

**AGREEMENT FOR RECOGNITION OF
EXPORT INSPECTION & CERTIFICATION SYSTEM
OF
EXPORT INSPECTION COUNCIL OF INDIA
FOR
IMPORT INSPECTION SCHEME OF SRI LANKA STANDARDS INSTITUTION**

This Agreement between the Sri Lanka Standards Institution, hereinafter referred to as SLSI, and the Export Inspection Council of India, hereinafter referred to as EIC, is to foster cooperation and establish a working mechanism between SLSI and EIC with a view to

- Maintain equivalence of the inspection and certification system of EIC with SLSI's Import Inspection Scheme,
- Ensure, in case of food products, that they are safe and wholesome and meet Sri Lanka's regulatory requirements, and
- Reduce duplication in inspection of products notified under Sri Lanka's Import Inspection Scheme from time to time.

SLSI is the national standards body of Sri Lanka, which operates the Import Inspection Scheme of Government of Sri Lanka to monitor the quality of imports, especially on aspects covering health and safety. According to the mandatory import inspection scheme under operation in Sri Lanka, it is necessary for specified products imported into Sri Lanka to conform to the relevant specifications published by SLSI. The products covered by the mandatory import inspection scheme are as given in the Schedule to the Import (Standardisation and Quality Control) Regulations, 2001 as amended from time to time

EIC, the official export inspection and certification agency of India, is a statutory organization established by the Government of India under the provisions of the Export (Quality Control & Inspection) Act, 1963 to advise the Government of India regarding measures for enforcement of quality control and inspection in relation to commodities intended for export, setting standards for export and developing systems of export inspection and certification. EIC carries out export inspection and certification through five Export Inspection Agencies (EIAs), one each at Mumbai, Kolkata, Kochi, Delhi and Chennai, established by the Government of India, under the technical and administrative control of EIC.

The intent of this Agreement is to establish a working mechanism between SLSI, as the organization for operating the import inspection scheme in Sri Lanka, and EIC, as the official export inspection and certification body of India, for the purpose of Sri Lanka's Import Inspection Scheme[†].

[†]This will not restrict SLSI into entering into agreement with any other Body in India provided such a body conforms to International standards on conformity assessment.

1. SCOPE OF AGREEMENT

This Agreement covers all the products which are under the ambit of Import Inspection Scheme of Sri Lanka, as given in the Schedule to the Import (Standardisation and Quality Control) Regulations, 2001, as amended from time to time

2. OPERATION OF THE AGREEMENT

EIC

- 1 EIC shall operate export inspection and certification scheme for each product providing for:
 - a) Consignment wise inspection
 - b) Quality assurance system based certification
 - c) Food safety management system based certification

under the provisions of the

- i) Export (Quality Control & Inspection) Act, 1963 and Rules framed thereunder,
- ii) Orders / notifications issued under the above Act for products or group of products,
- iii) Any other export inspection and certification schemes laid down to assure quality of products for export

to ensure that products exported to Sri Lanka conform to prescribed Sri Lanka Standards and any other Regulations applicable.

2. EIC will recognise inspection agencies and approve laboratories as per applicable international standards under the provisions of its Act to support the above, if need be.
3. EIC will provide evidence of authenticity of EIC documentation as requested by SLSI.
4. EIC shall inform SLSI of any proposed variation to the relevant legislation or its implementation.

SLSI

1. SLSI will recognise EIC to provide export inspection and certification of products covered under the Agreement so that the Certificates of Inspection issued under EIC's system are accepted by Sri Lanka reducing its requirement of inspection on arrival (the level to be agreed from time to time).
2. SLSI shall immediately notify EIC regarding any breach of relevant Sri Lankan regulations.

3. ASSESSMENT & VERIFICATION PROVISIONS

SLSI may conduct random verification sampling of products exported from India under the Agreement. SLSI may, from time to time, in consultation with EIC, undertake assessment of EIC's systems at least once a year

4. CRITERIA FOR CERTIFICATION.

1. The products exported to Sri Lanka will be accompanied by Certificates of Inspection, as per format at Annexure A of the Agreement. The certificates may be issued either by the EIAs or units approved under EIC's export certification system. The certificates shall be issued in triplicate with copies as follows:

Original for SLSI
1st copy for manufacturer / exporter
2nd copy for EIA's record

2. EIC will issue Health Certificates for food products, where required, as per format to be provided by SLSI.

5. TRANSPARENCY, INFORMATION EXCHANGE AND COOPERATION

1. Both parties will co-operate and communicate to the fullest practicable extent their requirements as well as any changes in their requirements that may be relevant to the other Party and have an effect on the operation of this Agreement. This will include, but not be limited to, legislation, policies, procedures and guidelines concerning enforcement and inspection. Specific information that will be exchanged to facilitate the continued operation of this Agreement include:
 - (a) Description of adverse findings of random compliance checks undertaken by SLSI and the disposition of implicated product.
 - (b) Evidence located by either party of falsification of EIC's certificates.
2. SLSI will provide information to EIC in respect of Sri Lanka's Import Inspection Scheme. Access to Sri Lanka's import inspection administration and establishments shall be granted to officials of EIC, where possible.

6. REVIEW & MODIFICATION

1. This Agreement will be subject to periodic review from time to time as mutually agreed by the two parties.
2. This Arrangement may be amended and supplemented as mutually consented to in writing by both Parties for furthering bilateral cooperation.
3. Either party may decide to terminate the Agreement giving the other party 3 months notice in writing.

7. DISPUTE SETTLEMENT

Any dispute, controversy or claim, arising out of this Agreement will be dealt with by consultations and negotiations.


8. LIAISON OFFICIALS


Sri Lanka	India
Director (Quality Assurance) Sri Lanka Standards Institution 17, Victoria Place Elvitigala Mawatha Colombo 08 SRI LANKA Tel: + 941 671578 / 671574 Fax: + 941 671579 E-mail: ddgs@slsi.slt.lk	Additional Director Export Inspection Council of India (Ministry of Commerce & Industry) 3 rd Floor, ND YMCA Cultural Centre Building New Delhi-110001 INDIA Tel: + 91 11 23748188 / 23748189 / 23365540 Fax: + 91 11 23748024 E mail: eic@eicindia.org ,

9. COMING INTO EFFECT

This Agreement will come into effect from 1st January 2003.

SIGNED on ..26th... day ofDecember 2002..... in two originals in English language.


C. D. R. A. JAYAWARDENE
Director General / C. E. O.
Sri Lanka Standards Institution
17, Victoria Place
Elvitigala Mawatha,
Colombo - 08.
For and on behalf of SLSI


For and on behalf of EIC

Name Mr. C. D. R. A. Jayawardene
Designation Director General/CEO
Organisation Sri Lanka Standards Institution

Name Ms. Shashi Sareen
Designation Director (I&QC)
Organisation Export Inspection Council of India