

Certifications for Importing From India and Exporting From It

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Every certificate answers one question for one market. This index lists the certification guides by group, says in a line what each one is and who needs it, and gives a table of which certificates a product family usually needs in each main market. Each guide has a half for importers and a half for Indian exporters.

The Short Version

- Start with your product and your market, not the certificate. The table below gives the usual set.
- Some certificates are legal requirements at the border, others are what your customer demands. The guides say which is which.
- A certificate covers a named site, product, scope and date. Always check it in the issuer's public register.
- Every guide has an importer half and an Indian exporter half, with the steps to get it.

Buyers and Indian exporters ask the same question from opposite ends. The buyer asks "what should I demand from my supplier?" and the exporter asks "what do I need before this buyer will order?". The answer is the same list, read in different directions.



Each guide below covers one certificate or compliance mark. Each has two halves on the same page, one for the importer (what it proves, how to check it is real, red flags) and one for the exporter in India (who issues it, the steps, how long, renewal). Find your product family in the table in section 6, then open the guides it names.

1. Food and Agriculture

- **Phytosanitary certificate**. The plant health certificate for plants, seeds, grains, spices and plant products. Required at the border by most markets, issued in India by PPQS.
- **Health and veterinary certificates**. For meat, seafood, dairy, honey and other animal products. Issued in India by EIC or the competent authority, and the EU and others accept only listed establishments.

- **Organic certification**. NPOP in India, and the EU, US and other organic rules. Needed to sell anything labelled organic.
- **Halal certification**. For food, cosmetics and pharmaceuticals going to Gulf, Malaysian, Indonesian and Muslim-majority markets, and for many buyers elsewhere.
- **Kosher certification**. A customer requirement for many US and Israeli food buyers.
- **Food safety certifications**. BRCGS, FSSC 22000, IFS, SQF and HACCP. Required by most retailers and food brands, not by the border.
- **FDA food facility registration**. Every facility that makes, packs or holds food for the US must register with FDA, and name a US agent.
- **MSC and ASC seafood**. Sustainable fishing and farming labels, with chain-of-custody certificates. Retailer demand, mostly in the EU and UK.
- **GMP certification**. Good manufacturing practice for supplements, Ayurvedic products, cosmetics and pharmaceuticals.
- Related: food import testing, FDA import alerts, biosecurity for natural goods.

2. Products and Safety Marks

- **CE and UKCA marking**. The EU and GB conformity marks for electrical goods, machinery, toys, PPE and others. The maker or importer declares conformity, sometimes with a notified body.
- **RoHS and WEEE**. Restricted substances in electrical and electronic equipment, and take-back registration in the EU and UK.
- **FCC and US electrical safety**. Radio and electromagnetic rules in the US, and the NRTL safety listings retailers demand.
- **RCM in Australia and New Zealand**. The regulatory compliance mark for electrical and radio equipment, with a local responsible supplier.

- **REACH and safety data sheets**. EU and UK chemical rules, SVHC statements, SDS and only representatives. Applies to chemicals and to almost every article.
- **Saudi SABER and SASO**. Saudi Arabia's product registration platform and certificates of conformity, needed for most regulated goods.
- **Digital product passport**. The EU's coming product data requirement, starting with batteries and then textiles and others.
- Related: restricted chemicals, children's product safety.

3. Factory and Social

- **Social audits**. amfori BSCI, Sedex SMETA, SA8000 and WRAP. Customer requirements on labour and working conditions.
- **ISO 9001 and management system certificates**. Quality, environment, safety and energy systems. Shows a system exists, not that the product is good.
- **Getting GOTS, OEKO-TEX and GRS certified**. The steps for an Indian textile maker. What each one proves is in textile certifications.
- **Leather Working Group**. The environmental audit for tanneries, asked for by most global footwear and bag brands.
- **Fairtrade and Rainforest Alliance**. Farm and supply-chain schemes for tea, coffee, spices, cotton and others.
- Related: forced labour due diligence, cotton traceability.

4. Trade Documents

- **Getting a certificate of origin in India**. The steps on the DGFT platform, for preferential and non-preferential origin. What origin proves at your border is in certificate of origin and rules of origin.

- **IEC, RCMC and export registrations**. The registrations an Indian exporter needs before shipping, and what a buyer can check from them.
- **Document legalisation and attestation**. Apostille, chamber attestation and embassy legalisation for the UAE, Saudi Arabia and others.
- **Dangerous goods shipping documents**. IMDG and IATA declarations, shipping SDS, non-DG letters and UN38.3 for batteries.
- **Kimberley Process and diamond certificates**. KP certificates for rough, warranties and grading reports for polished, disclosure for lab-grown.
- Related: ISPM 15 for wood packaging, HS codes, importer of record.

5. Environment and Carbon

- **EPR for packaging and plastics**. Producer registration and fees for packaging in the EU, UK and India, and who holds the duty.
- **Carbon footprint and carbon credits**. Product and company footprints, what buyers ask for, and what a credit does and doesn't prove.
- **EUDR due diligence**. The EU deforestation rule for coffee, cocoa, rubber, wood, soy, palm and cattle products, with geolocation.
- **FSC and PEFC**. Forest certification and chain of custody for wood, paper and furniture.
- **Eco-labels and green claims**. Which labels hold up under the EU and UK rules on environmental claims.
- Related: CBAM for steel, aluminium and other carbon-intensive goods, and timber legality.



6. Which Certificate Does My Product Need

The usual set by product family and market. **Border** means the law or customs requires it. **Buyer** means most retailers or brands ask for it. Read the guide before you rely on a cell, because rules depend on the exact product.

Product family	EU and UK	US	Australia and NZ	UAE and Saudi Arabia
Spices, rice, tea, coffee, pulses	Border: <u>phytosanitary</u> for some lines, residue limits (<u>testing</u>). Buyer: <u>BRCGS</u> or <u>FSSC</u> , <u>organic</u> if labelled. <u>EUDR</u> for coffee	Border: <u>FDA registration</u> , prior notice. Buyer: <u>food safety</u> , <u>kosher</u>	Border: <u>phytosanitary</u> , <u>biosecurity</u>	Border: <u>halal</u> w required, <u>legal documents</u>
Seafood, honey, dairy, meat	Border: <u>health certificate</u> from a listed plant. Buyer: <u>MSC</u> or <u>ASC</u>	Border: <u>FDA registration</u> , HACCP for seafood	Border: <u>health certificate</u> , import permit	Border: <u>health certificate</u> , <u>halal</u>
Supplements, Ayurvedic, cosmetics	Border: product safety rules, <u>REACH</u> for ingredients. Buyer: <u>GMP</u>	Border: <u>FDA registration</u> for supplements. Buyer: <u>GMP</u>	Border: TGA rules for therapeutic claims. Buyer: <u>GMP</u>	Border: <u>halal</u> for many, <u>SABER</u>
Garments, home textiles	Border: <u>REACH</u> restrictions. Buyer: <u>GOTS</u> , <u>OEKO-TEX</u> , <u>GRS</u> , <u>social audit</u>	Border: <u>forced labour</u> rules, CPSC for children's wear. Buyer: <u>social audit</u>	Buyer: <u>GOTS</u> , <u>OEKO-TEX</u> , <u>social audit</u>	Border: <u>SABER</u> Saudi Arabia
Leather goods, footwear	Border: chromium VI limit under <u>REACH</u> . Buyer: <u>LWG</u> , <u>social audit</u>	Buyer: <u>LWG</u> , <u>social audit</u>	Buyer: <u>LWG</u>	Border: <u>SABER</u>

Product family	EU and UK	US	Australia and NZ	UAE and Saudi Arabia
Electrical goods, batteries, lighting	Border: <u>CE</u> or <u>UKCA</u> , <u>RoHS</u> and <u>WEEE</u> . Transport: <u>DG documents</u> for batteries	Border: <u>FCC</u> . Buyer: NRTL listing	Border: <u>RCM</u>	Border: <u>SABER</u> conformity marking
Toys and children's products	Border: <u>CE</u> or <u>UKCA</u> , <u>restricted substances</u>	Border: <u>children's product certificate</u>	Border: mandatory safety standards (<u>children's products</u>)	Border: <u>SABER</u>
Furniture, wood, paper	Border: <u>EUDR</u> and <u>timber legality</u> , <u>ISPM 15</u> . Buyer: <u>FSC</u> or <u>PEFC</u>	Border: Lacey Act (<u>timber legality</u>). Buyer: <u>FSC</u>	Border: illegal logging rules, <u>biosecurity</u> .	Border: <u>ISPM 15</u>
Steel, aluminium, castings	Border: <u>CBAM</u> reporting, <u>CE</u> for construction products. Buyer: <u>ISO 9001</u>	Buyer: <u>ISO 9001</u> , mill test certificates	Buyer: <u>ISO 9001</u>	Border: <u>SABER</u>
Essential oils, chemicals, paints	Border: <u>REACH</u> and <u>SDS</u> . Transport: <u>DG documents</u>	Border: OSHA SDS, TSCA. Transport: <u>DG documents</u>	Border: GHS SDS, NZ HSNO approval. Transport: <u>DG documents</u>	Transport: <u>DG documents</u>
Diamonds and jewellery	Border: <u>KP</u> for rough, Russian-origin rules for polished, <u>REACH</u> for metals	Border: <u>KP</u> for rough. Selling: FTC lab-grown disclosure	Border: <u>KP</u> for rough	Border: <u>KP</u> for rough

Two things apply to almost every row. A certificate of origin if you claim a lower duty under a trade agreement, and packaging EPR for whoever places the packaging on the market.

7. How to Check Any Certificate

Whatever the certificate, the same four checks catch most problems.

1. **Look it up in the issuer's public register.** Most schemes have one: GOTS, OEKO-TEX, BRCGS, FSC, organic control bodies, DGFT for origin. If there's no register, ask the issuer by email.
2. **Match the name and address.** The certificate covers the legal entity and the site on it. A trader's invoice under a maker's certificate is normal, but you need to know the maker is the site certified.
3. **Match the scope.** Products, processes and standard version. A certificate for spinning doesn't cover dyeing.
4. **Match the date.** Valid on the shipment date, not only on the order date.

If running these checks across many suppliers, or getting a supplier through a certification, is more than your team can carry, SourcingSync does that work in India.

8. Next Steps

- Market rules for Indian goods: EU, UK, US, Australia, New Zealand, UAE.
- Checking the supplier behind the certificate: verifying Indian suppliers and quality control in India.
- Working out the duty: import duty and HS codes.