



# TRADE LOGISTICS

*YOUR KEY TO INTERNATIONAL TRADE*

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## Pre-Shipment Inspections

## Pre-Shipment Inspections:

A pre-shipment inspection can be arranged to certify the standard of goods prior to actual shipment. This may be requested by the buyer to reduce risk or may be needed to meet import regulations in the country of destination. This can be arranged through a pre-shipment inspection (PSI) company.

### **PSI companies can check the following:**

- 1) Goods are made by the approved suppliers.
- 2) Made to specification.
- 3) Tested for standards.
- 4) Have no inherent vices.
- 5) Packed to specification.
- 6) The full consignment/amount purchased is packed.
- 7) Loaded into a container and sealed.
- 8) Light test is done on container to ensure container does not leak.
- 9) All listed documents done and completed correctly.
- 10) Documents are sent to the buyer.

### **Arranging a pre-shipment inspection:**

A freight agent can arrange a PSI on your behalf with a reputable PSI company. Should the PSI certificate be required by government the inspection should be performed by inspection authorities, in the seller's country, appointed by the government of the importer. This is particularly common with African countries. One of the world's larger organizations in the field of quality assurance, inspection and verification which you can make use of is the Societe Generale de Surveillance (SGS).

**To facilitate inspection, exporters should give close attention to the following points:**

- 1) Exporters or their representatives must assign a person to assist the inspector in his or her inspection (e.g. drawing out and opening randomly selected cartons for examination).
- 2) The goods must be presented as recognizable consignment (as distinct from lying in individual warehouse bins).
- 3) The goods must be presented for inspection in circumstances that allow for a meaningful inspection.
- 4) Cases/cartons containing a mix of goods should be covered by a 'packing list' detailing the contents of each case.
- 5) Goods must be presented for inspection prior to any intended containerization.
- 6) In a number of countries, the inclusion of the numbers of full containers in the Report of Findings allows Customs to release the containers without opening and examination. In order to include the container number in reports, the PSI inspector must have the opportunity to witness the loading and sealing of the containers.
- 7) For consignments stored in a customs bonded store a customs officer must be present otherwise the PSI inspector cannot open the cartons, thereby making examination of the goods impossible. In such cases the inspection may have to be aborted.

An example of a PSI certificate is given on the next page.

## Example of a Pre-Shipment Inspection Certificate:

Inspection and verification certification	
Company name	<b>STOP Smart Testing Organization Performers</b>
Certificate number	999ABC876
Certificate category/s	Quality Quantity Delivery
Date/s of survey	15/02/2003 to 29/02/2003
Commodity	Chocolates
Place of inspection	Choosy Chocolate Cherry Lane Park Top floor Sweet Road Cape Town
Sampling taken to laboratories	Carton numbers 50, 175, 434 and 785
Sampling verified on site	Not applicable for quality
We now report	Chocolate is of requirement of buyers order dated 18 <sup>th</sup> June 2003 ref. 794 1999 cartons loaded into container KHLU 1234567 with seal no. 9872143
Goods performed to requirements	Goods were stored under cover till loaded into shipping container KHLU 1234567
Goods consigned to	Character Agency 7 Chattering street Singapore
Goods handed over to carrier/s	1) Road Wing carries truck no. CA9007 2) Kien Hung lines vessel Chow Chow cc02
Conditions of collections	Goods loaded onto first carrier in shipping container number KHLU 1234567 with seal number 9872143 on the 28/02/2003 Goods loaded onto 2 <sup>nd</sup> carrier on the 29/02/2003 for Singapore said to be in the same condition
Signed at, dated and by	Cape Town 30/02/2003 Joe Long  ----- signature
This certificate is issued by the Company under its general conditions of trade.	
This Certificate does not exonerate buyers and sellers from exercising all their rights and duties under the contract of sale	





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