



Certification of Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs) in Nigeria: Process, Cost & Requirements (2026 Guide)

Description

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Introduction

With the rise in local technology manufacturing and hardware development in Nigeria, **certification of Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs)** has become a crucial regulatory requirement for firms involved in producing, assembling, or branding IT equipment.

This certification, issued by the **National Information Technology Development Agency (NITDA)**, is not only a mark of authenticity but also a prerequisite for participating in public procurement, particularly in ICT-related projects. Failure to obtain OEM certification could lead to disqualification, fines, or loss of government patronage.

This guide breaks down everything you need to know about **OEM certification in Nigeria**, including **costs, requirements, and how to apply**.

What is OEM Certification?

OEM Certification is an official approval granted to technology companies that manufacture, assemble, or brand ICT hardware products (such as computers, servers, tablets, etc.) in Nigeria. It is issued by NITDA to ensure that OEMs adhere to local content requirements, quality standards, and the Nigerian ICT policy framework.

Why OEM Certification is Important in Nigeria

Here is why obtaining OEM certification is essential:

Benefit	Description
Compliance	Fulfillment of local laws such as Executive Order 003 & 005 on Local Content
Access to Government Contracts	Certified OEMs are listed in NITDA's OEM Database, a prerequisite for bidding for government ICT projects
Credibility	Builds trust with clients, partners, and distributors
Quality Assurance	Ensures that equipment meets acceptable local and international standards
Market Differentiation	Gives your brand a competitive edge in the Nigerian tech ecosystem

Regulatory Body for OEM Certification in Nigeria

The **National Information Technology Development Agency (NITDA)** is the official government agency responsible for OEM certification in Nigeria.

NITDA operates under the Federal Ministry of Communications, Innovation and Digital Economy.

For more details, visit: <https://nitda.gov.ng>

Step-by-Step Process for OEM Certification in Nigeria

Here is a **clear roadmap** for OEMs to get certified by NITDA:

Step 1: Prepare Required Documentation

Ensure that you have the following:

- Certificate of Incorporation from CAC

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- Company Profile
 - List and specifications of OEM products (desktops, laptops, servers, etc.)
 - Evidence of local assembly/manufacturing facility
 - Staff strength and technical capacity
 - Product warranty policy and service centre locations
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Step 2: Application Submission

- Go to NITDA's website
 - Download the **OEM Certification Form**
 - Complete and submit it via email to: **oem@nitda.gov.ng** or submit at their office in Abuja
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Step 3: Site Inspection

NITDA will conduct an **on-site verification** of your assembly/manufacturing facility to validate your operations, check quality standards, and ensure compliance with local content policies.

Step 4: Evaluation & Review

Post-inspection, NITDA evaluates all submissions, checks product standards, and confirms:

- Minimum local content compliance (at least **35%** local content by value)
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- Environmental & Safety standards
- Branding and product traceability features

Step 5: Certification & Listing

If successful, your company will be:

- Issued an OEM **Certificate of Compliance**
- Added to the **NITDA Approved OEMs list** on their website
- Eligible to bid and supply to all government ICT procurements

Requirements for Certification

Requirement	Description
CAC Certificate	Registered company with relevant ICT objects
Company Profile	Business operations and product description
Technical Team	Must have staff with ICT technical skills
Local Facility	Evidence of local assembly or manufacturing plant
Warranty Policy	After-sales support and minimum 1-year warranty
Branding Compliance	Devices must be uniquely branded and traceable

Cost of OEM Certification in Nigeria (NITDA Fees)

While NITDA **does not publish fixed fees** on its website, industry insiders and certified OEMs confirm that the **costs vary based on company size, product types, and facility scope**. Below is a generalised estimate:

Item	Estimated Cost (₦)	Notes
Application Fee	₦50,000 – ₦100,000	Varies by company scale
Inspection Logistics	₦150,000 – ₦300,000	Travel, lodging & admin
Certification Fee	₦500,000 – ₦1,500,000	Based on number of product lines and scale
Total Estimated Cost	₦700,000 – ₦1,900,000	Subject to NITDA evaluation

Note: NITDA may revise the costs based on inflation or updated ICT policies.
Always confirm via direct inquiry: info@nitda.gov.ng

Renewal and Validity of Certification

- **Validity Period:** Certification is valid for **2 years**
- **Renewal:** OEMs must reapply and undergo evaluation before expiry
- **Re-certification Fee:** May be 50–70% of initial certification cost

FAQs on OEM Certification in Nigeria

1. Who is eligible to apply for OEM certification in Nigeria?

Companies that **manufacture, assemble, or brand ICT hardware locally**, including desktops, laptops, tablets, and servers.

2. Is OEM certification mandatory for supplying to government agencies?

Yes. OEM certification is **compulsory** under NITDA guidelines and Executive Orders 003 & 005.

3. How long does the certification process take?

Typically, **4-6 weeks**, depending on documentation completeness and inspection logistics.

4. What happens if I don't have a local assembly plant?

You will **not be certified** unless you partner with a certified local OEM or establish a facility that meets NITDA's minimum local content requirements.

5. Can foreign OEMs be certified in Nigeria?

Only if they **establish a local subsidiary** with physical infrastructure and meet local content rules.

Common Misconceptions about OEM Certification

Myth	Reality
"Only big companies can be certified"	SMEs with local facilities are also eligible
"It's just a formality"	It involves rigorous technical and physical inspection
"It's optional"	It is mandatory for public sector ICT supply
"I can use a third-party certificate"	Certifications are non-transferable

Conclusion

Obtaining the **Certification of Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs)** in Nigeria is a key compliance step that validates your technical credibility, improves market access, and unlocks public procurement opportunities.

It involves a structured application, inspection, and evaluation process led by **NITDA**, the nation's apex ICT regulatory body. By understanding the **cost implications, steps, and common pitfalls**, OEMs can better position themselves in Nigeria's growing tech landscape.

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