Guidelines for Inspection of Used Clothing and Used Shoes Under Kenya PVoC Program.

These guidelines are aligned with the Protocols for the Importation of Used Clothing and Used Shoes into Kenya issued on 12th August 2020. They are intended to ensure that all imported consignments of used clothing and used shoes inspected under the PVoC Programme comply with the applicable standards, namely: KS EAS 356:2019 – Used Textiles – Requirements, and KS 1533:1999 – Code of Practice for Inspection and Acceptance Criteria for Used Footwear.

1.0 Supplier Notification and Pre-Export Accreditation

1.1 Mandatory Supplier Notification

- Every supplier intending to export used clothing or used shoes into Kenya shall notify the PVOC service provider in writing and provide details of the physical location of the sorting and baling facility.

1.2 Accreditation of Sorting and Baling Facilities by the PVOC inspection Company

Upon receiving the supplier's notification:

1. PVOC inspection company shall undertake an on-site assessment of the supplier's sorting and baling facility.
2. The purpose of this assessment is to accredit the facility and ensure:

    a) It does not engage in sorting, packaging, or baling of prohibited undergarments.
    b) It complies with KS EAS 356:2019 and the Protocol.

3. Only facilities that pass the accreditation audit shall be authorized to supply goods destined for Kenya.
4. The PVOC inspection company shall provide a list of accredited sorting and baling facilities.
5. Inspection shall only be undertaken in accredited facilities.
6. Accredited facilities shall be monitored biannually for continued compliance.

2.0 Improved Importer Registration Requirements

To strengthen traceability and accountability on the Kenyan side:

2.1 Importer Registration

Importers for used clothing and used shoes shall register using the application form posted on the KEBS website and provide;

a) the name and physical address of the accredited sorting and baling facility used by their supplier.
b) proof that the facility has been accredited by a PVOC inspection company.

2.2 Verification by KEBS

- Upon receiving the importer's registration details, KEBS shall:

    a) Cross-check the accreditation status of the facility.
    b) Confirm that the facility is active and compliant.

Note: Only after confirmation will the importer be registered and authorized to import used clothing or shoes.

3. Improved Coordination Between Supplier, Importer, and PVOC inspection companies

A closed-loop communication and verification system shall be maintained as follows:

1. Supplier shall notify the PVOC provider and undergoes facility accreditation.
2. The accredited facility details shall be forwarded by the PVOC inspection company to KEBS.
3. Importers shall apply provide details of accredited supplier(s) when applying for registration by KEBS.
4. KEBS shall verify and approve the importer registration. (NB: Only importers sourcing their goods from accredited suppliers shall be registered)
5. Only after these steps can:

    i. Requests for Certification (RFC) can be submitted by the exporter (NB: The exporter must be registered by the PVoC contractor while the importer must be registered by KEBS for an RFC to be accepted).
    ii. Inspection conducted by the PVOC inspection company to determine compliance with KS EAS 356:2019: and KS 1533: 1999 for the Consignment.
    iii. And COC issued to consignments supplied by accredited sorting and baling facilities.

This loop ensures full traceability, eliminates unauthorized sorting and packaging, and prevents banned undergarments from entering Kenya.

4. Issuance of COC

- COCs will only be issued for consignments originating from PVOC-accredited sorting and baling facilities.
- Any goods originating from non-accredited facilities shall be rejected, and no CoC shall be issued.

5. Expected Outcomes

- Elimination of non compliant used undergarments and other prohibited products from entering Kenya.
- Strengthened traceability of used clothing and shoes supply chains for consignments exported to Kenya.
- Enhanced integrity of the PVOC process.
- Full alignment with:

    a) KS EAS 356:2019: and KS 1533: 1999

b) Protocols for Importation of Used Clothing and Shoes into Kenya
c) KEBS PVOC certification procedures.