



What this Knowledge Guide covers

- 1 Proof of origin in the UK - SACU+M Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA)
- 2 Certificates of origin (movement certificates) in the EPA
- 3 Conditions for making out an origin declaration (self-certification of origin)

1 Proof of origin in the UK SACU+M Economic Partnership Agreement

Since 1 January 2021, two-way preferential trade between the UK on the one part, and the SACU+M countries (Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho, Namibia, South Africa and Mozambique) on the other, is regulated under the provisions of the Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA).

Important general requirement: For products that are traded between the parties to benefit from these provisions, either a **certificate of origin** must be submitted to the customs authorities on importation, or under specific circumstances, an **origin declaration** made out by the exporter may serve as acceptable proof for purposes of warranting the origin status of the product.

2 What is a 'Certificate of Origin' and when is it required for exports to the UK?

A **certificate of origin** is a declaration, on a form, and typically completed by the exporter, that warrants that a product being shipped has the **economic origin** of a particular country. Only an **originating product** qualifies for **preferential market access**.

Since certificates of origin tend to be associated with goods shipped under a **preferential trade agreement**, the certificate of origin will be in a format prescribed by that trade agreement, and confirm that the goods covered by the certificate meet the **rules of origin criteria** that have been set out in that agreement. In essence, the certificate provides an **assurance to the customs authorities** in the importing country that the goods qualify for **preferential market access**.

MOVEMENT CERTIFICATE			
1. Exporter (Name, full address, country)		EUR.1 No A 000.000 <small>See notes overleaf before completing this form.</small>	
3. Consignee (Name, full address, country) (Optional)		2. Certificate used in preferential trade between _____ and _____ (Insert appropriate countries, groups of countries or territories)	
4. Country, group of countries or territory in which the products are considered as originating		5. Country, group of countries or territory of destination	
6. Transport details (Optional)		7. Remarks	
8. Item number, marks and numbers, Number and kind of packages (1) Description of goods		9. Gross mass (kg) or other measure (litre, m ³ , etc.)	10. Invoices (Optional)
11. CUSTOMS ENDORSEMENT Declaration certified Export document (1) From _____ No _____ Of _____ Customs office _____ Issuing country or territory _____ (Place and date) (Signature)		12. DECLARATION BY THE EXPORTER I, the undersigned, declare that the goods described above meet the conditions required for the issue of this certificate. (Place and date) (Signature)	

(1) If goods are not packed, indicate number of articles or date to bulk as appropriate.
(2) Complete only where the regulations of the exporting country or territory require.

What are the basic steps for obtaining a Certificate of Origin under the UK-SACU+M EPA?

- ➔ A certificate of origin can be obtained by the applicant (exporter or authorised representative) through the **local customs authorities** in the country of export.
- ➔ The certificate is **completed by the exporter** and contains a description of the goods, related product details, country of origin and destination.
- ➔ The completed certificate is **presented to the customs authorities for endorsement / stamping** (customs may also verify the veracity of the information provided by the exporter).
- ➔ **Customs issues the certificate of origin to the exporter** as soon as exportation of the goods has been effected or ensured.

When is a Certificate of Origin *not* required?

A certificate of origin is not required under the UK-SACU+M EPA in the following situations:

- Low-value consignments **below a certain threshold**.
- Consignments of any value when exported by **approved exporters**.

➔ Turn over for further details

What if your certificate is lost or destroyed, or contains minor errors?

Obtaining a duplicate certificate: There may be situations where an exporter requires a **duplicate** certificate of origin, or for a certificate to be issued retrospectively (see below). When a certificate is **lost or destroyed**, resulting in the importer no longer being able to claim preferential import status of the shipment, then the exporter may apply to local customs for a duplicate certificate to be issued. Such a certificate must be clearly marked '**DUPLICATE**', and bear the date of the original certificate.

Certificate issued retrospectively: A certificate may also be issued **retrospectively**, when errors or involuntary omissions resulted in the certificate not being issued at the time of exportation, or when it can be demonstrated that for technical reasons it was not accepted at importation. Such an application must be well motivated to customs, and any certificate issued retrospectively be marked '**ISSUED RETROSPECTIVELY**'.

3 When is a certificate of origin not required?

Under the provisions of the **UK - SACU+M EPA**, a **certificate of origin** must be completed (filled in) by the exporter, but is issued - typically with a unique exporter code - and endorsed by the local customs authorities. An alternative, and likely simpler process, is also provided for (such an option likewise applies to the **SADC-EU EPA** for exports to the EU) which allows exporters to make out their own **origin declarations**, certifying that the products being shipped fulfil the relevant **rules of origin** criteria.

An **origin declaration**, using a **prescribed text** (see details further down on this page) may be made out by an exporter by typing, stamping (or writing by hand, in ink in printed characters) on the "**invoice, delivery note or another commercial document**" a declaration that confirms the origin status of the goods.

All exporters may make origin declarations for **low value shipments**

When the value of a consignment consisting of one or more packages **does not exceed EUR 6,000*** in value, the exporter is not required to obtain a certificate of origin, but can make out an origin declaration.

* Or equivalent in local currency. The exchange rate of the currencies of the UK and the SACU+M countries against the EURO will be fixed annually by the countries concerned, as at 1 October of each year, and communicated to the UK and SACU Secretariat and Mozambique respectively.

Look up tariffs, taxes and rules to trade with the UK

Find out the UK rules and taxes that apply to your goods, including product-specific standards, duty and VAT, any import license requirements and the applicable UK commodity classification codes.

Scan the code



bit.ly/tradewithUK

Approved exporters may make origin declarations for **all shipments**

When an exporter makes frequent shipments under the terms of a trade agreement, the customs authorities of the exporting country may grant '**approved exporter**' status, based on the exporter being able to offer the necessary guarantees around verification of origin status and any other conditions deemed necessary.

- **Exporter is furnished with a unique customs authorisation number that must appear on each origin declaration.**
- **Exporter does not need to sign each declaration if local customs furnished with a written undertaking, taking responsibility for origin declarations in the exporter's name.**
- **Origin declaration is usually made at time of exportation, but can also be made later, provided that it is presented to customs of the importing country within 2 years after the date of importation to which the declaration refers.**

Prescribed text in the EPA for making out an origin declaration

English version

The exporter of the products covered by this document (customs authorisation No..... declares that, except where otherwise clearly indicated, these products are of..... preferential origin.

Portuguese version

O abaixo-assinado, exportador dos produtos abrangidos pelo presente documento (autorização aduaneira no., declara que, salvo indicação expressa em contrário, estes produtos são de origem preferencial

Other certification provisions

- **Validity of certificate of origin**
10 months from date of issue in the exporting country.
- **Submission of proof of origin**
The relevant procedures applicable in the importing country must be followed, which may include a translation, and the origin declaration to be accompanied by a statement from the importer confirming the origin status.
- **Discrepancies and formal errors**
Information in a proof of origin must be accurate; however, slight discrepancies and obvious formal errors (that do not create any doubts) will not as a direct consequence automatically render the proof of origin null and void.