

Frequently Asked Questions on PAM

1. What is Product Authentication Mark (PAM)?

This is a mark of quality that is affixed on all finished products to demonstrate their conformity to approved standards.

2. When is PAM issued?

The mark is issued upon application by the manufacturer or importer having paid the application fee.

3. What is the application fee for PAM?

The cost of each sticker is ₦3.00=. Each sticker shall as far as possible be applied to each retail unit.

4. How is the mark issued?

The marks are issued as stickers that are specific to each product. These stickers bear security features plus a QR Code that a smart phone is able to scan and are to be issued in exact quantities commensurate to the production units.

5. How is the mark applied?

The mark/sticker is applied on each and every product to ensure traceability and tracking and shall not be defaced in any way to ensure legibility and conspicuousness. They may be applied by hand or using suitable applicators.

6. When should an importer/manufacturer start using the mark?

The effective date is 1st February, 2018.

7. What happens to products without PAM and are still in the market?

Products already in the market without PAM stickers are allowed for sale up to 31st March, 2018. No product will be allowed for sale in Nigerian market without the PAM sticker after 31st March, 2018.

8. What happens to those products that do not have the PAM stickers at point of sales after 31st March 2018?

These products shall be assumed sub standard or counterfeit and shall be seized and destroyed. However, those goods that were produced/imported legally prior to commencement of the programme can still apply for the PAM stickers.

9. How do we handle imported products that have no SONCAP certificate?

The test report used to clear the goods at the point of entry will form the basis of issuance of PAM stickers and the importer will be required to submit the test report, packing list and receipt of payment of the requisite penalties for goods that are subject to destination inspection.

10. Do raw materials require PAM stickers?

No, stickers are applied to items that will sell at a retail outlet.

11. In case where stickers are not issued on time due to technicalities, how will SON ensure that there is no delay at the port of entry?

Stickers don't form clearance trail, it is after port clearance that stickers should be affixed. However, application for PAM stickers must be submitted before SON final clearance.

12. Where will stickers be applied, at the warehouse or port of entry?

Affixing of PAM stickers should be after clearance but before offer for sale. The fixing should be at the warehouse.

13. Do fertilizers require PAM stickers?

Yes, for packaged direct sale fertilizer. Locally re-package fertilizer will require PAM sticker.

14. We import thousands of items like bearings and belts; does it mean we have to put PAM stickers on each?

Yes.

15. Goods in warehouse that may not sell by 31st March, 2018, can we use old SONCAP certificate to apply for PAM stickers?

Yes, you can apply for PAM stickers using old SONCAP certificate.

16. SON said stickers will be made available within 3 working days, what happens to air freights where the period is less than 48 hours?

Clearing will take place and sticking will be made before availing for sale.

17. Do the stickers have validity period?

Yes, they are guided by the SONCAP and shelf life of the product.

18. We import in bulk such as auto paints in drums and re-package for sale. The SONCAP certificates are obtained for the drums. How do we get the PAM stickers for the subsequent smaller items?

PAM stickers are for sellable finished products. Local PAM stickers will suffice for the finished locally re-package products.

19. We import photocopying papers at five rims per carton. Do we put sticker on carton or rim?

PAM stickers shall be affixed on each rim.

20. Are the stickers applicable to petroleum/lubricant industries?

Yes, it applies to all finished and package product for sales.

21. We import paper for making exercise books; will we be required to use PAM stickers?

Local PAM stickers will suffice for the finished products.