

**Voluntary Report** – Voluntary - Public Distribution

**Date:** July 10, 2023

**Report Number:** CO2023-0017

**Report Name:** Update Sodium Regulation Compliance with Mandatory Third Party Certifications in Colombia

**Country:** Colombia

**Post:** Bogota

**Report Category:** FAIRS Subject Report

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**Report Highlights:**

Starting July 13, 2023, a third-party certification issued by accredited certifying bodies will be mandatory to certify maximum sodium levels in processed products listed in Colombian Resolution 2013 of 2020. Since Resolution 2013 came into force in November 2022, listed processed products such as cheese, sauces, sausages, and ham were subject to a supplier's self-declaration in order to be admitted to Colombia. The purpose of this report is to help guide U.S. exporters of how to work with accredited certifying bodies to issue third-party certificates on sodium, the services they render, and prices.

### Sodium Mandatory Third-party Certification Begins July 13, 2023

Starting July 13, 2023, a third-party certification issued by accredited certifying bodies will be mandatory for maximum sodium levels in a sub-set of processed products sold in Colombia. This third-party certification is a requirement of [Resolution 2013 of 2020](#). Resolution 2013 allows importers to use first-party declarations of compliance issued by food producers until July 12, 2023. The list of impacted products can be found in the resolution and includes sausages, ham, cheese, and sauces, among other products.

The purpose of this report is to inform U.S. companies of the accredited, certifying bodies authorized to issue third-party certificates on sodium, the services they render, and prices. This report does not substitute the information that U.S. companies may gather from any service proposal they hire from these or other accredited bodies and the report reflects information gathered by the Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) Office in Bogota in June 2023, which is subject to change.

#### Accredited Bodies for Sodium Certification in Colombia

There are currently four entities accredited by Colombia’s National Accreditation Body, [ONAC](#), which can certify compliance of the processed products listed within Resolution 2013. Some of these certifying bodies may have a sales representative in the United States and/or they can be reached by email.

Currently, FAS Bogota has not been able to identify U.S. entities accredited to certify compliance with Resolution 2013 in Colombia. However, exporters can reach out to U.S. certifying bodies and labs to inquire about their ability to certify to Resolution 2013.

The current list of accredited certifying bodies is below (more certifying bodies may be added in the future):

Accredited Body Name	Contact Information	Website
<a href="#">Grupo VTEK SAS</a>	<a href="mailto:robinson.suarez@grupovtek.com">robinson.suarez@grupovtek.com</a> <a href="mailto:julio.rangel@grupovtek.com">julio.rangel@grupovtek.com</a>	<a href="http://www.grupovtek.com">www.grupovtek.com</a>
<a href="#">LENOR COLOMBIA SAS</a>	<a href="mailto:ejecutivodecuenta3@lenor.com.co">ejecutivodecuenta3@lenor.com.co</a> <a href="mailto:info@lenor.com.co">info@lenor.com.co</a>	<a href="http://www.lenor.com.co">www.lenor.com.co</a>
<a href="#">INCONTEC</a>	<a href="mailto:spenaranda@icontec.org">spenaranda@icontec.org</a> <a href="mailto:cpinzon@icontec.org">cpinzon@icontec.org</a>	<a href="http://www.icontec.org">www.icontec.org</a>
<a href="#">SGS COLOMBIA S.A.S. – SGS</a>	<a href="mailto:sgs.colombia@sgs.com">sgs.colombia@sgs.com</a> <a href="mailto:paola.castillo@sgs.com">paola.castillo@sgs.com</a>	<a href="http://www.sgs.com.co">www.sgs.com.co</a>

*Data source: FAS Bogota research*

## Documentation Requirements

The process to obtain a certificate to verify compliance with maximum sodium levels in Colombia may consist of a paper review by the accredited certifying body, including technical sheets, taking of samples, audits to assess compliance with food safety standards, and a review of labeling requirements regarding sodium, according to [Resolution 810 of 2021](#) and [Resolution 2492 of 2022](#) (See GAIN reports [CO 2022-0026](#) and [CO 2022-0008](#)).

The documents required may vary depending on whether the company asks for a certification for a lot of products or by production process. In the case of a certification for a specific lot of products, only a pro forma invoice and results from lab testing for a lot of products may be needed. In the case that the certification is required for the production process, in addition to lab testing, the company will likely need to provide the technical sheets of the products, sample labels, and food safety documentation.

## Samples and Audits

Compliance for sodium content for the products listed in Resolution 2013 shall be verified with one of the three analytical methods listed in Article 9 of Resolution 2013 (See GAIN Report [CO 2020-0045](#), for a translation to English of Resolution 2013). Companies may provide their own lab tests from recognized labs in the United States, or they may hire these services from an accredited body, who usually has their own accredited labs.

Audits are only needed in cases where the plant does not have evidence of a recognized management system in place for food safety, such as HACPP, ISO2200, FASSC 22000, BRGSS 22000, IFS, QSF, and NSF. In cases where the plant can provide one of the previous documents, an audit should not be needed. In case an audit is needed, the plant may be able to conduct it virtually.

## Time and Length of Certification

The time to obtain a third-party certificate from an accredited body may vary depending on the number of samples, plants, and production lines to be audited (in the case that audits are needed). Estimates vary from seven working days, counted since all the documents are submitted to the accredited body, to 30 working days.

In the case of certifications requested for a lot of products, the validity of the certification is limited for the specific batch of products. In cases where the certification is requested for the production process, the company may choose between a length of three to five years. Annual reviews of the certification are carried out by the accredited body during the length of the certification.

## Costs

Costs associated with the third-party certification may depend on the services hired by the U.S. companies, whether the certification is requested for a lot of products or for production process, number of samples to be taken and/or number of plants and production processes to be audited. Estimates may

vary from approximately \$250 for the issuance of a certification (only documentation review and results of lab tests for samples provided by the company) to approximately \$850 (documentation review plus lab tests provided by the accredited body). Costs can be as high as or higher than \$10,000 for larger companies with multiple samples, plants, and production processes to be certified. Costs associated with the annual review of the certification by the accredited bodies are usually 50 percent less than the price paid for the original certification.

**Example of a third-party certification:**

**CERTIFICADO DE CONFORMIDAD**  
Nº. CT-LCO-XXXX-2023

[REDACTED]

CERTIFICA  
IDENTIFICACION DEL PRODUCTO

PRODUCTO (*)	DESCRIPCIÓN
ALIMENTOS PROCESADOS PRIORIZADOS POR SU CONTENIDO MÁXIMO DE SODIO	(*) Referencias: Ver Anexo No. 1

Título del Certificado  
**TITULAR**  
DIRECCION  
IMPORTADOR/FABRICANTE/COMERCIALIZADOR  
NIT: XXXXXXXXX

El producto identificado ha sido evaluado por [REDACTED] y se encontró Conforme con los requisitos del siguiente referente normativo:

República de Colombia. Resolución 2013 del 9 de noviembre de 2020 del Ministerio de Salud y Protección Social, por la cual se expide el reglamento técnico que define los contenidos máximos de sodio en los alimentos procesados priorizados en el marco de la Estrategia Nacional de Reducción del Consumo de Sodio y se dictan otras disposiciones.

Todos los productos objeto de evaluación a la fecha dan conformidad a la Meta 1 del Anexo Técnico No. 2 según lo estipulado en el Artículo II. Transitorio de la anterior Resolución.

Esquema de Certificación Nº 3 - ISO/IEC 17067:2013

(\*) Todas las Características e Identificación del Producto cubierto por el presente Certificado de Conformidad se encuentran detalladas en el documento Anexo que hace parte de este Certificado: ANEXO No. 1 que consta de X (X) página.

Fecha de Emisión: X de Marzo de 2023  
Fecha próximo seguimiento: x de Marzo de 2024\*\*

Vigencia: X (X) años a partir de la fecha de Emisión del Certificado sujeto a Seguirmentos Periódicos.  
\*\*Los seguirmentos deberán iniciarse mínimo con tres meses de anticipación a la fecha indicada.

ANEXO No. 1  
Certificado de Conformidad Nº. CT-LCO-XXXX-2023  
ALIMENTOS PROCESADOS PRIORIZADOS POR SU CONTENIDO MÁXIMO DE SODIO  
(NOMBRES CATEGORIAS EVALUADAS)

ÍTEM	DESCRIPCIÓN / CARACTERÍSTICAS TÉCNICAS	REFERENCIA
1	XXXXXXX	XXXXXXXXXXXXXX

\*\*FIN DEL ANEXO No. 1\*\*

Source: Certification body in Colombia

**Links for further information:**

[Update on Colombia Sodium Resolution 2013 of 2020 for Processed Foods Bogota Colombia CO2022-0007.pdf](#)

[Colombia Issues New Sodium Regulation for Processed Foods Bogota Colombia 12-14-2020.pdf](#)

**Attachments:**

No Attachments.