Harmonization of origin procedures: ICC’s initiatives to reinforce credibility of origin statements

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CO Activities

CO GUIDELINES

CO ONLINE TRAINING

CO Services

CO ACCREDITATION CHAIN

CO VERIFICATION WEBSITE
First edition of the CO Guidelines

Published in 2006, ICC WCF established the first International standard for chambers in the issuance procedures of non-preferential certificates of origin

- First guidelines of its kind on the Certification processes for chambers
- Translated in 6 languages
- Endorsed and supported by many international organizations
Need for update

There are however two particular reasons why this revision is timely:

• **Customs procedures are changing around the world**
  Digitalisation, self-certification and new technologies such as blockchain are impacting COs and the role of the chambers of commerce

• **The creation of the ICC WCF International Certificate of Origin Accreditation Chain (CO Chain)**
Second edition of the CO Guidelines

Launched on the occasion of the ICC 100th Anniversary, the new CO Guidelines aims to provide chambers of commerce and exporters with updates on new processes, including digitalization of the CO process.
Part A provides an overview about the latest development in the past decade, notably the rapid move towards digitalization.
Part B deals with the issuing procedures of non-preferential COs.

Part B
How chambers go about issuing COs
- B.I.—Dealing with Applicants and Issuing Procedures
- B.II.—Determination of Origin
- B.III.—General Conditions for Issuers
Part C explains the issuing process for preferential COs as a growing number of chambers of commerce around the world have been authorized by their governments to undertake this responsibility.
• Part D moves beyond the scope of the issue of COs to discuss the process of certification of trade documents by chambers of commerce, followed by legalization by appropriate authorities as required by a number of countries.
The Guidelines are divided into six parts: an Introduction and five content parts.

The Guidelines conclude with Part E, providing information about:
- the Certificate of Origin Council (CO Council)
- ICC WCF International Certificate of Origin Accreditation Chain (CO Chain)
- Certificate of Origin Verification website
ICC to build an **in-house engine and integrated interface** system which allows contracting chambers of commerce worldwide to certify invoice declaration in the framework of preferential origin in FTAs.

**Concept**

- Of his own choosing, an exporter shall apply online to the Chamber of Commerce to obtain the certification of its invoice declaration.

- As such, the invoice declaration becomes more trustworthy thanks to the certification made by the Chamber of Commerce.

- An importer receiving an invoice declaration seeing that the document has been certified by a Chamber of Commerce in the country of export, recognizes a reduced level of risk in the transaction.

**How does it work**
The Stakeholders

Providing an in-house system which allows upload of invoice declaration.
ICC to guarantee that the information is accurate, chambers can handle the verification of information.

Business stakeholders (for Genesis)

Manufacturer
It makes the good through a process involving raw materials, components, or assemblies.

Exporter
The exporter of the products shipped is the one declaring that the products are of preferential origin on its invoice.

Chamber of Commerce
Chambers to certify the invoice declaration which would add more credibility to the exporter’ self-certification.

Customs
Customs is the authority or agency agency in a country responsible for collecting tariffs and for controlling the flow of goods into and out of the country. The invoice declaration is checked by Customs.

Importer
An importer is the person or company liable for the payment of any duties and taxes on the imported merchandise.

The system will have two entries:
1. Certification system of the invoice declaration
2. Verification system for the QR code system
What is declaration of origin?

Declaration of origin allows the consignee to benefit from a reduction or waiver of customs duty and makes the customs process easier.

For example: The European Union has signed preferential agreements with some countries or groups of countries which are thus partially or entirely exempt from customs duty upon entering the destination country.
Looking at the growth of FTAs, the simple conclusion is that the complexity increasingly bewilders both importers and exporters.

Without an independent third party certifying these trade documents, the legal liability is disproportionate for importers.

Meanwhile, under various FTAs, exporters are obliged to make an invoice declaration solely by themselves. Such declaration is carried out by suppliers/exporters either on a voluntary basis or upon the request of customs authorities/importers.

No standardized application forms, procedures and requirements exist at the moment.

Rules of Origin are very important, complex and different in FTA's. Many FTA's can be confusing for exporters which might lead them to make mistakes in their origin statement.

Chambers of Commerce needs to reinforce its role by adding more credibility to self-certification (statement).
Example of Invoice declaration by the exporter

Annex 22-09
Invoice declaration

The invoice declaration, the text of which is given below, must be made out in accordance with the footnotes. However, the footnotes do not have to be reproduced.

French version
L'exportateur des produits couverts par le présent document (autorisation douanière no ... (1)) déclare que, sauf indication contraire, ces produits ont l'origine préférentielle ... (2) au sens des règles d'origine du Système des préférences territoriales généralisées de l'Union européenne et ... (3).

English version
The exporter of the products covered by this document (customs authorization No ... (1)) declares that, except where otherwise clearly indicated, these products are of ... preferential origin (2) according to rules of origin of the Generalized System of Preferences of the European Union and ... (3).

Spanish version
El exportador de los productos incluidos en el presente documento (autorización aduanera n° ... (1)) declara que, salvo indicación en sentido contrario, estos productos gozan de un origen preferencial ... (2) en el sentido de las normas de origen del Sistema de preferencias generalizadas de la Unión europea y ... (3).

(place and date) (4)
(Signature of the exporter; in addition the name of the person signing the declaration has to be indicated in clear script) (5)

(1) When the invoice declaration is made out by an approved European Union's exporter within the meaning of Article 7(1) of [Implementing Regulation (EU) 2015 ... laying down detailed rules for implementing certain provisions of Regulation (EU) No 952/2013], the authorisation number of the approved exporter must be entered in this space. When (as will always be the case with invoice declarations made out in beneficiary countries) the invoice declaration is not made out by an approved exporter, the words in brackets shall be omitted or the space left blank.

(2) Country of origin of products to be indicated. When the invoice declaration relates, in whole or in part, to products originating in China and Russia within the meaning of Article 102 of [Implementing Regulation (EU) 2015 ... laying down detailed rules for implementing certain provisions of Regulation (EU) No 952/2013], the exporter must clearly indicate them in the document on which the declaration is made out by means of the symbol 'CM'.

(3) Where appropriate, one of the following indications: ‘EU cumulation’, ‘Norway cumulation’, ‘Switzerland cumulation’, ‘Turkey cumulation’, ‘regional cumulation’, ‘extended cumulation with country x’ or

Step 1: Importer ask Exporter to certify its invoice declaration by its chamber of commerce OR the exporter can decide to give extra credibility to its invoice declaration

Step 2: Exporter goes to its Chamber’s portal. Upload of the invoice declaration in the Chamber’s system, access with own private account, pay the Chamber directly. Chamber will then pay a part to ICC.

Step 3: Treatment and (manual) validation by the Chambers officer. Genesis will be used as the centralized database/tool for delivering the credibility and verification. The exporter must upload information about the origin of the products. There will be no certification without proof of origin. It is the role of the exporter to send the correct proof of origin with his application to the Chamber.

Step 4: Certification by the Chamber through Genesis: an ICC Logo will be added to the invoice to prove the certification.

Step 5: Exporter to receive a notification and a secured link allowing verification on Genesis system. The exporter will receive his own export invoice with the ICC label for recognition.

Step 6: Exporter to notify the importer as well as Genesis system

Step 7: Importer can check on Genesis system