Middle East & Africa · Medicines, tobacco, alcohol

Saudi Arabia

Every registered medicine is serialised and tracked through RSD, with aggregation since 2020. Cigarettes need digital tax stamps since 2019, shisha since 2020.

THE REGIME

SYSTEM	**RSD (SFDA, medicines); ZATCA tax stamps (excise goods)**
CODE ON THE PRODUCT	GS1 DataMatrix on medicines; digital tax stamps on tobacco
AGGREGATION	Medicines: yes.

STEPS FOR A SUPPLIER

- [ ] Register your products and GTINs in the national system: RSD.
- [ ] Print a unique serialised code on every saleable pack.
- [ ] Verify every code on the line; aggregate into cases and pallets where required.
- [ ] Report production and shipments to the national system.

ON THE LINE, BEFORE THE FIRST SHIPMENT

- [ ] The data in the code is agreed: GTIN, serial number, batch, expiry date or crypto tail, as the rules for your product group require.
- [ ] A verifier has graded printed samples (ISO/IEC 15415 for 2D codes) before the first shipment.
- [ ] A camera after the printer reads every code at line speed, and packs with an unreadable code are rejected.
- [ ] Records show which code went on which pack, case and pallet, ready for the report to the system.

DATES AHEAD

No announced dates.

SOURCES

1. ZATCA: tax stamp system: https://zatca.gov.sa/en/RulesRegulations/Taxes/Pages/tax-stamp-system.aspx
2. SFDA RSD portal: https://rsd.sfda.gov.sa/
3. rfxcel: Saudi aggregation deadline: https://rfxcel.com/saudi-pharma-compliance-update-rfxcel/