obtaining license

Any modification to the requirements for granting license may lead to modifications to the management system of the licensed enterprise (such as amending or updating the standards and/or technical regulations stipulated in the Regulations and the granting procedure). In this case, the granting body shall inform all enterprises that have obtained the mark of such modifications, specify the dates of actual application of the

new requirements, and inform the enterprise of the need for additional assessment procedures (tests, audit visit...) for the products.

Article 21: Suspending the activity of granting the Saudi Quality Mark

SASO, in agreement with the granting body, shall have the right to suspend the activity of granting the Saudi Quality Mark partially or completely. The granting body shall set the terms and deadlines, and inform all interested parties.

The granting body shall notify the Impartiality Committee of the works of granting certificate of conformity of this suspension.

Article 22: Financial Matters

Mechanism for calculating the costs of granting / following up on the file / renewing the license:

22.1 The costs of granting / following up on the file / renewing the license to use the Saudi quality mark shall be applied in accordance with the items listed in Table 1 of this Regulation, for each separate application.

22.2 The costs of submitting the application shall be applied only once for each application for a license to use the Saudi Quality Mark and shall not be applied for extending or renewing the license.

22.3 For application to extend the license, the costs specified in item 2 and 4 of the table below shall be applied in accordance with the required assessment procedures. For initial visit, if required, the costs specified in item 3 of Table 1 of this Regulation shall be applied.

22.4 The costs of studying the technical documents shall be applied on applications for new license, license extension, or license renewal.

22.5 In the event that an enterprise applies for licensing multiple trademarks for the same commodity registered in its name, all costs of granting the license to the first trademark shall be applied, based on the items listed in Table 1, and only the costs specified in item 5 or 6 shall be added for each additional trademark.

22.6 In the event that an enterprise applies for a license for a previously licensed commodity with independent trademarks, only the costs specified in items 5 or 6 shall be applied for each additional trademark registered in the name of the same enterprise,

22.7 SASO shall issue one copy of the license certificate for each class, brand, or trademark. The enterprise shall have the right to specify the certificate language. For any additional copy, modification or extension, a cost of SAR 1,000 shall be applied for each copy.

22.8 Calculation of travel and accommodation costs:

- The enterprise may select to either procure travel tickets, accommodation reservations and entry visas to the country, if required, by itself or entrust the same to the granting body, which will add 20% of the value of such invoices. Travel tickets and hotel reservations shall be calculated and classified according in accordance with item 7.
- In the event that the enterprise bears the responsibility to procure travel tickets and hotel reservations for auditors, the granting body shall be provided with these tickets and reservations

within a period not exceeding 20 days from the approval letter on the date of the visit. Any delay or breaches thereof shall be the responsibility of the organization, unless an official letter is submitted to granting body explaining the reasons for failing to send the tickets and reservations, which reasons shall be justified.

22.9 Sample Testing Costs:

- The enterprise shall be responsible for all costs of sample testing.
- The granting body shall provide the enterprise with all invoices of testing the samples immediately after the same is received from the testing laboratory.

Table 1 – Costs of Granting Saudi Quality Mark						
#	Item	Costs (SAR)				
1	Costs of submitting the application (SASO)	3000				
2	Costs of studying technical documents (*) (granting body)	2500/man-day				
3	Cost of (initial / periodic / supplementary / renewal) audit (granting body)	3000 / man-day				
4	Costs of review and decision-making committees (SASO)	2500/man-day				
5	Costs of the right to use the license of the optional quality mark for the product (SASO) Products shall mean all classes and types of commodities covered by the same standard.	<p>1. upon granting, the following costs shall be applied:</p> <table border="1" style="margin-left: 20px;"> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">20000</td> <td style="text-align: center;">25000</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">From 1 to 20 products (first 3 years)</td> <td style="text-align: center;">More than 20 products (first 3 years)</td> </tr> </table> <p>2. upon renewal, a fixed annual cost of 5000 shall be applied</p>	20000	25000	From 1 to 20 products (first 3 years)	More than 20 products (first 3 years)
20000	25000					
From 1 to 20 products (first 3 years)	More than 20 products (first 3 years)					
6	(Annual) costs of the right to use the license of the mandatory quality mark for the product (SASO) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Products shall mean all classes and types of commodities covered by the same granting procedure. • This item shall apply on commodities for which mandatory quality marks are required subject to relevant technical regulations. 	5000 / all products (annually)				
7	Travel and accommodation costs (granting body)	<p>The enterprise (applying for, or bearing the license) shall procure travel tickets and accommodation for auditors, which shall be classified and calculated as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Flight tickets: economy class 2. Accommodation: at least 4-star hotels 3. Entry visas, if required <p>Where the granting body assumes the above-mentioned tasks, 20% of the values of tickets + hotels shall be added.</p>				
8	Testing costs (granting body)	The enterprise (applying for, or bearing the license) shall bear the costs of required testing in accordance with the specified granting procedure.				

Notes:

(*) Working days shall be determined in accordance with the granting procedure approved for each product and based on the number of products listed in quality mark application.

(*) Total number of working days for auditing shall include the periods for studying the file, preparation for field visit, work in the site during field visit for each member of visit team, assessment of results, preparation of reports, verification of fulfillment of observations and approval thereof.