



How to Obtain a Mandatory Conformity Assessment Programme (MANCAP) Certificate in Nigeria (2026 Complete Guide)

Description

If you manufacture products in Nigeria and intend to sell them legally, scale distribution, supply supermarkets, bid for contracts, export regionally, or build consumer trust, one certification you cannot ignore is the **Mandatory Conformity Assessment Programme (MANCAP) Certificate**.

Issued by Standards Organisation of Nigeria, MANCAP is the official product conformity certification for **locally manufactured goods in Nigeria**. It confirms that a product complies with relevant Nigerian Industrial Standards (NIS) and quality requirements.

Many manufacturers wrongly assume MANCAP is just “paperwork.” It is not. It can involve **factory inspections, product sampling, laboratory testing, quality control review, administrative charges, periodic surveillance, and recertification obligations**.

This detailed guide explains:

- What MANCAP means
- Who needs it
- Requirements
- Step-by-step application process
- Official timelines
- Fees and costs

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- Common mistakes causing delays
 - FAQs
 - How to fast-track approval strategically
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Table of Contents

1. What is MANCAP?
 2. Who Issues MANCAP in Nigeria?
 3. Who Needs MANCAP?
 4. Products That Typically Require MANCAP
 5. Benefits of MANCAP Certification
 6. Requirements for MANCAP Certificate
 7. Step-by-Step Process to Obtain MANCAP
 8. Official Fees / Costs
 9. Timeline for Approval
 10. Common Reasons Applications Fail
 11. MANCAP vs SONCAP
 12. Renewal / Revalidation
 13. FAQs
 14. Final Strategic Advice
-

What is MANCAP?

MANCAP means **Mandatory Conformity Assessment Programme**.

According to the official SON FAQ, it is a **product certification scheme for locally manufactured products in Nigeria** conducted by SON pursuant to the SON Act.

Its purpose is to ensure products manufactured in Nigeria meet applicable safety and quality standards before being sold locally or exported.

Who Issues MANCAP in Nigeria?

The certificate is issued by:

Standards Organisation of Nigeria

SON is the federal agency responsible for standardisation, product quality assurance, testing, and conformity assessment in Nigeria.

Who Needs a MANCAP Certificate?

You likely need MANCAP if you manufacture products in Nigeria such as:

- Electrical items
- Plastic products
- Building materials
- Packaging materials
- Household goods
- Mechanical products
- Consumer goods
- Furniture
- Industrial products
- Chemical items (where applicable under SON standards)

If your product is locally manufactured and falls under technical standards oversight, MANCAP may be required.

Products That Commonly Require MANCAP

Industry	Examples
Plastics	Buckets, chairs, containers
Electrical	Cables, switches, sockets
Building Materials	Pipes, rods, fittings
Household	Fans, utensils

Industry	Examples
Packaging	Bottles, wraps
Furniture	Desks, chairs
Industrial	Tools, equipment

Why MANCAP Matters

1. Legal Market Access

Products may face enforcement issues without certification.

2. Distributor Confidence

Major retailers often prefer compliant products.

3. Consumer Trust

Certification signals quality assurance.

4. Export Advantage

SON states MANCAP-certified products can be exported to West African countries.

5. Competitive Edge

Substandard competitors struggle where standards enforcement increases.

Requirements for MANCAP Certificate in Nigeria

Based on SON official sources, common requirements include:

Requirement	Purpose
CAC incorporation documents	Legal existence
Completed application	Official request
Product details/specifications	Technical review
Factory address	Inspection
Quality control process	Compliance review
Laboratory test report	Product conformity
Payment evidence	Administrative processing
Packaging/label samples	Product identification

SON states documents may include:

- CAC Certificate
 - On-the-spot test report
 - SON laboratory report or IPAN accredited laboratory report
 - Proof of payment for form/certification fees
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Step-by-Step Process to Obtain MANCAP Certificate

Step 1: Determine Applicable Standard

Your product must be matched with the relevant **Nigerian Industrial Standard (NIS)**.

This is where many manufacturers fail early.

Step 2: Prepare Factory for Inspection

SON may assess:

- Production process
 - Hygiene
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- Equipment condition
- Calibration
- Quality assurance system
- Storage system
- Traceability process

Step 3: Submit Application

Applications may be initiated via SON state offices or official e-MANCAP portal. SON also provides digital access.

Step 4: Product Sampling and Testing

SON states products are sampled and tested against relevant standards.

Step 5: Inspection Reports & Evaluation

Inspection/test reports move for internal review and recommendation.

Step 6: Pay Certification Charges

Applicable fees must be paid.

Step 7: Issuance of Certificate & Logo

If compliant, SON issues:

- MANCAP Certificate
- Unique MANCAP logo/number for product use

Step 8: Post-Certification Surveillance

SON states quarterly factory inspections may continue during validity period.

Official Timeline

SON states:

It takes **60 days** from receipt of MANCAP applications **if all requirements are met.**

Realistically, delays happen when:

- Documents incomplete
 - Factory not ready
 - Failed lab tests
 - Wrong product classification
 - Fee issues
 - Weak quality control systems
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MANCAP Fees / Cost in Nigeria

SON notes fees are officially published and obtainable from state offices.

Archived SON administrative charge schedule indicates examples:

Category	Estimated Historic Charges
Cottage / Micro	₦7,500+
Small Industry	₦37,500+
Medium Industry	₦97,500+
Large Industry	₦195,000+

Important Note

Actual payable sums may vary based on:

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- Product category
 - Number of products
 - Testing scope
 - Current tariff review
 - Inspection logistics
 - Revalidation charges

Always verify current fees directly with SON.

Hidden Complexity Most Applicants Underestimate

1. One Product, One Standard

Some products may involve multiple technical requirements.

2. Factory Readiness Matters

Poor documentation can delay certification.

3. Packaging Errors Cause Problems

Incorrect labeling can trigger corrections.

4. Testing Failure Can Restart Process

Substandard raw materials often become expensive later.

5. Surveillance Continues After Approval

Certification is not “one and done.”

Common Reasons MANCAP Applications Fail or Delay

Problem	Effect
Incomplete documents	Rejection / query
Poor factory conditions	Inspection failure
Failed lab tests	Delay
Wrong product description	Misclassification
No quality manual	Weak compliance profile
Packaging defects	Corrections required
Unpaid fees	File stalled

MANCAP vs SONCAP (Very Important)

Many people confuse both schemes.

Feature	MANCAP	SONCAP
For	Local manufacturers	Imported products
Issued by	SON	SON system
Purpose	Local conformity	Import conformity
Applies before	Local sale/distribution	Customs clearance

SONCAP is mainly for imports, while MANCAP is for locally manufactured goods.

Validity Period

SON states MANCAP certificate validity is **three (3) years**, after which recertification/revalidation is required.

Frequently Asked Questions (People Also Ask)

Is MANCAP compulsory in Nigeria?

Yes. It is a mandatory conformity programme for applicable locally manufactured products.

Can I sell products without MANCAP?

Depending on product type, enforcement risk may arise.

How long does MANCAP take?

Officially about 60 days if all requirements are met.

Can small businesses apply?

Yes. SON fee schedules historically include cottage/micro industries.

Can I export with MANCAP?

SON states certified products can be exported to West African countries.

Is MANCAP same as NAFDAC registration?

No. NAFDAC regulates foods, drugs, cosmetics and health-related products; MANCAP is a SON technical conformity scheme.

Strategic Advice for Faster Approval

To avoid months of delay:

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1. Confirm applicable standard first
 2. Pre-audit your factory
 3. Test products before submission
 4. Fix labels/packaging early
 5. Organise QC records
 6. Use professionals who understand SON process flow
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Final Thoughts

Obtaining a **Mandatory Conformity Assessment Programme (MANCAP) Certificate in Nigeria** is more than filing forms. It is a structured regulatory process involving **technical standards, inspections, testing, documentation, and ongoing compliance**.

Businesses that treat it casually often lose time, money, and market opportunities.

Businesses that prepare properly gain:

- Faster approval
- Stronger brand trust
- Retail access
- Export credibility
- Reduced enforcement risk

If you manufacture in Nigeria and want to scale responsibly, MANCAP should be part of your growth strategy.

Category

1. Industry Insights