



TRADE FORWARD
SOUTHERN AFRICA

KNOWLEDGE GUIDE SERIES

Registering as an Exporter in Lesotho



What this Knowledge Guide covers

- 1 Who must register as an exporter when exporting from Lesotho?
- 2 Important aspects to exporting from Lesotho
- 3 Paperwork and related resources

1 Who must register as an exporter when exporting from Lesotho?

Basic exporter requirements:

Potential exporters from Lesotho are required to undertake a number of steps to be able to export.

1 The business must be registered

A person wishing to export goods must be registered. This applies to individuals, companies and other entities that may have a tax obligation.

2 An export permit is needed

A trader must obtain a permit to export goods from Lesotho, a process that can be completed through the Ministry of Trade's One-Stop Business Facilitation Centre. The final step involves processing of the permit by the Lesotho Revenue Authority.

3 Special requirements

Certain goods may require additional export permits and formalities, such as minerals or certain agricultural goods.

Basic export requirements

A person or business planning to export goods valued at over M5,000 from Lesotho is required to obtain an export certificate. This process falls under the Ministry of Trade and Industry (MTI), and also involves Lesotho's revenue authority (LRA). It involves a few basic steps as set out below:

User registration

Businesses wishing to export register as a user through the Lesotho One Stop Business Facilitation Centre (OBFC)
Website link: www.obfc.org.ls/ or scan the QR link at base of this page.

Complete application form - exchange control declaration F178

The application form is reviewed and if successful, a blank export certificate is issued (see additional details below)

Submit the export certificate to Customs along with the required supporting documents

The completed export certificate must be stamped with an official business stamp of the applicant company, and be accompanied by a certified copy of the applicant's passport or national ID document, a certified copy of the manufacturing license as applicable, and the commercial invoice covering the goods to be exported. If approved, a formal export certificate is then issued to the applicant.

Exporting under Rebate 470.03 and Schedule 3

Registered exporters may avoid paying import duties on materials used for producing goods for non-SACU exports

View more information on licensing, permits, certification and procedures : bit.ly/Lesotho-Trade-Portal

2 Important aspects to exporting from Lesotho

One-Stop Business Facilitation Centre

Lesotho has developed a **One-Stop Business Facilitation Centre - OBFC** (also known as the One Stop Shop) to provide a number of business and trade-related services from a single central location. These include the issuance of import and export permits, visas, trading and manufacturing licences, work and residence permits and various company registration services.

Physical address:
Ministry of Trade and Industry
First floor LNDC Phase II
Kingsway, Maseru

Phone
(+266) 22326647
Website
www.obfc.org.ls

Practical steps to obtain export permits 1

- ▶ The **OBFC** manages an information system for the country's import and export processes, which begins with the applicant (with certified-copy of passport or national ID card) obtaining online access from the OBFC to the import / export system .
- ▶ The applicant completes the relevant application online with the user name created at the **OBFC**, prints it, signs the form and adds an official company stamp.
- ▶ The applicant obtains certified copies of his or her ID card, which is also required later when obtaining the final export permit.

Practical steps to obtain export permits 2

- ▶ A blank export permit is generated by the import/export system at the **OBFC**, and contains a unique serial number, as well as export destination and goods category details.
- ▶ The trader enters relevant details into the form (such as the goods to be exported) and adds a company stamp. This form is returned to the **OBFC** which endorses and stamp it.
- ▶ The stamped certificate is presented to the **Lesotho Revenue Authority (LRA)** for final processing.

View more : bit.ly/Lesotho-Regulations

Lesotho: Exporting under preference

Exporters from Lesotho enjoy preferential market access to many countries, either on a non-reciprocal basis (for example, to the United States using the AGOA preference scheme), or to countries with which Lesotho has a trade agreement, such as the United Kingdom, the European Union, or regionally with Member States of the SADC Free Trade Area. Preferential market access means that importers of Lesotho-made goods normally do not need to pay import duties, making them more competitive. Such preferences are only available when the product *originates* in Lesotho. The **Rules of Origin** as stipulated in each agreement specify the minimum local working and processing (or content) that is considered sufficient to confer 'Made in Lesotho' origin status.

3 Paperwork: Links to exporter registration forms and related resources

Scan the code with your phone or follow the abbreviated web links below

One-Stop Business
Facilitation Centre



bit.ly/Lesotho-OBFC

Lesotho
e-Regulations Portal



bit.ly/Lesotho-Regulations

Lesotho Trade
Information Portal



bit.ly/Lesotho-Tradeportal

Lesotho Revenue
Authority - Forms



bit.ly/LRA-Forms

Lesotho Trade Portal
Export and Import Forms



bit.ly/Lesotho-Exportforms

Lesotho Veterinary
Export Permits



bit.ly/Lesotho-Vetexports

Lesotho Business
Registration Steps



bit.ly/Lesotho-Busreg