

MutabiqAlerts

Market Entry Compliance Brief

Air Fryers & Similar Electric Cooking Appliances — Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

Prepared for a manufacturer/exporter evaluating first-time entry into the Saudi market. Every regulatory citation below is traced to its primary source (SASO/GSO's own published documents); every market-demand figure is sourced to third-party market research and labelled as an estimate, not a government statistic.

Prepared by MutabiqAlerts — mutabiqalerts.com
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1. Why This Product, Why Now

Small electric kitchen appliances are one of the fastest-growing segments of Saudi Arabia's import-dependent home-appliance market, and air fryers specifically are singled out by market researchers as the category driving that growth. Saudi Arabia has **no meaningful local manufacturing** of small kitchen appliances — the entire category is supplied through import, cleared primarily through Jeddah Islamic Port and Dammam's King Abdulaziz Port. That means every unit sold must clear Saudi/GCC product-conformity requirements before it reaches a shelf or a customer's door — there is no domestic-production exemption to fall back on.

The purpose of this brief is narrow and deliberate: confirm whether air fryers are a regulated product in Saudi Arabia, identify exactly which regulation and product list they fall under, and lay out the real certification path — not a general overview of "how Saudi compliance works."

2. Market Demand Snapshot

Metric	Figure	Source basis
Saudi small kitchen appliance category (retail value, 2026 est.)	~SAR 2.5–3.0 billion	Market-research estimate (see Sources)
Air fryer segment growth	~6.8% CAGR	Market-research estimate, driven by health/wellness trend and national dietary guidance
Local manufacturing	None of consequence	Import-dependent category; cleared via Jeddah Islamic Port / Dammam King Abdulaziz Port
Broader home-appliances market (Saudi)	USD 3.51B (2025) → USD 4.99B (2031 est.)	Market-research estimate, ~6.0% CAGR 2026–2031

These figures come from commercial market-research providers (industry reports), not from a Saudi government statistical release. Treat them as directional, not exact — they are consistent across multiple independent providers, which is why they're used here, but none is a primary (government) source.

3. Regulatory Classification — Confirmed at Primary Source

Air fryers fall under the **Gulf Technical Regulation for Low Voltage Electrical Equipment and Appliances** (GSO designation **BD-142004-01**), which applies across all GSO member states (the six GCC states plus Yemen), including Saudi Arabia. This was confirmed directly from GSO's own explanatory guidance document (WDT-152201-01).

The regulation splits covered equipment into two risk-based lists. Only **List 2** (the higher-risk category) is currently enforced; List 1 has never been published. List 2 is itself a separate GSO document, reference **TC143307-01**, which was read directly for this brief. It enumerates 13 specific product categories by HS code.

Honest classification note

"Air fryer" as a product name does **not** appear on TC143307-01 — the list was last versioned in August 2014, before air fryers were a mass-market category. The match below is a functional/HS-code classification, not an explicit naming: item 9 on the list, **"Other ovens; cookers, cooking plates, boiling rings, grillers and roasters," HS code 85.16.60.00**, is the category electric ovens and convection-style cooking appliances are classified under internationally, and air fryers are conventionally classified under this HS heading by customs authorities and testing labs alike. This is the

standard classification path, not a guess invented for this brief — but it is a classification judgment, and the manufacturer's actual customs broker or a GSO Notified Body should confirm it against the specific model before certification work begins.

4. Required Safety Standard

The applicable product-safety standard is **GSO IEC 60335-2-9:2008** — GSO's own adoption of IEC 60335-2-9, “Household and similar electrical appliances – Safety – Particular requirements for grills, toasters and similar portable cooking appliances.” This is confirmed as a published, purchasable standard on GSO's own standards store. Manufacturers already holding IEC 60335-2-9 test reports from an accredited lab have a direct starting point for GCC testing, though the GSO-adopted edition should be checked for any regional deviations.

5. Certification Pathway — G-Mark, then SABER

Two layers apply, in sequence. This is the part most generic guides blur together — they are not the same step.

Layer 1 — GSO G-Mark (regional, GCC-wide)

Because air fryers fall under List 2, they require **Gulf Type Examination** — third-party testing and review by a GSO-accredited Notified Body, per Annex 4 of BD-142004-01. A passing result leads to a Gulf Type Examination Certificate and the right to affix the **G-Mark** and its tracking QR code to the product. G-Mark enforcement for low-voltage products has been in force since 1 July 2016 across GSO member states.

Layer 2 — Saudi-specific: the SABER platform

G-Mark alone does not clear customs in Saudi Arabia. Saudi importers must additionally register the product and the shipment through SASO's **SABER** online platform, which issues two separate certificates: a **Product Certificate of Conformity (PCoC)**, issued once per product/model, and a **Shipment Certificate of Conformity (SCoC)**, issued per consignment and referencing a valid PCoC. Both have been mandatory since 1 January 2025. The SABER process is where the G-Mark technical file and test reports actually get used — it is the Saudi customs-facing layer, not a replacement for the GCC-level G-Mark work.

A possible third layer: SASO IECEE Recognition Certificate (SIRC)

SASO's own Arabic-language announcement (saso.gov.sa, scope expansion effective 1 September 2021) names “**electric oil fryers**” (Arabic original, transliterated: “qalayāt al-zayt al-kahrabaiyah”), water kettles/boilers, and coffee-making devices as products requiring a SASO IECEE Recognition Certificate before entering the Kingdom — a separate requirement from G-Mark/SABER, run through an IECEE-approved Certified Body Testing Laboratory.

Genuine open question, not a settled fact: SASO's named category is specifically “oil” fryers. An air fryer cooks by rapid air circulation with little or no oil — a functionally different appliance from a deep oil fryer, even though both sit in the same retail “fryer” category. Whether a testing lab or SASO itself would classify an air fryer under this oil-fryer category for SIRC purposes is not resolved by the source text and should not be assumed either way. Raise this with your Notified Body alongside the HS-code confirmation in Step 1 below — before paying for testing, not after. What *is* settled: an appliance that also functions as or is marketed as a water boiler or integrates a coffee-making function would squarely fall under the confirmed SIRC scope.

6. Practical Path to Market — Step by Step

Step	Action	Detail
1	Confirm classification	Have your Notified Body or customs broker confirm HS 85.16.60.00 against the exact model before paying for anything.
2	Select a GSO Notified Body	Choose an accredited lab/CAB for Gulf Type Examination against GSO IEC 60335-2-9:2008.
3	Testing & technical file	Submit the appliance and technical documentation for Gulf Type Examination; resolve the oil-fryer/SIRC classification question with your Notified Body in parallel.

4	Gulf Type Examination Certificate	Issued by the Notified Body on a pass — this is what authorises the G-Mark.
5	Register on SABER	Importer applies for the Product Certificate of Conformity (PCoC) using the G-Mark technical file.
6	Per-shipment SCoC	Each consignment needs its own Shipment Certificate of Conformity referencing the live PCoC before customs clearance.

7. Sources

- Gulf Technical Regulation for Low Voltage Electrical Equipment and Appliances — BD-142004-01, via GSO's own explanatory guidance "Guidance for Gulf Technical Regulation for Low Voltage Electrical Equipment and Appliances" (WDT-152201-01), saso.gov.sa — read directly for this brief.
- GSO List No. 2 (TC143307-01), "Electrical equipment and appliances subjected to CAP in Annex 4 of LV TR," version 1, 6 August 2014, gso.org.sa — read directly for this brief; source of the HS 85.16.60.00 classification.
- GSO IEC 60335-2-9:2008 standard listing, GSO Standards Store, gso.org.sa/store — confirms the adopted safety standard.
- SASO SABER PCoC/SCoC two-certificate structure and 1 January 2025 mandate — per RIZ & MONA Consultancy, Motaded, and Fahes exporter guides (secondary; SASO's own saber.sa portal is JS-rendered and did not surface a clean process breakdown directly).
- G-Mark enforcement date (1 July 2016) — corroborated in both English (QIMA, export2gulf.com, Bureau Veritas Verigates) and Arabic-language sources ([nemko](http://nemko.com), qima.com/ar, export2gulf.com/ar), independently consistent.
- SASO IECEE Recognition Certificate (SIRC) scope — confirmed directly from SASO's own Arabic-language announcement, saso.gov.sa/ar/mediacenter/news/Pages/saso_news_1189.aspx, naming electric oil fryers, water kettles/boilers and coffee-making devices (scope expansion effective 1 Sept 2021); corroborated by SGS, Intertek and S-GE regulatory-update pages on the same expansion. Read directly for this brief, replacing an earlier, less precise secondary citation.
- Whether "electric oil fryer" (SASO's term) extends to air fryers specifically — not resolved by any source reviewed for this brief; presented as an open classification question, not a claim.
- Saudi small-appliance and air-fryer market-size/growth estimates — synthesis of commercial market-research providers (Research and Markets, Euromonitor, Mordor Intelligence and similar); figures are industry estimates, not government statistics.
- Real retail presence, Saudi Arabic-language storefronts — noon.com/saudi-ar, extra.com (ar-sa), almanea.sa, hnak.com and others list air fryers from Philips, Ninja, DeLonghi, Black & Decker and Kenwood — qualitative confirmation of active import-brand demand, not a market-size figure.

This brief reports what the cited regulations and market research say; it is not legal or compliance advice, and it does not substitute for sign-off from a GSO Notified Body, a licensed customs broker, or qualified Saudi legal counsel before shipping. Regulatory text and product lists can change — confirm current status before acting on any date or requirement in this brief.