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How to - use the EUR1 Certificate



Chamber International 'How to Guide'

Many exporters trade with countries which have free trade agreements with the European Union, and in most cases the importers in these countries request an EUR1 certificate from the exporter. It may be the case that the exporter has never heard of an EUR1 before, or would most certainly not know how to use and issue one. This guide seeks to explain the purpose of the EUR1, and how it can give your products competitive advantage.

1) What is the EUR1 movement certificate?

The EUR1 can only be used if it can be proven that the goods you declare on the document are eligible for EU origin status or the origin status of the country trading with the EU. This means that the consignment must have been made in the EU or the country trading with the EU. However, there are certain rules what is meant by "origin".

2) What does "origin" mean?

Origin means that the goods covered by an EUR1 must:

- be made entirely in the EU or the country exporting the consignment; or
- have the majority of their content made in the EU or the country exporting them to the EU, with only a prescribed minimum of content made outside these areas; and

- that the tariff commodity code applying to the finished product must radically differ from the components or materials included in the product.
- Customs notices 828, 829 and 832 list the specific rules of origin for each particular product.

The exporter who issue an EUR1 must be able to prove the origin of the goods through his suppliers. The ideal backup support for this is a long term supplier's declaration (see Customs notice 827). When an exporter presents an EUR1 for authorisation, the accuracy of the document will be checked by the Chamber of Commerce. It may ask for evidence from the exporter in order to ensure that the origin rules have been met, such as a breakdown of all production costs and origin of materials. HM Revenue & Customs may also be required by the receiving country to verify origin up to three years after the issue of the certificate. Therefore, the exporter must retain evidence to support the origin of the goods for a minimum of three years.

3) How does the EUR1 work?

It is raised by the exporter and is endorsed by the local Chamber of Commerce on behalf of HM Revenue and Customs, copies of the certificate have the following functions:

- Top - green copy - travelling with the consignment and presented to Customs by the importer;

- Lower - white copy - remaining with the Chamber of Commerce.

Superimposed alterations or corrections are not allowed. Any alterations must be made by crossing out the original details as appropriate and making an endorsement signature.

For low value goods, an invoice declaration can be used instead of an EUR1, notice 827 gives the value limits and the appropriate declaration.

4) Which countries use the EUR1?

The EUR1 is used for preferential free trade with the following countries:

- Norway
- Iceland
- Switzerland
- Liechtenstein
- Morocco
- Algeria
- Tunisia
- Egypt
- Lebanon
- Jordan
- Israel
- Palestinian Authority
- Mexico
- Chile
- South Africa
- Croatia
- FYR Macedonia
- Albania
- Ceuta and Melilla (Spanish colonies in Morocco);
- Turkey (Agricultural and Coal & Steel products only).

While the following countries do not give preference, products originating in the EC in accordance with preferential rules of origin can be exported to them under a procedure known as donor country content arrangements. For further information please refer to Paragraph 9.6 of Notice 827. These countries are:

- The Western Balkans (Serbia, Montenegro, Kosovo and Bosnia Herzegovina).
- Some of the African, Caribbean and Pacific States (ACP), and Overseas Countries and Territories (OCT), details of which may be found in Volume 1 Part 7 of the Tariff. Paragraph 1.4 of Notice 827 also refers.

5)) Is there any supporting information to help explain the rules concerning preferential trade?

Yes. HM Revenue & Customs have produced several notices which can be downloaded at www.hmrc.gov.uk. They are:

- Notice 827 (How to complete the form)
- Notice 828 (Rules of origin)
- Notice 829 (Rules of origin Syria)
- Notice 832 (Rules of origin Mexico)