

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) on Certificates of Origin

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To: All Traders, Freight Forwarders,
Cargo Agents and Carriers

We are pleased to list below for your information the answers to the FAQs by traders and declaring agents in applying for Certificate of Origin:

Question 1

What is a Certificate of Origin?

Answer

Certificate of Origin (CO) is a document issued by the authority in the issuing country to certify that the products are produced or manufactured in the country.

Question 2

What are the various types of Certificates of Origin available if I were to export from Singapore?

Answer

The nature and destination of the products for export determine the type of Certificate of Origin you need to apply. The various types of Certificates of Origin are:

- a. Ordinary Certificate of Origin - CO (Form TDB 3)
- b. Ordinary Certificate of Origin - CO (Form TDB 6) - for textile products exported to the EU only
- c. Generalised System of Preferences - GSP Form A
- d. Common Effective Preferential Tariff - CEPT Form D
- e. Commonwealth Preference Certificate - CPC (Form TDB 3)
- f. Global System of Trade Preferences Certificate - GSTP Certificate

You have to find out the types of products and the destination which you wish to ship to before you apply for the appropriate Certificate of Origin for your shipment.

Question 3

I recently applied for an Ordinary Certificate of Origin for a consignment of furniture to France. Will my importer be able to claim preferential tariff from his Customs Authority?

Answer

An Ordinary Certificate of Origin does not qualify your products for any preferential treatment in France. You should apply for the Certificate of Origin under the preferential Scheme ie. GSP Form A. With a GSP Form A, your importer would be able to claim preferential tariff upon clearance of the furniture in France.

Question 4

My company is manufacturing computers. Can my computers qualify for the EU GSP Scheme if I export to Belgium?

Answer

Under the revised EU GSP Scheme for 1995 - 1998, Singapore products falling under HS Chapters 84 and 85 are no longer eligible for the preferential treatment as of 1 Jan 96. The HS heading of your product is HS 84.71, which falls under this category.

Question 5

How can a product be considered as of Singapore origin?

Answer

For a product to qualify as of Singapore origin, it must be either:

- a. wholly obtained in Singapore i.e. wholly grown in Singapore or produced in Singapore without any imported materials e.g. aquarium fish born and bred in Singapore, orchids grown in Singapore; or
- b. manufactured in Singapore from materials and parts which are either wholly or partly imported whereby the local value-added must have at least 25% local content of the ex-factory price of the product .

Question 6

What is the local content requirement for the issue of the Ordinary Certificate of Origin for my audio products which are to be exported to EU?

Answer

For the applications for the Ordinary Certificate of Origin, the general rule is that the local content must be at least 25% of the ex-factory price of the product. However, for tape recorders and radios to qualify as of Singapore origin to be exported to the EU, the EU requirement is that the products must have a minimum local content of 45%.

Question 7

I am thinking of manufacturing garments in Singapore. Would my products qualify for an Ordinary Certificate of Origin?

Answer

To qualify for an Ordinary Certificate of Origin for exports of garments from Singapore, the product must comply with the following rules of origin:

- a. the cutting of fabrics into parts and the assembly of these parts into a complete article must be done in Singapore; and
- b. the local content must be at least 25% of the ex-factory price of the finished article.

You may wish to note that Singapore-made garments are subject to surveillance and quota control for exports to USA, EU, Norway and Canada. In this case, your garments must also comply with the rules of origin of the importing country which offers the textile quota.

Question 8

I am thinking of setting up an assembly or manufacturing operation in Singapore and would like to know under what circumstances the "Made in Singapore" label could be attached to the products?

Answer

Currently, we do not require any country of origin marking or label on the products when the products are exported from Singapore. However, we would advise that you check with the relevant importing country's authorities or your buyer for any such

labelling requirement.

Question 9

I would like to apply for an Ordinary Certificate of Origin. Where could I submit my application? Can I apply for an Ordinary Certificate of Origin for goods other than of Singapore origin?

Answer

You may submit your application for Ordinary Certificate of Origin to TDB for processing. TDB issues Ordinary Certificate of Origin only for goods manufactured in Singapore. Besides TDB, the following organisations are also authorised by TDB to issue the Ordinary Certificate of Origin for products of Singapore origin goods.

- a. Singapore Chinese Chamber of Commerce and Industry
- b. Singapore Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry
- c. Singapore International Chamber of Commerce
- d. Singapore Malay Chamber of Commerce
- e. Singapore Confederation of Industries
(formerly known as Singapore Manufacturers' Association)
- f. Singapore Commodity Exchange Ltd (for rubber products only)

These authorised organisations also issue Ordinary Certificate of Origin for products of other origin which are re-exported from Singapore.

Question 10

What is the Generalised System of Preferences (GSP)?

Answer

This is a system offering preferential tariff treatment for eligible products exported from developing countries (or beneficiary or donee countries) to the developed countries (or donor countries). The concessions granted can be in the form of reduced tariff or full exemption from tariff. The donor countries extending the concessions under this scheme for Singapore-origin products are:

- a. Australia (until Jun 96)
- b. Canada
- c. Czech and Slovak Republics
- d. European Union (except for items falling under the Chapters 84 & 85 of the HS Classification codes)
- e. Hungary
- f. Japan
- g. New Zealand (preference is extended to limited items)
- h. Norway
- i. Russian Federation
- j. Switzerland

If you have any enquiries on these questions and answers, please call the Customs Call Centre at Tel. No. 63552000.

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for TRADE DEVELOPMENT BOARD