

TECHNOLOGY

June 10

Cotecna Asia launches online service for Consumer Goods inspection and testing

In June, Cotecna launched what it predicts will be the most technically advanced, reliable and flexible online service for the inspection and quality control of Consumer Goods currently available in the marketplace, giving businesses the power to save time and money.

Aimed at importers, distributors and retailers, and backed up by a unique worldwide support network covering 60 nations, Cotecna has rolled out this online service for inspections in Asia that includes a range of quality control and supervision services for Consumer Goods.

From initial production to loading supervision, Cotecna can perform verifications at every stage of the supply chain process to make sure that products meet client expectations and quality standards. Laboratory tests also ensure that goods meet international standards and comply with customer requirements.



CONTRACTS

April 10

Cotecna Mexico signs extension to Customs inspection contract

Cotecna's Mexican subsidiary signed an extension to their Customs inspection contract with Servicio de Administración Tributaria (SAT) in Mexico. The four year contract that was originally signed in February 2006 was extended until December 2010.

The service known as "Segundo Reconocimiento", or second inspection, is the only service of its kind in the world. Its objective is to reduce fraud and prevent the use of forged documentation or triangulation that may conceal the true origin of the goods. The service is mandatory by law and is carried out by close to 120 Cotecna employees in the Customs Primary Zones at 16 border ports of entry. The following three types of services are carried out after Customs clearance:

- Physical and documentary revision of imported goods. This includes inspection to determine the quantity of goods and the declaration's compliance with the Custom's Harmonized System.
- Verification of goods of foreign origin that are in transit to ensure they are en route for their final destination such as a factory, warehouse, store etc.
- Verification of the existence or physical location of the supplier, producer or buyer as declared in the invoice or other Customs documents. The objective is to protect national production and manufacturing.

Cotecna has supplied state of the art equipment and infrastructure that enables a constant real-time communication with SAT, as well as permanent Internet access to information held in a digital database.

April 10

Cotecna launches scanner operations in the Republic of Congo



Cotecna launched container scanner operations in the port of Pointe-Noire as part of its Inspection (PSI) contract with the Government of the Republic of Congo.

The original Pre-shipment Inspection contract was signed in March 2006 and on June 29, 2009 an addendum was signed for the supply and installation of a 3.8MeV mobile container scanner at the port of Pointe-Noire as well as a Computerized Risk Management System (CRMS®). This addendum extended the contract for a further four years starting from the first container scan. The PSI programme assists the Government of the Republic of Congo in their Customs capacity building programs and in improving Customs revenues and security. CRMS® is a system designed to assist Customs officials in determining the appropriate level of intervention of each trade transaction, depending on the type of goods to be inspected. Cotecna is responsible for the training for Customs to optimize the functioning of this new tool.

Cotecna has more than 70 staff in the Congo between their head and operating office in Pointe-Noire and their liaison office in Brazzaville. Main imports to the Congo come from France, China, Belgium, Deutschland, the Netherlands and Brazil.

May 10

Cotecna co-founder of Swiss-African Business Circle



Cotecna is one of the five founding members of the Swiss-African Business Circle (SABC), an association whose objective is to offer a unique platform for the exchange of experiences, projects and ideas between Swiss and African (principally Sub-Saharan) companies, thereby fostering partnerships and opening new business perspectives between members.

SABC provides an efficient organisation, top quality services and an influential network for its members to promote their interests on the African continent. SABC will not however involve itself in business projects nor participate in the financing of industrial or commercial projects.



EVENTS

March 10

Cotecna moderates UNCTAD Conference Panel

The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) organised a Global Commodities Forum on March 22 & 23 at the UN headquarters in Geneva.

The objective of this initiative was to encourage a comprehensive discussion of the key issues of the commodity economy, including commodity trade finance and logistics and their role in international trade and development. Issues of crucial relevance to the commodities sector were discussed in a number of conference sessions and panels.

Cotecna moderated a panel of experts in Logistics and Collateral whose presentations and discussions covered topics such as logistics in developing countries, supply chain financing and financing products and the use of technology in supply chain solutions.

Most significant among the panel's conclusions were:

- the need for greater industry clarity in the respective roles of collateral monitoring and insurance,
- in-depth knowledge of the supply chain logistics and documentation for specialist trade financiers,
- a more collaborative approach to information systems electronically processing documentary credits.

The panel stressed the importance of progress in these issues to ensure costs efficiencies, improved risk management, better regulatory treatment and ultimately enhanced liquidity for trade finance.

Over 300 delegates attended the sessions over the two days including high level representatives from governments, financial institutions, insurers, commodity producers and exporters, collateral managers, lawyers, end consumers etc.

March 10

Cotecna participates in the International Quality Forum in Algiers



Cotecna participated in the first International Quality Forum that took place in Algiers in March under the patronage of the Ministry of Industry and Investment Promotion.

The objective was to increase companies' awareness of the importance of quality as a strategic axe of development and national and international competitiveness. The forum gave certified companies the opportunity to share national and international experiences through managers' testimonies. Many national and international experts participated in round tables, workshops and conferences on themes focusing on quality in Algeria. Cotecna's participation focused on the strategies of risk management.

Present at this first edition were representatives of the Ministry of Industry, lanor (Algerian institute of standardization), Algérac (Algerian body of accreditation) and international consultants.

In April 2009, the Bank of Algeria mandated that all imported goods must undergo Pre-shipment Inspection in their country of origin by third party surveyors. A certificate of conformity ("Quality Control Certificate") must be issued for Customs clearance and negotiation of the shipping documents. Cotecna conducts inspections and issues the certificates for international exporters, therefore helping exporters meet the standards and present the required documents to the bank in a timely fashion.

April 10

Cotecna at the annual WCO IT conference

28 – 30 April, Cotecna participated in the annual IT conference organised by the WCO (World Customs Organization). This year it was held in Dublin, Ireland under the theme "Fusing Data to transform business processes".

34 exhibitors took part in the 3 day event that drew around 200 delegates from 60 countries. The objective of the conference is to allow Customs officers and their partners to meet a wide cross section of government and pri-

vate sector representatives to analyse how modern communication methods and technology can be best adapted to meet core Customs business needs.

The busy agenda included speeches, round tables, breakout sessions, panels etc. Cotecna was moderator of the panel "Border Surveillance and Data Integration" with a representative from the Australian Border Protection Command, and former Customs officials from the UK and Poland.



the Government of Uzbekistan for Cotecna to render Pre-shipment Inspection services.

The Uzbekistan Pre-shipment Inspection scheme is an integral part of the national trade facilitation and national economic development program whose objective is to speed up the flow of imports and exports by guaranteeing registration of a contract with the Ministry of Foreign Relations and International Trade, with Uzbek Customs and the Importer's bank.

Pre-shipment Inspection is mandatory for all imports to ensure that they comply with the standards and quality determined by Uzstandart.

Cotecna Inspection SA, whose office is in Tashkent, commenced operations in July 2010.

CERTIFICATION

January 10
Houston office certified ISO 9001:2008 with GAFTA scope

Cotecna Inspection's Houston office was certified ISO 9001:2008 with IFIA CoP audit and GAFTA (Grain and Feed Trade Association) scope. This certification will enable Cotecna US to further develop their commercial activities.

March 10
Cotecna accredited by the Uzbekistan Agency for Standardization, Metrology and Certification

In March, Cotecna Inspection SA was accredited by the Uzbekistan Agency for Standardization, Metrology and Certification (Uzstandart). This accreditation follows a mandate from

March 10
Cotecna Brazil becomes a member of IETHA

Cotecna Brazil Ltda joined IETHA, a non profit association founded in São Paulo in 2006 and whose activities support the international trade of ethanol.

IETHA is an independent organization and has 42 member companies involved in the production, transportation, storage, quality supervision, trading, and distribution of this renewable source of clean energy. Its mission is to; establish criteria to support international trade in ethanol; build procurement standards for the business and logistic standards for the export of the product; standardize quality specifications for ethanol fuel and its industrialization; ensure reliable standards of sustainability, and; seek the development of a global futures and options market. www.ietha.org

May 10
Cotecna receives FOSFA accreditation for lab in Paranaguá, Brazil



In May, Cotecna's laboratory in Paranaguá, Brazil, received Analyst Member accreditation from the Federation of Oils, Seeds and Fats Associations' Council (FOSFA). Cotecna's Paranaguá laboratory specializes in the testing of oilseeds, vegetable oils, protein meals and grains, and is also accredited by GAFTA (Grain and Feed Trade Association).

Cotecna, one of the world's leading international trade inspection, security and certification companies, has been present in Brazil since 1988 and employs trained surveyors in all major trade and export centres. Cotecna Brazil has laboratories in the ports of Santos and Victoria that specialize in the inspection and testing of sugar and ethanol. The office is also a member of SAL (The Sugar association of London).

Cotecna Brazil Ltda services cover the monitoring, inspection and testing of agricultural commodities during planting, harvest, stocking and transportation.

DONATION

January 10

Tiscan supplies electricity to Nkowe Secondary School



In January, Tiscan, Cotecna's Tanzanian subsidiary, celebrated the completion of their project to supply electricity to an entire school.

Tiscan financed electrification works at the Nkowe Secondary School, Tanzania. The school lacked the infrastructure for power distribution within the compound and buildings. Tiscan financed the project to extend the main Tanesco electricity supply to the school.

Tiscan's donation brought power to all classrooms, administration blocks and teachers' accommodation facilities thus opening the way for further education programmes such as computer classes, applied science and technology and evening tuition.

May 10

Cotecna Burkina Faso supports marginalised women in Burkina

Cotecna made a donation to an organisation that accommodates women who have been accused of sorcery. In May, at the initiative of the Cotecna Burkina staff, a donation ceremony was organized for the boarders of the Delwende Centre in Ouagadougou.

With the support of the Ministry for Social Action, this centre accommodates approximately 400 women who, accused of sorcery, have been banished from their villages. Separated from their families, these women are welcomed by the centre and spin raw cotton. Burkinabés have been terrified of "presumed sorcerers" for many generations but slowly the fear is subsiding and the idea that these women have perhaps been falsely accused is making headway.

The donation of food supplies and medicines was handed over during the ceremony which was symbolically organized on Mother's Day.



June 10

Cotecna Nigeria supports education and refurbishes junior school in Kano



In June, Cotecna Nigeria, inaugurated a newly refurbished building at a junior school in Kano in the North of the country in line with its commitment to Corporate Social Responsibility. Cotecna totally renovated a four-classroom block and administration office as well as supplying desks, benches and chairs for the 650 pupils and their 21 teachers. The building was re-roofed, the floors, walls, doors and windows were repaired or replaced and re-painted. The electrical and plumbing systems were completely reviewed and brand new sanitary facilities were installed. Ceiling fans and air-conditioning units were installed in the rooms at the school that is in a region where summer time temperatures can rise to close to 40°C.

The school was originally founded in 1986 by the Customs Officers Wives Association in a small room in their barracks. The school is now mainly privately run, though Customs continues to take an interest both operationally and financially. The Cotecna group actively practices a Corporate Social Responsibility policy in the areas of safe water, education and health.

Founded in Switzerland in 1974, the Cotecna group offers a wide range of trade facilitation services, trade security services and quality certification standards. Cotecna is a pioneer in areas such as risk management, destination inspection and scanner integration projects and also offers Customs modernization programmes, Customs valuation assistance, trade security solutions and commercial inspections. For a full description of our services, please visit www.cotecna.com. The Cotecna group has a combined workforce of about 4,000 employees and agents in close to 100 offices and holds 16 government inspection contracts.