

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

CPC/W/12

30 September 1974

Special Distribution

Preferential Arrangements Among
Developing Countries
Negotiated in GATT

COMMITTEE OF PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES

Rules of Origin

Note by the Secretariat

1. Annex A of the Protocol Relating to Trade Negotiations Among Developing Countries provides in paragraph 5 that not later than one year after the entry into force of the arrangement, the Committee of Participating Countries shall undertake a review of the rules of origin applied by the participating countries with a view to improving or harmonizing these rules or their application to products accorded preferential treatment, or for establishing common rules of origin, including provisions for treatment of imported components. The review should be based on the experience with the working of the rules of origin and on proposals put forward by governments, and be conducted in the light of the objectives of the arrangement.
2. Under paragraph 4 of Annex A, the Committee of Participating Countries may, at the request of a participating country, examine any instances of a lack of uniformity in the application of rules of origin as regards particular products or group of products, or any other problems related to rules of origin, that may affect substantively the conditions of importation of products covered by the concessions under the arrangements or that may affect the equitable operation thereof.
3. Paragraph 3 of Annex A states that the participating countries shall as soon as possible adopt a standard form for the certification of origin. In this respect, the form for certificate of origin adopted in the context of the GSP has, with appropriate modifications, been utilized on an interim basis.
4. At present each participating country applies its own rules of origin which have been notified to the participating countries. No request has been made to the Committee to examine any problems related to this matter.

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5. In a communication dated 9 August 1974 delegations were invited to inform the secretariat, no later than mid-September, of any problems which may have arisen in trading relationships under the Protocol in connexion with certification of origin (CPC/9, paragraph 8). The delegation of Brazil, by letter dated 27 August 1974, has advised that, at this stage, the Brazilian authorities have no comments on the question of certification of origin in connexion with trading relationships under the Protocol. The delegation of India, by letter dated 23 September 1974, has stated that, so far, the Indian authorities have not come across any problems in this respect.

6. Members may have some comments to offer in connexion with certification and rules of origin. Consideration might be given, *inter alia*, to present arrangements regarding rules of origin and whether any modifications might be required at this time or whether a further review may be undertaken at a later date in the light of practical experience over the coming months.