**Points for clarification in respect of proposed ‘GC’ marking for GCC**

**1. Does ‘G’ marking supersede any local requirements in respect of EMC and Safety?**

Technically yes (in safety and EMC as per Art. 39), the G Mark will be the “umbrella” Safety / EMC mark for all GSO countries – but where national regulations for product additional requirements will still prevail – such as energy efficiency labelling.

**2. The scheme calls for testing and certification to the appropriate IEC Standard. What happens when there is no specific IEC Standard covering the products (e.g. BS1363 Plugs and Sockets)?**

The conformity can be demonstrated by testing and as per the Art.14 GSO standards is in the first order to be considered for presumption of conformity, and then Art 15 states that if there are no GSO standards then IEC standards shall be followed.

Note that most of GSO Standards are adapted from IEC standards, and most of them are identical “GSO IEC xxxxxx”.

For the case of plugs and socket-outlets kindly note that most iec60884 series are adopted by GSO, you may refer the searchable link i.e. <http://www.gso.org.sa/standards/public/standardsList.seam>

Also note that the national differences are given in a table in Annex (1) in the regulation BD-142004-01 regarding the type and shape of plugs in all member states as per the IEC coding.

**3. It was mentioned that the costs for annual registration are 500 Saudi Riyals per item. What is the classification of an item? (can it be a generic series or is it each individual product reference?)**

The product registration system is still under preparation and a decision will be published once available in the GSO Website: [http://www.gso.org.sa](http://www.gso.org.sa/). So, don’t consider, for the moment, the Product Registration number. We don’t have any fixed expected date for that, but of course we will announce it with suitable and proper timing.

The reference for classification will be the product type.

**4. The HS codes for List 2 products do not appear to carry the correct descriptions. Please can the list of products and HS codes be clarified?**

Most of the List (2) products are clear. If you have any specific issue/case let us know so we can consider and revise.

**5. Scope of products within List 2 under ‘Plugs, sockets outlets, adapters, cord extensions sets and chargers. HS 85444220, HS 85366910’. Clarification is needed if this would include products such as home automation switching adaptor-plugs such as the type shown below?**

Additionally clarification if the scope also covers power adapters which are sold as part of another product or as an orderable accessory for a product?

The Gulf LV TR is concerned with those plugs, socket-outlets, adapters, cord extension sets and charges which come as a separate product. Thus, the case mentioned is in the scope.

Kindly note:

Once any of those is attached with an appliance it becomes as a part of the appliance and then we have two options:

1. If the appliance falls under one of the two either list 1 (in the future) or list 2 then the plug - as a part of the appliance- shall conform to the Gulf TR, for example washing machine taking into account that the plug is one of the national differences mentioned in the LVTR.
2. If the appliance is still not listed in either list 1 (in the future) or list 2, then the national regulation of the appliance apply for the appliance and for the plug. e.g. TV.

Also Kindly note:

The plug as a part of the appliance shall be safe in principle (compliance with the essential requirements), thus it shall comply with the relevant standard.

You may also consider the case that the appliance manufacturer purchases the plug from a plug manufacturer who has gone through the LVTR certification, which makes the plug already conforms with the LVTR and already has the G-Marking.

Kindly note if you mean by the power adaptors the EPS, external power supplies or power supply units, then it’s out of the LVTR scope.

Kindly note “Adaptors” listed in point 12 of List (2) are the portable accessory constructed as an integral unit incorporating both a plug portion and one or more socket-outlet portions. and the “chargers” meant for the Battery Chargers.

**6. List of products in List 1, will this include industrial products or more B2C products like in List 2?**

List (1) is still not published and will most likely gradually focus on domestic appliances then move to commercial and industrial products.

**7. Clarification if a ‘Model’ covers an entire range such as a number of ratings within a product (such as fuse and MCB ratings) or if each rating will need to be tested/registered etc. separately?**

The certificate is a type examination, so it considers a product “TYPE”

**8. Clarification if a ‘Model’ also covers a number of different versions within a product, such as colour or finish of wiring accessories?**

The certificate is a type examination, so it consider a product “TYPE”

**9. How often is testing in-line with GAC needed? If it is a test every 5 years then this again will be very costly. Or will it work like ASTA, test once then audit annually?**

G Mark Type Certificate’s validity is 3 years, The NB shall keep itself apprised of any changes in the generally acknowledged state of the art and conform to all conditions mentioned in clause “e.” of Annex (4) of the BD-142004-01>

Kindly note there won’t be any intervention of the NB in the production line, the certificate is for a product type given by the manufacturer and as per the conditions and requirements of the LV TR. The product control shall be done by the manufacturer as per clause “4.” of Annex (4) of the BD-142004-01.

**10. Is it mandatory for the G-Mark / 13-digit number and G-Mark to be on the product (pg8 para2)? This will not be possible or logical on some products due to size and information already on it, what are the options in this situation?**

The product registration system is still under preparation and a decision will be published once available in the GSO Website: [http://www.gso.org.sa](http://www.gso.org.sa/). So, don’t consider, for the moment, the Product Registration number.

**11. How does this work with duties such as SASO? Are we expected to cover both still?**

Yes, Pre shipment inspection Certificate of Conformity (CoC) is still required, plus energy efficiency labelling for certain products

Kindly refer the answer of Q1.

**12. Those countries asking for ASTA (Kuwait, Qatar, Oman)…..what takes precedent? Or do we have to provide both?**

For ASTA diamond mark certification – roll over to G Mark Type (ASTA licence ref on G Mark Type

Kindly refer the answer of Q1.

**13. Can we work it like the UL/CSA…..whereby you get IEC/ASTA and this automatically qualifies for G-Mark?**

Direct roll over – providing TCF meets the requirements of Annex 4

You may refer to Art.20 as only IECEE CB scheme is considered.

**14. What about customers taking UL product for specific applications such as in Oil & Gas, will the G-Marking also apply here to?**

The oil and gas products are not covered by Gulf LV TR.

**15. Under list 2 ‘Plugs, sockets outlets, adapters, cord extensions sets and chargers’ does this cover 5A, 13A and 15A sockets?**

Yes

**16. Under list 2 ‘Plugs, sockets outlets, adapters, cord extensions sets and chargers’ does this also include shaver sockets?**

The shaver Socket is in principle not complying with the socket shapes mentioned in Annex (1) for the GSO member states type of plugs and sockets –as a national deviations-, however this product fall under the GPSD where article 5/2 deals with such products intended to be used in special projects – as shaver socket used for hotel projects not for public sale- where it shall follow the national regulation.

**17. What about 6A plugs for lighting systems, is this in the scope of List 2 ‘Plugs, sockets outlets, adapters, cord extensions sets and chargers’, the HS code could include these but we need clarification.**

Kindly refer to Q5 as once the plug is a part of an appliance like lighting system

As if the appliance is still not listed in list 1 (in the future) or list 2, then the national regulation of the appliance apply for the appliance and for the plug.

**18. Need clarification if ‘non-power’ sockets such as co-axial sockets are included in the scope of List 2 ‘Plugs, sockets outlets, adapters, cord extensions sets and chargers’?**

Not in the scope

**19. What if you do not mark the product because it is not suitable for all markets. I assume you** **can still sell to Gulf states where it is acceptable? Therefore do we need to mark products at all? For instance, in Saudi Arabia, I am sure they will only accept BS1363 sockets. So all European sockets are not allowed, therefore we cannot mark these but I assume we can sell to all the** **other states?**

Kindly refer to the table in Annex (1) for all the types and shapes of plugs and sockets in GSo member states.

**20. What about current certification schemes for e.g. Kuwait or Saudi Arabia (Kucas, SASO)?** **Are they replaced by the Gulf mark?**

The GC Marking and LV TR is concerned with Safety and EMC, Voluntary schemes still exist per member country as well as mandatory such as energy labelling. If additional national requirements exist then these have to be met

Kindly note the voluntary experimental period for G-Marking will be valid till end of June end 2016, so starting from July 2016 only G-marking will be applied.

**21. When will be list 1 available? Will there be the same deadline 1st July 2016 or is there a different transition period?**

We don’t have any fixed expected date for that, but of course we will announce it with suitable and proper timing/transition period.

**22. Will there be a G-certificate which has to be issued? If yes – only for List 2 products which require the Notified body, or also for List 1 products which are covered by the self-declaration?**

Mandatory G marking and Type Certification issued via a GSO notified NB for all product listed in list 2, not for list 1….

For List (1) CAPs described in Annex (3)

For List (2) CAPs described in Annex (4)

**23. Does the GCC logo has to be put on both product and packaging, or is it enough when it is only on the product?**

For GC Marking you may refer the Gulf LV TR and the “Conformity Marking for the GCC countries” Doc in this link <http://www.gso.org.sa/gso-website/gso-website/activities/conformity/technical-regulations-and-guides/gcc-tr-on-marking.pdf> refer to article 6 regarding how to affix the GC Marking.

**24. Clause 4 – 5 of BD09100501 states “The conformity marking for the GCC countries is the sole mark that ensures the compliance of the products with the technical regulation issued by the standardization organization. The member countries shall not indicate any conformity marking other than that of the GCC countries in their national legislations in regards to conformity with the requirements of the technical regulation issued by the standardization organization for the GCC countries.”, Does this imply products should not carry a “CE” mark?,  as REGULATION (EC) No 765/2008 General principles of CE Marking states “The CE marking shall be the only marking which attests the conformity of the product with the applicable requirements of the relevant Community harmonization legislation providing for its affixing.”**

This is not related to CE marking. The product can have many markings but once intended to be placed in the Gulf market, the product shall bear the GC-Marking which means it shall conform to all the Gulf vertical/sectorial and horizontal technical regulations.

<http://www.gso.org.sa/gso-website/gso-website/activities/conformity/technical-regulations-and-guides>

**25. Am I right in thinking that a “G” mark on inspected products & sample is a prerequisite to obtaining a registration number or Q code for a compliant product? Thus requiring a product tool to be removed from production & marked on 2 occasions? Additionally, requiring once a year there after for re-registration?**

The product registration system is still under preparation and a decision will be published once available in the GSO Website: [http://www.gso.org.sa](http://www.gso.org.sa/). So, don’t consider, for the moment, the Product Registration number. We don’t have any fixed expected date for that, but of course we will announce it with suitable and proper timing.

**26. Why do other import/export certification service providers appear to be not responding to the GSO regulation implementation?**

kindly regularly review the GSO web link for published Notified bodies:

<http://www.gso.org.sa/nb/>