

THE IMPORTANCE OF CERTIFICATION IN PROTECTING THE CONSUMER MARKET FROM LOW-QUALITY AND DANGEROUS PRODUCTS

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Abstract. *This article provides detailed information about the impact of a certain number of low-quality, low-priced products in the wholesale and consumer markets on human life and health, the product certification system in our country, and their types and purpose.*

Keywords. *Food safety, genetically modified organism, quality, standardization, certification.*

Food security in today's society is the ability of people at any time to have access to safe (in terms of quality, quantity and variety) food full of elements necessary for an active and healthy lifestyle. Therefore, it should be noted that in the process of globalization of the present time, it has become an important issue to provide the population with food products of good quality and within the scope of purchasing power. Food is one of the most important nutrients in human life. Consumers always want to get quality and safe products. By safe food, we usually mean products that are of high quality, environmentally friendly, non-GMO, and free of harmful food-related elements such as pesticides. Food insecurity is one of the main problems of humanity and determines the health, development and well-being of society. The quality of food consumed by the population is an important component of the level and quality of life of citizens and has a serious impact on environmental protection, as well as on the socio-economic and demographic situation of the country. In this regard, product certification processes are carried out for the purpose of standardization.

Standardization is the process of developing and implementing new quality standards, as well as updating existing standards and other safety standards. Earlier, the practice in this regard was only state standards (GOST), but after the existence of one unified customs territory (Eurasian Economic Union), it created the need to develop unified regulatory rules - unified safety standards. Also, the first profile regulations began to appear, reflecting the requirements for the entire group of

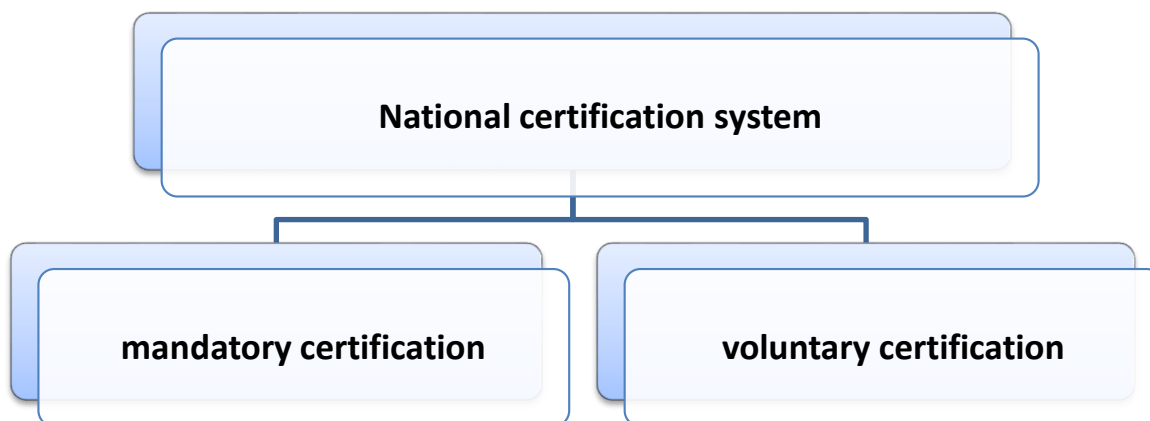
products. The introduction of uniform rules by the Eurasian Economic Union has a positive effect on trade between countries [1]. Now the execution of permits is not required separately in each country. After receiving the goods certificate, the enterprise has the right to sell goods in all member countries.

Each type of certification, for example: voluntary product certification and mandatory product certification, is carried out under certain conditions. In the conditions of the market economy, certification is the main tool that guarantees the compliance of the product with the requirements of regulatory documents, the protection of health and safety of citizens, and the protection of the environment.

Organization and conduct of certification in our country is carried out by certification bodies of homogeneous products accredited according to the procedure established by the "Uzstandart" agency. During the certification, work is carried out to confirm the product's compliance with the requirements, and this is a requirement established by the regulatory documents for the products undergoing certification. includes. In this process, in addition to the regulatory documents established for a specific product, it is necessary to follow the regulatory legal documents defining the mandatory demand for the product and other documents officially published by the state. Certification is mainly carried out for the following purposes [2]:

- control over the sale of products that are dangerous for human life and health, property of legal entities and individuals, and the environment;
- ensuring product competitiveness in the world market;
- creating conditions for local and joint enterprises, entrepreneurs to participate in international economic, scientific and technical cooperation and international trade;
- protecting consumers from dishonest producers (seller, service provider);
- confirmation of product quality indicators based on the application of the manufacturer (seller, service provider).

In the Republic of Uzbekistan, mandatory and voluntary certification types of the national certification system are implemented [3] (picture).



Picture. Types of national certification system in the Republic of Uzbekistan.

Compulsory certification includes products that are included in the special list approved by the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan, manufactured, imported and exported, and must be certified. The above list includes products or services whose requirements are defined in regulatory documents to ensure the safety of life, health and property of citizens, environmental protection, mutual interchangeability and flexibility. In addition to this list, the same requirements may be imposed for certain services or products based on laws adopted by the Oliy Majlis and presidential decrees. Mandatory certification - includes inspection of production (in serial certification), testing of product characteristics to meet the requirements of regulatory documents, inspection and control of certified products.

Voluntary certification may include services or products that are not included in the list based on the Laws of the Republic of Uzbekistan, presidential decrees, and government decisions, and at this time, certification is carried out in a voluntary manner based on the request of the manufacturer, supplier, or consumer. Voluntary certification can be carried out at the initiative of legal entities and individuals to confirm compliance of any product with the requirements of regulatory documents. The right to undergo voluntary certification is granted to legal entities and individuals who have been accredited in the manner established by the "Uzstandart" agency. Looking at statistical data, 521,249 certificates have been issued by these organizations from 2020 to today (table).

Table

Certificates issued by organizations accredited by the “Uzstandart” agency in accordance with the procedure [4]

Years	Number of certificates (pieces)
<i>(as of March)</i>	

From the above data, it can be seen that the number of certificates issued by accredited organizations increased by 7,880 in 2021 compared to 2020 and decreased by 20,333 in 2022 compared to 2021.

Now we will consider the directions of certification. There are two main directions in technical regulation. They consist of certification of manufactured series goods and certification confirming the conformity of a single batch. In the first direction of certification, when mass-produced products are released for consumption, documents are issued for a certain period, including 1 (one) year, 3 (three) years and 5 (five) years.

That is, during this period, it is possible to produce products without other restrictions.

In the second direction, when designing for single batches, the certificate is applied only to the specified number of products. If certification of services is approved, the certificate is usually valid for 3 (three) years.

In addition, voluntary certification is carried out on the basis of proposals from manufacturers or importers to assess the safety of manufactured products. Sometimes certain products are declared through mandatory certification, then obtaining permission in such cases is the fulfillment of current legal requirements. It does not matter whether it is an imported product or a domestically produced product, because the goods are ultimately united regardless of the place of production. Hence, certification is done to achieve several goals. In particular, in order to ensure the activities of organizations and individual entrepreneurs, in order to ensure the necessary conditions for participation in the country's goods market, as well as in international cooperation and trade:

- Helps consumers choose high-quality products;
- Protects them from an ineffective seller;
- Ensures human health, environment and property safety in life;
- Confirms that the manufacturer has its own characteristics;

One of the conditions of certification is the creation of a set of actions based on the testing and evaluation of product production conditions, as well as the regulation of their quality and control. The certification document is issued for a certain period. But the maximum time of implementation of the goods is three years. This whole process is regulated by the state and non-governmental non-profit organizations. In fact, certification controls quality, protects consumers and the environment from counterfeit goods and false information, and supports domestic production.

Certification of manufactured products is a process based on certain rules, namely:

- implementation taking into account the interests of the state;
- voluntary use of advertising products;
- objectivity of the body performing certification;
- making sure by using independent tests in the process;
- lack of discrimination against domestic and imported products;
- ensuring the manufacturer's right to choose the organization for this process;
- transparency of positive or negative results after the certification process;
- designation of responsible executive persons;
- consists of various methods and forms of implementation of the certification institute.

If we look at the object of certification, the object of the process should be approved in the development and implementation of products or services for which

special requirements are established. There are following types of certification object [5]:

- product certification materials, raw materials, energy, components;
- industrial and technical purposes or general consumer goods;
- services for residents;
- use, production, transportation, storage and disposal processes;

Also, the technical and organizational-technical goals considered in the form of a system are the complexities of these objects. In general, certification can be applied to products, technological processes and quality systems.

So, in conclusion, it should be said that when studying the beneficial aspects of certification as a result of research, the certification institute has a number of important advantages, and it is considered appropriate to distinguish the following among them, including ensuring confidence in quality; simplify the search for the desired products; informing the consumer about the characteristics of goods or services; support for goods and their competitive sales in the market; reduce imports of this type; prevention of the market of low-quality products; to increase the quality of goods by setting appropriate requirements; stimulate the growth of the production level.

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