

## Reminder to Meet Textile and Garment Origin Rules

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To: Textile and Garment Manufacturers  
Registered with the Export Certification Unit

We would like to remind all registered textiles and garment manufacturers to adhere strictly to the US rules of origin for garments that confer origin by "the assembly of parts into garments". Since **1 Jul 96**, the US has implemented the revised rules of origin for textiles and textile products to be exported to the US.

The US rules of origin circulated to you in an earlier Circular TDB RU 33/09/10 V5, dated 6 Aug 96, which informed you that origin is essentially conferred by "the assembly of parts into garments. For **multi-country processing of garments**, the rules are as follows:

- a. where a garment is assembled in more than one country, the country of origin of the garment is the single country in which the **most important assembly or manufacturing process occurred**; and
- b. where the country of origin of a garment cannot be determined under para (a) above, the country of origin of the garment is the **last country in which an important assembly or manufacturing process occurred**.

All textile garment manufacturers are to adhere strictly to the revised rules of origin. We take a serious view of companies who illegally export or tranship garments of foreign origin as Singapore-origin garments. The TDB has taken action against several garment manufacturers and quota brokers for falsely declaring foreign-origin garments and textiles as Singapore-origin in the Export Permits, Singapore Certificates of Origin, Export Licences or Textile Visas. Making a false declaration in these documents is an offence under the Regulation of Imports and Exports Act (Cap.272A). Violators have been heavily fined by the Singapore courts.

We would also like to remind you that one of the conditions of your registration with the Export Certification Unit (ECU) as a manufacturer requires you to maintain accurate and up to date records of your production. Such records are required by the TDB to verify the origin of your goods.

Please note that under Section 30 of the Regulation of Imports and Exports Act (Cap.272A), the TDB might require you to submit information regarding any of your import and export shipments. The information required may be related to garment and textile exports made by your company in the preceding two years from the date of issuance of the Certificate of Origin and Textile Visas. Therefore, you are advised to keep all necessary production records and supporting documents for the period in proper order and to produce them for the TDB's verification when required.

We would also like to draw your attention to para 9.3 of the Textile Quota (EDI) System User Agreement, which states that any breach of the Agreement's terms and conditions can result in the TDB taking any of the following action against the company/person:

- a. to withdraw and/or deduct any of the performance and/or tender quota allocated; and/or
  - b. disallow the transfer of performance and/or any tender quotas; and/or
  - c. bar the company from future performance quota allocation and/or tender applications;
- and

- d. the TDB will not refund any textile levy and/or any tender price which the company has paid for any performance and/or tender quota that has been withdrawn and/or deducted.

Please bring this notice to the attention of the relevant departments and personnel of your company.

MRS LAM MENG CHOO  
MANAGER  
EXPORT CERTIFICATION UNIT