

UK-GHANA INTERIM TRADE PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT (TPA)

Standards and Regulatory Requirements

What UK exporters must know before goods
leave the warehouse

THE GHANAIAIAN COMPLIANCE LANDSCAPE

Ghana operates a multi-authority compliance system. Which authority governs your goods, and what they require, depends entirely on what you are shipping.

Ghana assigns competent authority responsibility by product type. Some categories fall under more than one authority at the same time, meaning multiple permits, inspections and approvals may all be required for a single shipment.

One authority applies to every import without exception: the Ghana Revenue Authority (GRA) for customs clearance, duties and ICUMS declarations. All other competent authorities apply on top, depending on the product.

NOTE ON PORTS AND AIRPORTS:

The Ghana Ports and Harbours Authority (GPHA) manages Tema and Takoradi ports. **The Ghana Airports Company Limited (GACL)** manages Accra International Airport and all domestic airports. Both are facility managers – they administer port and airport operations and have operational requirements (including toll passes and waybills at GPHA-managed ports).

Where two or more competent authorities are listed for a product category, permits and approvals from all are required. Missing one will result in goods being held or refused at the point of entry.



KEY TAKE AWAY

Establish the correct compliance pathway for your product before transport is booked.

COMPETENT AUTHORITIES AT A GLANCE

Authority	Product	Authority	Product
Ghana Standards Authority (GSA)	Sets and enforces standards for: General machinery, electrical equipment, toys, LPG cylinders, building materials, textiles, weighing equipment (HS 8423), plastic packaging standards. Administers EasyPASS CoC for High Risk Goods and Fish Testing Lab for fish imports and vessels	Narcotics Control Commission	Controlled substances, narcotics, precursor chemicals
Ghana Food and Drugs Authority (FDA)	Pharmaceuticals, foods, beverages, cosmetics, household chemicals, medical devices, plastic packaging with/for food, tobacco, alcohol, dairy and blood products	Energy Commission	Energy equipment (with GSA, electrical cables, refrigerators), and alternative energy products (solar panels, batteries)
Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)	Pesticides (with PPRSD), chemicals, Persistent Organic Pollutants, plastic waste disposal and management, Ozone Depleting Substances	Ministry of Interior	Firearms and ammunition, pyrotechnics (alongside GSA)
Plant Protection & Regulatory Services Directorate (PPRSD)	Raw agricultural imports, seeds, planting materials, fertilizer and pesticides (with EPA) Enforces quarantine regime	Nuclear Regulatory Authority (NRA)	Nuclear materials, radioactive substances and radiation equipment
Veterinary Service Directorate	Animals and Animal products, meat, poultry, and veterinary medicines	Minerals Commission	Mineral Sector Imports and Mining Equipment
National Communications Authority (NCA)	Telecoms and Communications Equipment (alongside GSA)	National Petroleum Authority	Petroleum downstream products (alongside Energy Commission)

Ghana Revenue Authority (GRA) - Responsible for border management, customs classification, valuation and tax administration for all product imports.

Legislative framework: GSA Act 2022 (Act 1078) | Public Health Act 2012 (Act 851) | Weights and Measures Decree 1975 (NRCD 326) | Export and Import Act 1995 (Act 503) | Nuclear Regulatory Authority Act 2015 (Act 895).

WHY GHANA REQUIRES ADDITIONAL COMPLIANCE STEPS

Exporting to Ghana means satisfying two layers of compliance, not one.

The first layer is familiar: UK product standards, CE or UKCA marking, safety requirements and correct labelling. Without this, Ghana will not accept the product at all

The second is Ghana-specific and catches many exporters off guard: mandatory pre-shipment compliance steps that must be completed before goods leave the UK. What those steps look like depends entirely on your product – GSA conformity assessment, Ghana FDA registration and import permits, or both simultaneously.

Miss any required Ghana-specific compliance step and goods will not be released at the port of entry. There is no retrospective fix once a shipment has departed. Delays, financial penalties and return of goods to origin are the consequences of getting this wrong.

KEY TAKE AWAY

Establish the correct regulatory pathway for your product before freight is booked.

UK REGULATORY LANDSCAPE:

WHO GOVERNS WHAT

Before goods reach Ghana, UK regulatory requirements must be satisfied first.
The relevant authority depends entirely on what you are exporting.

UK Regulatory Body	Full Name	What Exporters Need From Them	Relevant To
MHRA	Medicines & Healthcare products Regulatory Agency	GMP Certificate, UK Marketing Authorisation, Free Sale Certificate, batch release documentation	Pharmaceuticals, medical devices, blood products
FSA	Food Standards Agency	Confirmation food safety and hygiene standards met, labelling compliance before export	Food and beverages, alcohol, food additives, novel foods
APHA	Animal & Plant Health Agency	Export Health Certificates – mandatory for animal and plant products before export	Meat, poultry, dairy, animal products, plant products, seeds
VMD	Veterinary Medicines Directorate	Product authorisation documentation confirming veterinary medicine is licensed for use	Veterinary medicines, medicated animal feed
HSE	Health & Safety Executive	COSHH compliance documentation, UK REACH registration, dangerous substances classification and labelling (GHS/CLP)	Chemicals, pesticides, industrial machinery, hazardous goods

UK REGULATORY LANDSCAPE: WHO GOVERNS WHAT

Before goods reach Ghana, UK regulatory requirements must be satisfied first. The relevant authority depends entirely on what you are exporting.

UK Regulatory Body	Full Name	What Exporters Need From Them	Relevant To
BSI / UKAS	British Standards Institution / UK Accreditation Service	UKCA conformity assessment, accredited testing and certification, technical standards compliance, UK Declaration of Conformity	Machinery, electrical goods, industrial equipment, construction products, toys, PPE
NPL	National Physical Laboratory	Calibration certificates traceable to national measurement standards – required for OIML-compliant weighing equipment	Weighing and measuring equipment, precision instruments
Environment Agency	Environment Agency	Export licences/notifications for ozone-depleting substances; Prior Informed Consent (PIC) for hazardous chemicals; Transfrontier Shipment of Waste approvals; Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) controls	Chemicals, refrigerants, waste shipments, controlled substances, hazardous goods
ECJU	Export Control Joint Unit	Export licences for controlled, dual-use and military goods – mandatory before export if goods appear on UK Strategic Export Control List. Check required for ALL exporters	Dual-use goods, military equipment, certain machinery, software, technology, chemicals with potential military application
OTSI	Office for Trade Sanctions Implementation	Trade sanctions compliance – confirmation goods, destination and end-user are not subject to UK trade sanctions before export	All export categories – applies universally
DEFRA	Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs	Sponsoring department above APHA and VMD. Policy authority for Export Health Certificate regime. Administers CITES permits for timber, plants and wildlife-derived products - mandatory before derived goods export where applicable	Agri-food animal and plant products, timber, wildlife-derived goods

Just as in Ghana, some goods fall under more than one UK regulatory body. Compliance with all relevant authorities must be confirmed before export documentation is prepared.

UK STANDARDS AND REQUIREMENTS:

MACHINERY

For machinery exporters, UK standards compliance is the foundation on which Ghana EasyPASS certification is built. Your UK technical file and conformity documentation are the starting point for Intertek and Bureau Veritas assessment.

UKCA Marking – The post-Brexit UK conformity mark for goods placed on the UK market. Required for machinery and electrical equipment. The technical file underpinning UKCA marking is critical to the EasyPASS application.

CE Marking – Still recognised internationally including Ghana. CE marking backed by a full technical file and Declaration of Conformity is accepted as supporting evidence during EasyPASS assessment.

UK Declaration of Conformity – Manufacturer's formal declaration advising the product meets all applicable UK regulations and standards, referencing the specific standards (BS, ISO, IEC, OIML) against which conformity is claimed.

Technical File – Design drawings, risk assessments, test reports, standards compliance evidence and instructions for use. Must be compiled and maintained by the manufacturer and travel with the goods – GSA may request it at the port.

OIML Compliance (HS 8423) – Compliance with OIML recommendations is required for Ghana Pattern Approval. Calibration certificates traceable to NPL (National Physical Laboratory) standards carry significant weight with GSA's Scientific Metrology Department.



KEY POINT

A complete, current technical file dramatically speeds up the EasyPASS process. Do not approach Intertek or Bureau Veritas without it.

WHAT IS EASYPASS?

EasyPASS is Ghana's mandatory pre-shipment conformity verification programme.

Operated by the Ghana Standards Authority, EasyPASS requires that regulated goods are inspected, tested and certified in the country of export before shipment. The Certificate of Conformity (CoC) issued under EasyPASS is a mandatory customs clearance document. Without it, goods will not be released.

What EasyPASS covers:

- Testing is conducted against Ghana Standards (GS) – Ghana's nationally adopted standards, which are formally based on ISO, IEC, OIML and other international equivalents
- Consignment level certification, every shipment requires its own CoC
- Pre-shipment, inspection and testing happens at origin (UK), not on arrival in Ghana

Two GSA-appointed inspection bodies – these are the ONLY bodies authorised to issue EasyPASS: **Intertek and Bureau Veritas.**

CONSEQUENCE OF NON-COMPLIANCE:

Severe delays at the Ghana port of entry, financial penalties, or goods returned to origin at exporter's cost.

KEY TAKEAWAY

No other body can issue a valid EasyPASS CoC. Do not attempt to use any other certification body for this purpose.

Standard	Full Name	Relevant To
ISO	International Organisation for Standardisation	General product and quality standards across all categories
IEC	International Electrotechnical Commission	Electrical and electronic equipment
OIML	International Organisation of Legal Metrology	Weighing and measuring instruments (HS 8423)



WHAT IS EASYPASS?

The following categories require a CoC under EasyPASS. This is not exhaustive – always verify against the current GSA list at www.gsa.gov.gh

Categories as listed by the Ghana Standards Authority include:

- Electrical and electronic products
- Mechanical and gas appliances
- Construction materials
- Toys, games and sports equipment
- Chemical products (excluding household substances)
- Furniture (wood and metal)
- Fuel and petroleum products
- Textiles, textile articles and leatherware
- Glass and glassware
- Selected used products (used clothing and footwear)
- Pulp of wood, paper and paperboard

NOTE FOR PHARMACEUTICAL EXPORTERS:

Pharmaceutical products regulated by Ghana FDA are subject to FDA import permit and registration requirements – these operate alongside (not instead of) GSA processes where applicable.

NOTE FOR ALL EXPORTERS:

If you are unsure whether your goods fall within a regulated category, contact Intertek or Bureau Veritas before booking shipment. Do not assume.



HOW EASYPASS WORKS:

THE PROCESS

Step-by-step for UK exporters:

1. Identify whether your goods are on the regulated product list

Check the current GSA EasyPASS HS chapter list at www.gsa.gov.gh. If your goods fall within a regulated chapter, the CoC is mandatory – no exceptions.

2. Apply to either Intertek or Bureau Veritas

Submit: Pro forma invoice, packing list, quality certificates, technical documentation. Do this before production completion or well before planned ship date, allow 2–4 weeks minimum.

3. Testing and physical inspection

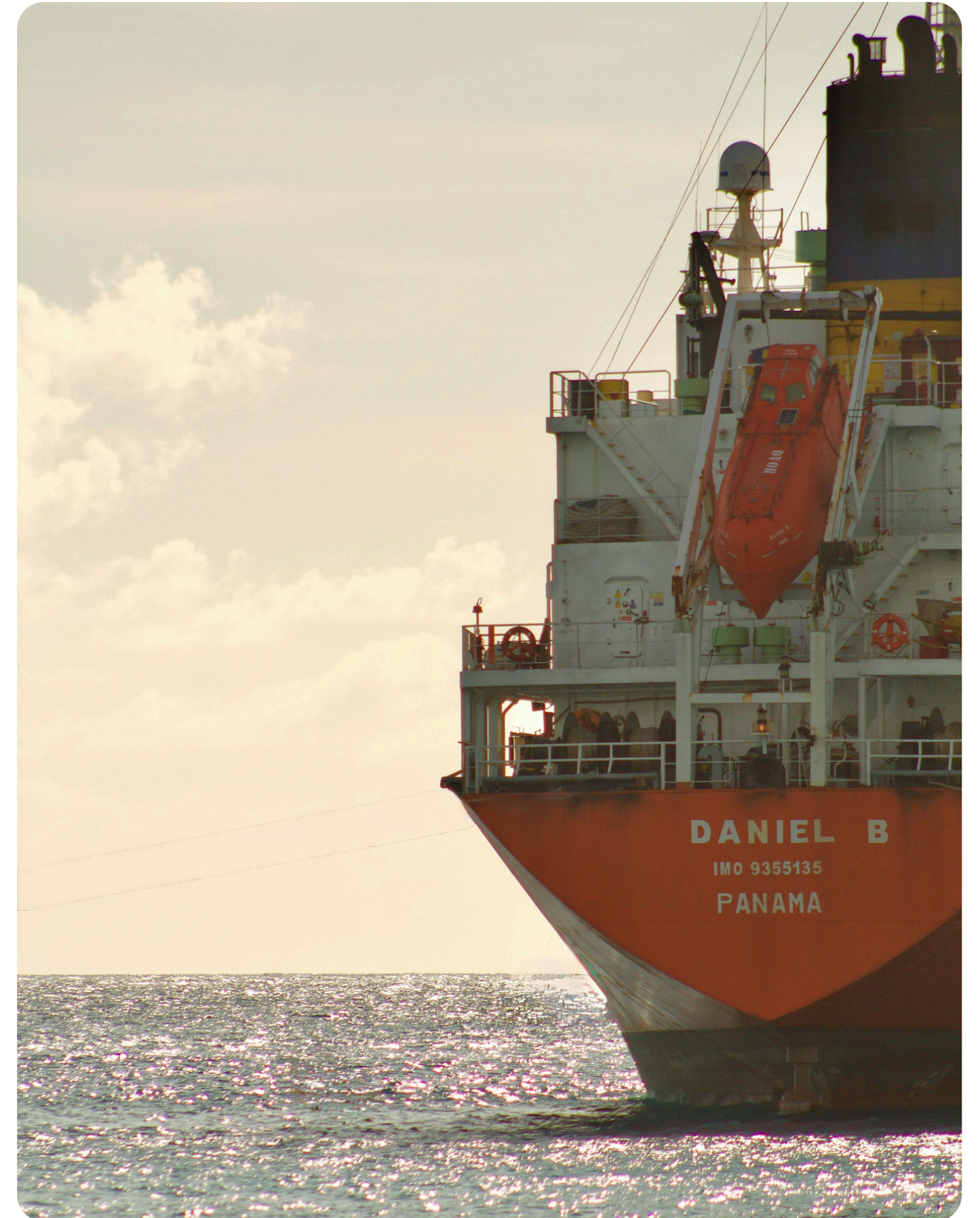
The appointed body reviews documents and conducts physical inspection and sampling at your UK premises or approved laboratory. Testing is against Ghanaian standards or international equivalents.

4. CoC issued or Non-Conformity Report (NCR) issued

If conformant: Secured EasyPASS Certificate issued, typically within 48 hours of satisfactory inspection. If non-conformant: Non-Conformity Report issued. You must rectify and resubmit. Do not ship without the CoC.

5. CoC accompanies shipment

The CoC must travel with the goods and be presented to GSA at the Ghanaian port of entry. GSA checks validity before releasing the consignment.



CONTROLLED DRUGS:

UK EXPORT LICENCE AND GHANA IMPORT PERMIT

If you are importing pharmaceuticals into Ghana, check whether your drug is classified Controlled. Not all prescription medicines are controlled drugs. A common misconception.

If your product is a controlled: Two licences are required and there is a two-step process:

Type	Example	Controlled Drug?
Prescription-only medicine (POM)	Ciprofloxacin (Cipro)	No
Schedule 2 controlled drug	Morphine, Oxycodone	Yes
Schedule 3 controlled drug	Buprenorphine, Temazepam	Yes
Schedule 4 controlled drug	Diazepam, Zopiclone	Yes

STEP 1 – GHANA IMPORT PERMIT (MUST COME FIRST)

- Apply in writing to the FDA Ghana CEO
- Submit by hand or email: info@fdaghana.gov.gh (GCNet no longer used)
- Fee: 1.8% of Free on Board (FOB) value – payable to Ghana FDA on application
- Obtain the Ghana permit before you apply for the UK licence

STEP 2 – UK EXPORT LICENCE FROM THE HOME OFFICE DFLU

- Issued by: Drug and Firearms Licensing Unit (DFLU)
- Fees apply, check latest charges when applying
- Validity: Up to 2 months (single shipment, single use)
- You must attach Ghana's import permit to your UK application
- Cannot be retrospectively issued


GSA Labelling Requirements by Product Category


Electrical & Electronic | Mechanical | Construction | Toys | Chemicals | Furniture | Fuel | Textiles | Glass | Used Products | Paper



SCAN FOR
INTERACTIVE
REFERENCE


FILTER BY CATEGORY

 **Electrical & Electronic** >

 **Mechanical & Gas** >




 **Construction** >

 **Toys & Sports** >

 **Chemicals** >

+ 6 more >

• INTERACTIVE REFERENCE

-  Filter by product category — instantly see labelling requirements for your specific goods across all 11 GSA-regulated categories
-  Full mandatory requirements, additional requirements and legislative references for each category — sourced from GSA EasyPASS Programme and L.I. 1541
-  Scan QR code to access on your device — use as a working reference throughout the export process

Live demonstration: Interactive tool open in browser — filter by category to explore requirements in full detail. All 11 GSA product categories covered.

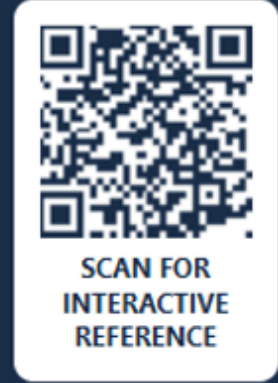
LIVE
DEMO



Filter by product category to explore full mandatory labelling requirements – all 11 GSA-regulated categories covered. **View the page [here](#).**


Food, Agricultural Products & Cosmetics — Regulatory Pathway & Labelling

Food & Beverages | Agricultural & Plant Products | Animal Products | Cosmetics & Personal Care





FILTER BY CATEGORY

 **Food & Beverages** >

 **Agricultural & Plant** >

 **Animal Products** >


 **Cosmetics** >

 TPA exclusion applies to meat & dairy — see interactive tool

• INTERACTIVE REFERENCE

-  Regulatory pathway for each category — UK pre-export authority, Ghana authority, pre-shipment requirements and critical watch points
-  Full labelling requirements per category including FDA registration requirements, fee rates and shelf life rules — sourced from Ghana FDA 2024 and USDA FAS FAIRS 2025
-  TPA tariff exclusion alerts for meat and dairy categories — standard MFN rates apply, no preferential treatment under the UK-Ghana Interim TPA

Full detail on agrifood UK–Ghana trade, SPS requirements, EUDR and seasonal compliance is covered in Guide B3. This reference covers regulatory pathway and labelling for standards compliance.

LIVE DEMO 

Includes regulatory pathway, labelling requirements and TPA tariff exclusion alerts for meat and dairy categories. **View the page [here](#).**

LABELLING REQUIREMENTS: PHARMACEUTICALS

Ghana FDA Guideline FDA/DNC/GDL-12/02 (January 2024) | GSA General Labelling Rules 1992 (L.I. 1541) | Public Health Act 2012 (Act 851)

Requirement	Detail	Status	Notes
1 — Identity & Registration			
Brand / Trade Name	Trade name exactly as registered with Ghana FDA. Must match registration documentation — no variation permitted.	MANDATORY	Registration match required
Generic / INN Name	International Non-proprietary Name in full — e.g. Ciprofloxacin. Must appear alongside brand name.	MANDATORY	Both names required
Strength & Dosage Form	Active ingredient quantity per unit dose — e.g. 500mg tablet. Must match approved product specification.	MANDATORY	
Manufacturer Name & Address	Full legal name, address and country of manufacture. Where produced under loan licence, actual manufacturer's details required — not the licence holder alone.	MANDATORY	Loan licence: actual mfr details required
Ghanaian Agent / Importer	Name and address of appointed Ghanaian agent or importer. May appear on label or in approved accompanying documentation.	MANDATORY	Label or accompanying docs
2 — Batch, Dating & Shelf Life			
Batch / Lot Number	Traceable to manufacturer's batch records. Ghana FDA inspectors verify at the Ghana point of entry — batch-specific CoA must match.	MANDATORY	Must match CoA
Manufacturing Date	Month and year minimum.	MANDATORY	
Expiry Date	Clearly displayed. Shelf life rule enforced on arrival at the Ghana point of entry: products with shelf life over 24 months — minimum 60% remaining; 24 months or under — minimum 80% remaining. No appeal.	MANDATORY	60%/80% rule enforced at Ghana point of entry
3 — Storage, Safety & Warnings			
Storage Instructions	Temperature, light and moisture conditions stated — e.g. "Store below 25°C. Protect from light and moisture."	MANDATORY	
Safety Statements	"Keep out of the reach and sight of children" required on all products. "Not to be taken by children" and "For external use only" where applicable.	MANDATORY	All products without exception
Excipients of Safety Concern	Lactose, gluten, metabisulfites, parabens, ethanol, tartrazine and similar must be declared on secondary label.	MANDATORY	Secondary label declaration
Instructions for Use	In English. Must be clear and complete.	MANDATORY	
4 — Format & Print Quality			
Language	All text in English without exception. No other language permitted unless English also present.	MANDATORY	L.I. 1541 hard requirement
Print Quality	Clear, legible font. Indelible ink — must not fade on exposure to sunlight or during transit. Labels must survive air freight conditions.	MANDATORY	
Label Consistency	Labels on exported goods must exactly match those submitted and approved during Ghana FDA product registration. Any change requires FDA notification and approval before use — no exceptions.	MANDATORY	Pre-approval required for any change

LABELLING REQUIREMENTS: WEIGHING MACHINERY — HS 8423

GSA EasyPASS Programme | Weights and Measures Decree 1975 (NRCD 326) | OIML Recommendations | GSA General Labelling Rules 1992 (L.I. 1541)

Requirement	Detail	Status	Notes
1 — Identity & Technical Specification			
Manufacturer Name & Address	Full legal name and address of manufacturer. Must appear on the equipment and on outer packaging.	MANDATORY	
Model & Serial Number	Model number and unique serial number clearly marked. Must match technical file and CoC documentation.	MANDATORY	Must match CoC & technical file
Maximum Capacity	Maximum weighing capacity clearly marked on the equipment — e.g. "Max 150 kg".	MANDATORY	
Country of Origin	"Made in United Kingdom" clearly marked on product and outer packaging.	MANDATORY	
2 — Conformity & Metrology Markings			
OIML Accuracy Class	OIML accuracy class marking required — e.g. Class II, Class III. Required for GSA Pattern Approval assessment.	MANDATORY	Pattern Approval requirement
CE or UKCA Mark	CE or UKCA marking with reference to the UK Declaration of Conformity. Technical file must be available — GSA may request at port.	MANDATORY	DoC reference required
Calibration Reference	Calibration certificates traceable to NPL (National Physical Laboratory) standards must accompany goods. Carry significant weight with GSA Scientific Metrology Department.	MANDATORY	NPL-traceable certificates required
3 — Safety & Consumer Information			
Safety Information & Signs	Safety signs and safety instructions mandatory on equipment and packaging.	MANDATORY	
Warranty / Guarantee Information	Minimum 6 months guarantee or warranty information required. Must be clearly stated on product or packaging documentation.	MANDATORY	6 month minimum
Electrical Plug Standard	Ghana uses BS 1363 (UK 3-pin square plug). Confirm plug compatibility — an advantage for UK exporters. State voltage compatibility: Ghana operates on 230V/50Hz.	✓ UK ADVANTAGE	Confirm voltage rating
4 — Format, Language & Print Quality			
Language	All markings, instructions and safety information in English without exception. L.I. 1541 hard requirement.	MANDATORY	L.I. 1541
Print & Marking Quality	Indelible markings — must not fade during transit or outdoor use. Markings on the equipment itself must be permanent (engraved, embossed or durable label).	MANDATORY	Permanent marking on equipment

Sources: GSA EasyPASS Programme | Weights and Measures Decree 1975 (NRCD 326) | OIML Recommendations R76, R51 | GSA General Labelling Rules 1992 (L.I. 1541)

IMPORT DOCUMENTATION: CORE CHECKLIST

Documents required for all regulated imports into Ghana

KEY POINT

Document preparation takes time. Start the process early – waiting until goods are ready to ship will cause delays and potentially missed shipment windows.

Import Documentation: Core List		
Document	Issuing Party	Notes
Commercial Invoice	Exporter	Must include HS code, value, origin, full description
Packing List	Exporter	Matches invoice exactly
Bill of Lading / Air Waybill	Freight carrier	
Certificate of Origin - EUR.1 over £5400/€6000	UK Chamber of Commerce	Required to claim TPA preferential duty rate at Ghana customs
Supplier's Declaration on Invoice for value £5400/€6000 or under	Self certified	Must use prescribed TPA Annex IV wording. Exporter responsible for evidencing origin if challenged
EasyPASS Certificate of Conformity	Intertek or Bureau Veritas	Mandatory for regulated goods. Must accompany shipment
Import Declaration Form (ICUMS)	Importer/agent in Ghana	Submitted via Ghana's ICUMS system
Tax Clearance Certificate	GRA Ghana	Issued in importer's name

Additional Case Study Documents: Pharmaceuticals		
Document	Issuing Party	Notes
Ghana FDA Product Registration Certificate	Ghana FDA (via local agent)	Must be in place before first shipment <i>one-time setup</i>
Ghana FDA Import Permit	Ghana FDA (via local agent, via ICUMS)	Per-shipment, valid 1 year from issue, fee 1.8% of import value
Certificate of Analysis (CoA)	Manufacturer QC department	Per batch – batch-specific, signed
GMP Certificate	MHRA (UK)	Current certificate for manufacturing site <i>monitor renewal</i>
Free Sale Certificate	MHRA / UK authority	Confirms product authorised for sale in UK

Additional Case Study Documents: 8423 Machinery		
Document	Issuing Party	Notes
Technical file / CE/UKCA Declaration of Conformity	Manufacturer	Full technical file should travel with goods
OIML calibration / type approval documentation	Manufacturer / UKAS-accredited body	If available – strengthens Pattern Approval application
GSA Pattern Approval reference	GSA Scientific Metrology Dept	If previously approved, include reference. If not yet approved, initiate with GSA before or immediately upon shipment

PLASTIC PACKAGING:

CURRENT POSITION AND DIRECTION OF TRAVEL

Current position (in force now):

Ghana introduced a 5% excise tax on plastic packaging in 2023. This applies to plastic packaging on imported goods. Exporters should be aware of the cost implication for their Ghanaian importer.

Plastic packaging must use Oxo-biodegradable additive per Ghana EPA requirements. Note: exporters should monitor this position as Oxo-biodegradable plastics face increasing international scrutiny, Ghana's requirements may evolve.

Announced (not yet enacted as legislation):

In June 2025, President Mahama announced a ban on the import, manufacture and use of polystyrene (Styrofoam) food packaging. This is not yet law, however the direction of travel is clear. Exporters using Styrofoam packaging for any food or perishable goods destined for Ghana should begin transitioning to paper or aluminium foil alternatives now.

KEY TAKEAWAY

Avoid polystyrene packaging on any goods going to Ghana, even before the formal ban is enacted. Factor the 5% plastic packaging excise into landed cost calculations for your Ghanaian importer. For pharmaceuticals: standard pharma blister packs and HDPE bottles are not currently restricted

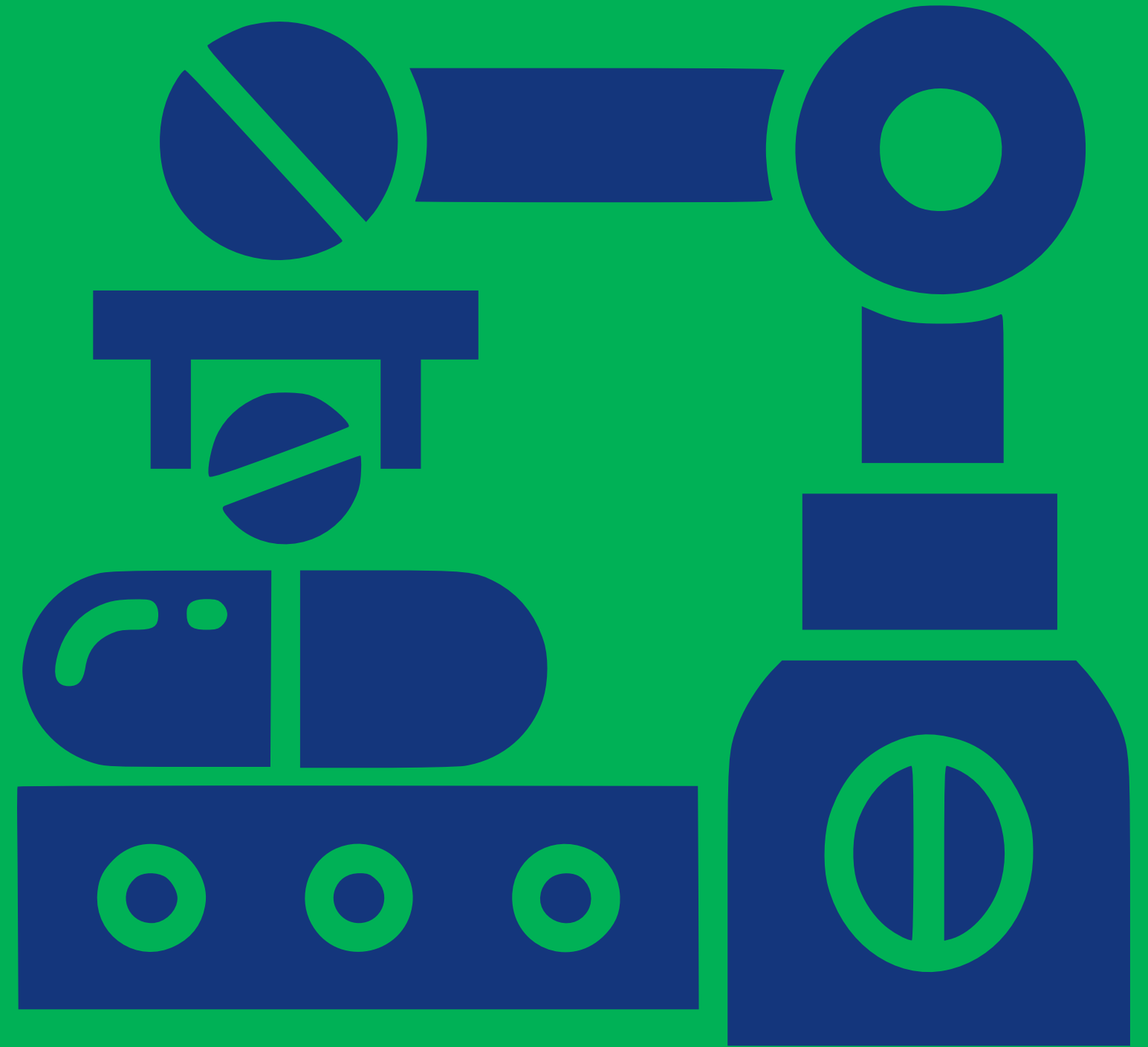


TOP 10 MISTAKES UK EXPORTERS MAKE WHEN SHIPPING TO GHANA

1. **Shipping without an EasyPASS CoC** – most common and most costly mistake. No retrospective fix at Ghana port of entry
2. **Using an unapproved inspection body** – only Intertek and Bureau Veritas are authorised. Other certificates will be rejected
3. **Insufficient shelf life remaining** – the 60%/80% rule is enforced at the port. Short-dated stock will not clear
4. **Incomplete or missing FDA product registration** – some regulated products including food, pharmaceuticals and cosmetics require Ghana FDA registration before first shipment
5. **Failing to register on FDA Ghana's ProPer Platform before applying for the ICUMS import permit** – permits will be refused without the Level 2 batch code. (Pharmaceuticals)
6. **Wrong HS code** – must identify the correct sub-heading before EasyPASS application
7. **No sector-specific regulatory approvals in place** – some product categories require additional approvals beyond EasyPASS before goods can be used commercially in Ghana. Check requirements for your specific product and end-use before shipment
8. **English-language labelling failures** – all markings and instructions must be in English. Goods with labelling in other languages will face delays
9. **Non-compliant plastic packaging** – polystyrene packaging attracts regulatory scrutiny and excise tax. Check Ghana EPA requirements for your specific packaging before shipping
10. **Ghanaian importer not registered on ICUMS** – without ICUMS registration the import declaration cannot be submitted and goods cannot clear



**CASE STUDY 01 –
NORTH-POINT LIFE
SCIENCES EXPORT TO
GHANA**



NORTH-POINT LIFE SCIENCE:

UK SIDE AND FDA REGISTRATION – CIPROFLOXACIN 500MG TABLETS

North-Point Life Sciences (NPLS), a Leeds-based generic medicines manufacturer, secured an export order to a Ghanaian healthcare distributor. Before a single tablet could ship, they had a compliance pathway to work through:

Step 1 – Pre-registration checks: NPLS checked Ciprofloxacin 500mg against FDA Ghana's Restricted Drugs List and Banned Substances List. It appeared on neither.

Step 2 – UK documentation foundation: MHRA GMP Certificate, UK Marketing Authorisation, Free Sale Certificate. NPLS confirmed all three were current.

Step 3 – Appoint a local Ghanaian agent: A licensed Ghanaian pharmaceutical wholesaler was appointed.

Step 4 – Ghana FDA Product Registration: Dossier submitted via the agent. MHRA authorisation unlocked the fast-track reliance pathway – registration achieved in approximately 3 months vs the standard 6+. NPLS did not release the shipment until registration was confirmed.

Step 5 – ProPer Platform: The agent registered on FDA Ghana's ProPer Platform before applying for any permit.

Step 6 – Import Permit (per shipment): Applied via ICUMS. NPLS were advised by the agent the permit was valid for one year and could only be used once. They paid the fee of 1.8% FOB value and the permit was processed within one working day.

NORTH-POINT LIFE SCIENCE:

SHELF LIFE, LABELLING AND POINT OF ENTRY

Shelf-Life Requirements – NON-NEGOTIABLE

Ghana FDA operates a two-tier shelf-life rule enforced at the port.

There is no appeal - short-dated stock will be refused.

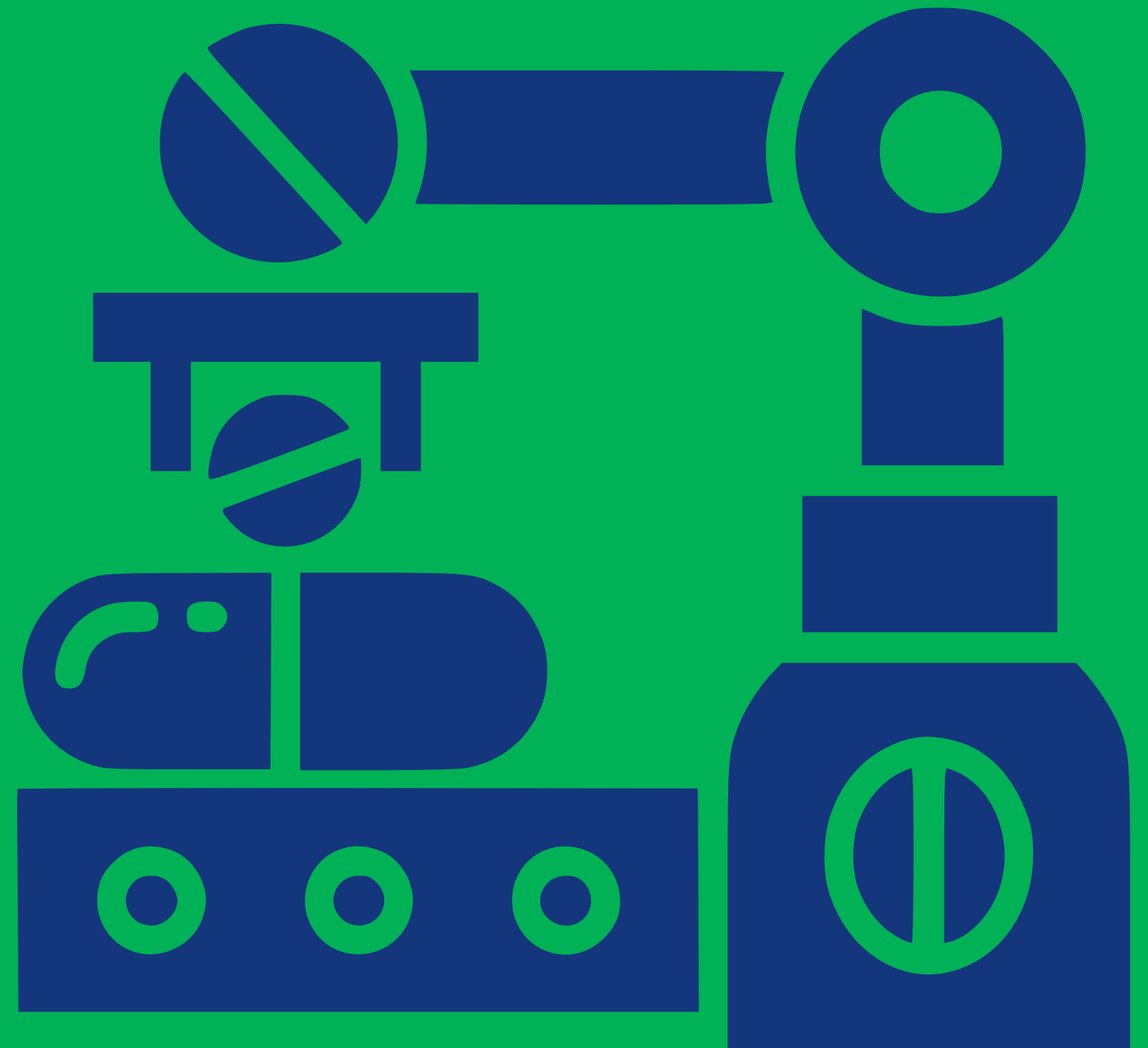
Product Shelf Life	Minimum Remaining on Arrival at Ghana Port of Entry
24 months or under	At least 80% of total shelf life remaining
Over 24 months	At least 60% of total shelf life remaining

Example: Ciprofloxacin 500mg – 36-month shelf life. Minimum 21.6 months must remain on arrival at Accra International Airport. With 2-8 days air transit (depending on routing), plan production and dispatch accordingly. Build in buffer – do not run to the edge of compliance.

Labelling – FDA compliance: North-Point's labels exactly match those submitted and approved during FDA product registration. All text is in English. Every label carries the expiry date, batch number, manufacturer details, Ghanaian agent details, storage instructions and INN name. When a minor label change was required, North-Point sought FDA approval before using the updated label on any export shipment.

At Accra International Airport: On arrival at Accra International Airport, Ghana FDA inspectors verified North-Point's import permit, confirmed product registration status, checked labelling compliance and shelf life, and reviewed the Certificate of Analysis. The consignment passed on first inspection and was released within the 48-hour assessment window, goods cleared without being held in the supervised warehouse.

**CASE STUDY 02 –
PRECISION WEIGH UK
LTD (PWUL) – UK SIDE
PATTERN APPROVAL –
WEIGHING MACHINERY
– HS 8423**



PRECISION WEIGH UK LTD (PWUL)

UK SIDE PATTERN APPROVAL – WEIGHING MACHINERY – HS 8423

PWUL's equipment and documentation:

PWUL manufactures weighing equipment to OIML standards, bearing UKCA marking backed by a full UK Declaration of Conformity, technical file and calibration certificates traceable to NPL standards. When applying for EasyPASS certification, PWUL submitted this full documentation package to Bureau Veritas, who assessed the goods against Ghana Standards using the technical file as the primary evidence base. The EasyPASS CoC was issued and accompanied the shipment to Tema Port.

Pattern Approval:

The equipment model had not previously been approved in Ghana, PWUL's Ghanaian importer initiated the Pattern Approval process with GSA's Scientific Metrology Department ahead of the shipment sailing. PWUL factored this into their export timeline, Pattern Approval is not a quick process and cannot be left until goods arrive.

Criminal Liability:

Before the goods shipped, PWUL ensured their Ghanaian buyer was fully aware that under Ghanaian law it is a criminal offence to use unverified or illegally adjusted weighing scales in trade. This obligation sits with the end buyer post-import – PWUL made certain this was understood and documented before shipment.

PRECISION WEIGH UK LTD (PWUL)

UK SIDE PATTERN APPROVAL – WEIGHING MACHINERY – HS 8423

Identifying the correct HS sub-heading – critical first step:

PWUL's industrial platform scales fall under HS 842382 – weighing machinery 30kg to 5,000kg capacity. Identifying the correct sub-heading before the EasyPASS application was submitted was critical – the wrong sub-heading would have invalidated the CoC.

Sub-heading	Description
842320	Scales for continuous weighing of goods on conveyors
842330	Constant weight scales and scales for discharging a predetermined weight of material into a bag or container, including hopper scales
842381	Other weighing machinery – up to 30kg capacity
842382	Other weighing machinery – 30kg to 5,000kg capacity
842389	Other weighing machinery – over 5,000kg capacity
842390	Weighing machine weights of all kinds; parts of weighing machinery

EasyPASS and port calibration: PWUL applied to Bureau Veritas with their full technical file four weeks before shipment. The CoC was issued and travelled with the goods. At Tema Port, GSA inspectors verified the CoC, then independently inspected, verified and calibrated the equipment. The CoC expedited the process – but did not replace it.

Additional regulatory layer: PWUL's Ghanaian importer confirmed with MoTAI and GIPC that no additional approvals were required for their specific end-use sector before the shipment sailed.

Source: WCO Harmonized System 2022. Note: HS 8423.10 (personal weighing machines) excluded – falls outside the commercial and industrial scope of this guide.

WHERE TO GET HELP



- MHRA – Medicines & Healthcare products Regulatory Agency
GMP Certificates, UK Marketing Authorisations, Free Sale Certificates [MHRA GOV.UK](https://www.mhra.gov.uk)
- TPA – full agreement and Annexes [UK-Ghana Interim TPA](#)
- Export Licence Check - ECJU Goods Checker
www.ecochecker.businessandtrade.gov.uk
- OTSI – Office for Trade Sanctions Implementation Trade sanctions compliance – confirm goods, destination and end-user are clear www.gov.uk/government/organisations/office-of-trade-sanctions-implementation
- Supplier declarations guidance – HMRC
www.gov.uk/guidance/get-proof-of-origin-for-your-goods
- APHA – Animal & Plant Health Agency Export Health Certificates for animal and plant products
www.gov.uk/government/organisations/animal-and-plant-health-agency
- EasyPASS Appointed Inspection Bodies (UK) Intertek:
www.intertek.com/government/product-conformity/ghana | Bureau Veritas:
<https://verigates.bureauveritas.com/programmes/ghana?smenuitem=78>
- BSI / UKAS UKCA conformity assessment, accredited testing and certification www.bsigroup.com | www.ukas.com



- Ghana Revenue Authority (GRA) – customs and ICUMS
www.gra.gov.gh
- ICUMS – check Ghana duty rates and the UK-Ghana TPA tariff liberalisation schedule. The TPA-specific document ("Tariff Liberalization_UK.xlsx") is available [ICUMS Data](#)
- Ghana Export Promotion Authority (GEPA)
<https://www.gepaghana.org/>
- Ghana Standards Authority (GSA) www.gsa.gov.gh
- Ghana Food and Drugs Authority (FDA Ghana) – pharmaceuticals, food, cosmetics, medical devices
www.fdaghana.gov.gh
- Ghana Ports and Harbours Authority (GPHA) – Tema and Takoradi port operations www.ghanaports.gov.gh
- Plant Protection & Regulatory Services Directorate (PPRSD) – agricultural imports www.pprsd.gov.gh
- Environmental Protection Agency Ghana (EPA) – chemicals, plastic packaging www.epa.gov.gh



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