



New Mechanism for the Conformity Certificates of the goods imported into Saudi Arabia

Reproduced below the contents of letter No. 209/96/33/1545 dated September 14, 2004 received from Royal Embassy of Saudi Arabia, New Delhi addressed to The Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, New Delhi for the information of our member-exporters :

The Royal Embassy of Saudi Arabia presents its compliments to the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India and has the honour to inform the esteemed Ministry that the concerned authorities in Saudi Arabia have worked out the following feasible mechanism for the Conformity Certificates of the goods being imported to Saudi Arabia :

1. Conformity certificate issued from the concerned authority in the exporting country should be enclosed with all the consignments of the consumer goods being imported to Saudi Arabia, confirming its conformity with the prevailing standard specifications.
2. All the commodities and goods should be subjected to the regular laboratory check under the inspection of the concerned supervising authority in the exporting country.
3. The concerned authority in the exporting country should bear full responsibility of the contents of the Certificate of Conformity, provided that the manufacturing company should bear all the responsibility of the harms caused as a result of using those commodities.
4. The samples will be taken at random from the consignments of the goods and consumer commodities after reaching to the ports of the Kingdom, to ensure the genuineness of the certificate sent along with the consignment.
5. The above mechanism will be applicable after the expiry of the present contracts for the existing schedule, which expires on 29.8.2004.

The Royal Embassy will appreciate if the esteemed Ministry could kindly convey the same to the concerned authorities in the Government of India.

The Royal Embassy avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, the assurances of its highest consideration.

Issuance of Visa to Indian Nationals by the Slovak Embassy in New Delhi

Reproduced below the contents of letter No. BRAT/COM/204/1/2003 dated October 1, 2004 received from Mr. M. K. Lokesh, Ambassador, Embassy of India, Bratislava, Slovakia for the information of our member-exporters :

It may be recalled that in response to restrictions imposed by the Slovak Embassy on grant of visas for Indian applicants, India had also imposed reciprocal visa restrictions on Slovak nationals. However, due to our effort in the past few months, following restrictions have been removed :

- (i) Requirement of Security Deposit of Rs. 40,000 by Indian visa applicants.
 - (ii) Stipulation of minimum of 21 days for processing of visa applications.
2. In addition to the above, the Mission has also worked out an arrangement with the Slovak Government, that the visa cases referred by the Indian Mission in Bratislava, especially for business travellers, will be cleared expeditiously and without applying normal restrictions by the Slovak Government. Necessary clearances for these applications will be sent by the Slovak Government to its Mission in New Delhi. Slovak authorities have assured us that the visa regime will be further liberalised once the new Ambassador-designate joins in New Delhi.
 3. In view of the above, all commercial and trade promotion bodies, sponsored by the Government of India, may contact the Mission in Bratislava [Ambassador on E-mail : eindia@slovanet.sk or Second Secretary (Commercial) on E-mail : eindia.com@stonline.sk] in case of any visa difficulties.

Vietnam to Lift Import Duties for CKD, IKD Auto Parts

Import duties levied on complete knockdown (CKD) and incomplete knock (IKD) auto parts will be removed in the future to support the development of Vietnam's auto industry, according to the Government-approved development strategy for the industry.

(Source : Consulate General of India, Ho Chi Minh City)