



Import Guide for the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia



Overview

This document is intended to give DHL Customers an overview to essential elements of the import and export regulations implemented by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

The details discussed are not new regulations by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia rather the enforcement of existing legislation.

Should you have any questions on any point covered in this briefing please do not hesitate to contact your account manager or contact your nearest [Customer Service team](#).

Note that all documents referenced in this document can be found at www.dhl.com/ksa_customs



Contents

Import Commodity Restrictions	4
<i>Prohibited & Restricted Commodities</i>	4
<i>Controlled Goods</i>	5
General Import Rules	6
<i>By Value - Under US\$100 (All of Saudi Arabia)</i>	6
<i>By Value – Between US\$ 100 and US\$ 2,500 (Destined for Riyadh and Jeddah only)</i>	6
For Commercial Establishments	6
For Private Individuals	6
<i>By Value – Over US\$ 2,500 (Destined for Riyadh and Jeddah only)</i>	7
For Commercial Establishments	7
For Private Individuals	7
<i>By Value – Between US\$ 100 and US\$ 13,250 (Destined for Dhahran)</i>	8
For Commercial Establishments	8
For Private Individuals	8
<i>By Value – Over US\$ 13,250 (Dhahran)</i>	9
For Commercial Establishments	9
For Private Individuals	9
Government Ministry Approvals	10
<i>SFDA - Saudi Food & Drug Authority</i>	10
<i>CITC - Communications & Information Technology Commission</i>	11
<i>MOCI - Ministry of Commerce & Industry</i>	12
<i>MOI - Ministry of Information</i>	12
<i>SASO – Saudi Arabian Standards Organization</i>	13
Appendix 1, Websites	14
<i>For the Government of Saudi Arabia</i>	14
SASO – Saudi Arabian Standards Organization	14
SFDA - Saudi Food & Drug Authority	14
MOCI - Ministry of Commerce & Industry	14
CITC - Communications & Information Technology Commission	14
<i>For SASO – Certification Bodies</i>	14
Intertek	14
SGS Group	14
Bureau Veritas	14



Import Commodity Restrictions

Prohibited & Restricted Commodities

The following goods are not allowed to be imported into the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia under any circumstances and will be destroyed upon arrival at the Saudi border.

Alcoholic beverages
Alcohol distilling equipment
All animal blood products
All kinds of Liquor, or items containing liquor as an ingredient
All narcotics without exception regardless of form.(Including poppy seeds)
Annoying car horns or horns that play tunes
Antiques & works Art (Standard DHL restriction)
Asbestos
Blank invoices for companies established abroad
Christmas Trees
Counterfeit products that bear the brand of a manufacture or brand name of a commercial product, or a commercial title, **(Over & Above DHL Restrictions)**
Crosses, Crucifixes or stars of David
Dangerous goods, hazardous or chemical combination materials **(Over & above DHL restrictions)**
Dogs except with permission from the Saudi Arabian embassy in origin country **(live Animals Banned for Carriage with DHL Express)**
Explosives except by licensed importers **(Over & above DHL restrictions)**
Firearms & parts thereof **(Over & above DHL restrictions)**
Frogs meat
Furs & Ivory (Standard DHL Restriction)
Gambling devices or Slot machines
Gemstones (Standard DHL Restriction)
Jewellery (Standard DHL restriction)
Label and packing material (can be imported only if consignee has a license agreement with the shipper or with permission from the customs authority)
Laser pens or pointers
Masks
Massage equipment indecently packaged
Musical greeting cards
Night vision binoculars or similar items
Nutmeg, seeds & powder thereof
Phonographic/Audio Visual media products, subject to authorization by the Ministry of Information
Pigs (Swine) and pork products
Pornography
Postal envelopes
Soil samples
Spawn of silk-worms, any kinds of soil, leaf, stem, straw and natural manure used for agriculture,
Tobacco advertising materials
Used tires or retread tires



Controlled Goods

This section covers a range of commodities that require specific authority to import into the Kingdom from various government ministries or require certificates of conformance from the shipper

The guidelines and links for the requirements of each of these government ministries are found on pages 10 to 14 of this guide.

Description	Ministry Approval From
Books	Ministry Of Information (MOI)
Cards containing electronic information – e.g. satellite TV cards, ID cards, Maps	Ministry Of Information (MOI)
Chemicals	Ministry Of Commerce And Industry (MOCI)
Compact discs – music or data files	Ministry Of Information (MOI)
Computer games	Ministry Of Information (MOI)
Cosmetics and perfumes	Saudi Food & Drug Authority (SFDA)
Dietary supplements including vitamins	Saudi Food & Drug Authority (SFDA)
DVD's	Ministry Of Information (MOI)
GPS equipment	Communications And Information Technology Commission (CITC)
Ink Products	Ministry Of Commerce And Industry (MOCI)
Laboratory chemicals and solutions	Saudi Food & Drug Authority (SFDA)
Magazines	Ministry Of Information (MOI)
Medications and pharmaceuticals (prescription and non prescription)	Saudi Food & Drug Authority (SFDA)
Photographic media	Ministry Of Information (MOI)
Reagents and diagnostics	Saudi Food & Drug Authority (SFDA)
Satellite communication equipment	Communications And Information Technology Commission (CITC)
Toner	Ministry Of Commerce And Industry (MOCI)
Wireless computer and networking equipment	Communications And Information Technology Commission (CITC)
Wireless telecommunications equipment	Communications And Information Technology Commission (CITC)



General Import Rules

IMPORTANT: There are different value splits and accompanying rules depending upon the point of clearance in Saudi Arabia

By Value - Under US\$100 (All of Saudi Arabia)

Non document shipments, under US\$100 and not mentioned on the list of commodities on pages # 4 and 5 of this document need only a detailed invoice from the shipper to clear through customs formalities into Saudi Arabia.

By Value – Between US\$ 100 and US\$ 2,500 (Destined for Riyadh and Jeddah only)

For Commercial Establishments

Non document shipments, between US\$100 and US\$ 2,500 as well as not being mentioned on the list of commodities on pages # 4 and 5 of this document need the following documentation;

- A detailed commercial invoice, with full accurate descriptions and preferably the HS Code for each item
- A copy of the consignees Company Registration document (once supplied this will be held by DHL for future imports until it expires)

For Private Individuals

Non document shipments, over US\$100 and not mentioned on the list of commodities on pages # 4 and 5 of this document need the following documentation;

- A detailed commercial invoice, with full accurate descriptions and preferably the HS Code for each item
- A copy of the consignees Personal ID (Iqama)

IMPORTANT NOTE:

Private individuals **may not** import any items that require SFDA approval, including medicines or drugs covered by a prescription, cosmetics, herbal supplements etc.



By Value – Over US\$ 2,500 (Destined for Riyadh and Jeddah only)

Note that due to the sheer volume of imports processed in Dhahran there is a higher value limit than is allowed by customs authorities in Riyadh and Jeddah.

For Commercial Establishments

Non document shipments, over US\$ 2,500 and not mentioned on the list of commodities on pages # 4 and 5 of this document need the following documentation;

- A detailed commercial invoice, with full accurate descriptions and preferably the HS Code for each item
- A Certificate of Origin attested by a competent authority, generally the shipper's local chamber of commerce, and needs to be created by the shipper prior to export.
- A copy of the consignees Company Registration document (once supplied this will be held by DHL for future imports until it expires)
- An authorization letter from the consignee authorizing DHL's broker to clear the shipment through customs (once supplied this will be held by DHL for future imports)

For Private Individuals

Non document shipments, over US\$ 2,500 and not mentioned on the list of commodities on pages # 4 and 5 of this document need the following documentation;

- A copy of your Personal ID (Iqama)
- An authorization letter addressed to customs allowing DHL's broker to clear the shipment on your behalf
- A Certificate of Origin attested by a competent authority to be created by the shipper prior to export

IMPORTANT NOTE:

Private individuals **may not** import any items that require SFDA approval, including medicines or drugs covered by a prescription, cosmetics, herbal supplements etc.

Electronic items for personal use cannot exceed 4 of the same item. 5 or more will be classed as a commercial shipment and will require CITC and / or SASO approval prior to importation



By Value – Between US\$ 100 and US\$ 13,250 (Destined for Dhahran)

For Commercial Establishments

Non document shipments, between US\$ 100 and US\$ 13,250 as well as not being mentioned on the list of commodities on pages # 4 and 5 of this document need the following documentation;

- A detailed commercial invoice, with full accurate descriptions and preferably the HS Code for each item
- A copy of the consignees Company Registration document (once supplied this will be held by DHL for future imports until it expires)

For Private Individuals

Non document shipments, between US\$ 100 and US\$ 13,250 as well as not being mentioned on the list of commodities on pages # 4 and 5 of this document need the following documentation;

- A detailed commercial invoice, with full accurate descriptions and preferably the HS Code for each item
- A copy of the consignees Personal ID (Iqama)

IMPORTANT NOTE:

Private individuals **may not** import any items that require SFDA approval, including medicines or drugs covered by a prescription, cosmetics, herbal supplements etc.



By Value – Over US\$ 13,250 (Dhahran)

For Commercial Establishments

Non document shipments, over US\$ 13,250 and not mentioned on the list of commodities on pages # 4 and 5 of this document need the following documentation;

- A detailed commercial invoice, with full accurate descriptions and preferably the HS Code for each item
- A Certificate of Origin attested by a Chamber of Commerce at origin created by the shipper prior to export
- A copy of the consignees Company Registration document (once supplied this will be held by DHL for future imports until it expires)
- An authorization letter from the consignee authorizing DHL's broker to clear the shipment through customs (once supplied this will be held by DHL for future imports)

For Private Individuals

Non document shipments, over US\$ 13,250 and not mentioned on the list of commodities on pages # 4 and 5 of this document need the following documentation;

- A copy of your Personal ID (Iqama)
- An authorization letter addressed to customs allowing DHL's broker to clear the shipment on your behalf
- A Certificate of Origin attested by a Chamber of Commerce at origin created by the shipper prior to export

IMPORTANT NOTE:

Private individuals **may not** import any items that require SFDA approval, including medicines or drugs covered by a prescription, cosmetics, herbal supplements etc.

Electronic items for personal use cannot exceed 4 of the same item. 5 or more will be classed as a commercial shipment and will require CITC and / or SASO approval prior to importation



Government Ministry Approvals

SFDA - Saudi Food & Drug Authority

The Saudi Arabian Customs Regulations require that the following products and commodities require SFDA approval **prior** to entry clearance into Saudi Arabia;

- Medications and pharmaceuticals (prescription and non prescription)
- Laboratory chemicals and solutions
- Reagents and diagnostics
- Dietary supplements including vitamins
- Cosmetics and perfumes

SFDA approval should be obtained by the consignee prior to shipping to Saudi Arabia.

Once the SFDA has approved the product for entry into Saudi Arabia then a copy of this will be required to be attached to each individual import shipment.

For further information on the process to get samples into Saudi Arabia then please review the requirements in the [SFDA Approval Sample](#) document available from our website; www.dhl.com/ksa_customs

For full details on how to obtain approval to import goods in this category please read the [SFDA Guidance for Submission](#).

IMPORTANT NOTES:

If shipments arrive for clearance but your consignee does not have the necessary approvals then long delays will occur before clearance (up to 90 days) while permission to import is obtained from the SFDA.

Private individuals **may not** import any items that require SFDA approval, including medicines or drugs covered by a prescription.



CITC - Communications & Information Technology Commission

The following products and commodities require approval from Communications and Information Technology Commission (CITC) prior to entry clearance of shipments into Saudi Arabia:

- All wireless telecommunications equipment
- Wireless computers
- Networking equipment
- All IT equipment
- GPS equipment
- Satellite communication equipment
- Cell phones and Smart Phones
- Certain Wi-Fi routers

The full list of items as well as the application form and processes are fully covered in the file [CITC Required](#) at www.dhl.com/ksa_customs

CITC approval should be obtained by the consignee prior to shipping to Saudi Arabia

IMPORTANT NOTES:

If shipments arrive for clearance but your consignee does not have the necessary approvals then long delays will occur before clearance (up to 90 days) while permission to import is obtained from the CITC

Private individuals may import up to 4 items of personal use equipment such as Smart or GSM phones (handhelds), PC's, Tablets etc. 5 or more items will be classed as a commercial importation and require CITC approval.



MOCI - Ministry of Commerce & Industry

The following products and commodities require Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MOCI) approval prior to entry clearance of shipments into Saudi Arabia;

- Chemicals, including Dangerous Goods
- Ink products
- Toners

MOCI approval should be obtained by the consignee prior to shipping to Saudi Arabia

IMPORTANT NOTES:

If shipments arrive for clearance but your consignee does not have the necessary approvals then long delays will occur before clearance (up to 90 days) while permission to import is obtained from the MOCI

Generally permission to trade in chemicals or dangerous goods will also be part of the consignees Company Registration document.

MOI - Ministry of Information

100% of all shipments entering the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia are inspected by any of the following means; X-Ray, sniffer dogs, manually. The following products and commodities may be intercepted at the time of import and sent to the Saudi Arabian Ministry of Information for review and approval;

- Magazines
- Books
- Compact discs – music or data files
- Computer games
- DVD's
- Photographic media
- Cards containing electronic information – e.g. satellite TV cards, ID cards, Maps

IMPORTANT NOTES:

Products may be selected at random by the inspecting customs Officer. Delays may be incurred. Should the material be rejected by MOI following inspection it will be confiscated for destruction and cannot be returned to the shipper.



SASO – Saudi Arabian Standards Organization

A large number of items that are used on a domestic basis require a Certificate of Conformance, CoC, (also known as a Clean Report of Findings – a CRF).

This certificate is obtained by the shipper, prior to export.

The Certificate of Conformance is issued by a few certification bodies around the world where the goods to imported in to Saudi Arabia will be tested to ensure the goods meet the standards of SASO.

The list of commodities can be found on our website, www.dhl.com/ksa_customs . The document is titled [SASO-CRF Required](#)



Appendix 1, Websites

For the Government of Saudi Arabia

SASO – Saudi Arabian Standards Organization

<http://www.saso.org.sa/English/Pages/Default.aspx>

SFDA - Saudi Food & Drug Authority

<http://www.sFDA.gov.sa/En/Home>

MOCI - Ministry of Commerce & Industry

<http://mci.gov.sa/english/default.aspx>

CITC - Communications & Information Technology Commission

<http://www.citc.gov.sa/English/Pages/default.aspx>

For SASO – Certification Bodies

If you need to have goods certified prior to export then please check which of these service providers have an agreement with SASO for your country of origin.

Intertek

<http://www.intertek.com/government/product-conformity/exports/saudi-arabia/>

SGS Group

http://www.sgs.com/import_certification_me.htm?serviceld=10096307&lobld=5550

Bureau Veritas

http://www.bureauveritas.com/wps/wcm/connect/bv_com/group