



Customer Advisory

Date: 29th September 2025

Dear Valued Customers

Subject: Mandatory Shipping Instruction (SI) Requirements for Exports to Saudi Arabia

As part of ongoing compliance with the Saudi Customs Authority (ZATCA) and the Saudi Standards, Metrology & Quality Organization (SASO), we would like to remind you of the mandatory requirements for Shipping Instructions (SIs) when exporting cargo to Saudi Arabia.

Accurate and timely submission of SIs is essential, as they are used to prepare the Bill of Lading (BL) and import manifest. Any errors, omissions, or late submissions may result in customs rejection, manifest holds, fines, or shipment delays.

Mandatory SI Requirements:

Requirement	Details
Consignee Details	Full company name, address, valid email, and mobile number. Must be shown in BL's Consignee/Notify Party field.
VAT Number	15-digit VAT number is mandatory
Commodity Description	Clear description, including quantity, packaging type, and weight, matching the commercial invoice.
HS Code	Minimum 6-digit HS Code (or more if required).
Marks & Numbers	At least 3 digits (marks) and 4 digits (numbers).

Alignment with Documentation:

- All SI details must match the Commercial Invoice and Bill of Lading, including weights, volumes, and consignor/consignee information.
- Documents must be authenticated by the exporter's Chamber of Commerce (consular legalization not usually required)



- Importer to ensure SABER certificate are obtained for regulated products. Effective 1st October, Saber Guarantee will not be accepted by Customs. Customs will accept only valid SABER certificates

Product-Specific & Prohibited Items:

- Food Shipments: Must include handling/storage instructions and, where applicable, Halal certification.
- Country of Origin: All cargo packaging must clearly display COO marking (e.g., Made in [Country]).
- Prohibited Imports: Weapons, alcohol, narcotics, pork products, pornography, used tires/clothing, and vehicles older than 5 years.

Non-compliance with these requirements may result in shipment delays, manifest rejection, or customs penalties.

For further guidance, please contact your local representative or our documentation team.

Thank you for your cooperation and continued support.

Customer Service
Emirates Shipping Co. Ltd.
As Agent for ESL Saudi Arabia