

CUSTOMS INFORMATION PAPER (11) 62

Tariff Preference: EU-South Korea Trade Agreement - Further Information

Who should read:	All involved with importing goods from, or exporting goods to South Korea
What is it about:	Further information about certain features of the major new reciprocal preferential trade agreement between the EU and South Korea which entered into force on 1 July 2011
When effective:	1 July 2011
Extant until/ Expires	Until further notice

1. Introduction

Customs Information Papers (11) 15 and (11) 50 provided information about the major new EU-South Korea preferential trade Agreement which entered into force on 1 July 2011. We have also published on our web site [A guide to the new Reciprocal Preferential Trade Agreement with South Korea](#)

The EU Commission has recently provided Member States with some further information which amends certain areas of the guidance. The Web Guide to the new reciprocal Agreement will be updated as soon as possible. In the meantime, this paper provides details of the changes:

2. The changes

(a) Monetary Limits for the use of low value origin declarations and for low value consignments for which no formal proof of origin is required

Changes to the exchange rates which Member States outside of the Euro zone must use to set the above limits has resulted in increases in the UK's Euro/sterling equivalents:

(i) Low value origin declarations

Any exporter in the UK and South Korea will now be able to issue the required origin declaration where the value of the consignment is no more than **£5700** (increased from £5390) and exporters who have **been approved by the**

customs authorities to do so will be able to issue declarations for consignments with a value in excess of that amount.

CIP (11) 15 advised UK exporters of the need to become approved to issue origin declarations for consignments with a value in excess of €6000.

(ii) Consignments for which no formal proof of origin is required

The following consignments can be exported to or imported from South Korea without the need for a formal proof of origin (Origin declaration):

- (i) **Private imports/exports in accompanied baggage** provided that the value of the consignment is no more than **£1140** (increased from £1070); and
- (ii) **Private imports/exports in unaccompanied baggage** provided that the value of the consignment is no more than **£470** (increased from £440).

(b) The format of approved exporter authorisation numbers issued in South Korea

Where the value of a consignment exported from South Korea under the new preferential arrangements is more than €6000 (£5700) the South Korean Exporter must be approved and include the approval number in the body of the origin declaration which must be inserted on the invoice or other commercial document, such as the packing list, accompanying the goods.

The South Korean authorities have advised that the format of approval numbers issued in their country will be as follows:

Three-digit identification number of the customs office issuing the authorisation
- year of authorisation (last two digits) - six-digit serial authorisation number

Example: 030-11-123456

(c) Time limit for the issue of retrospective origin declarations

Exporters in the EU and South Korea can exceptionally issue the required preferential declarations of origin after the goods have been exported.

The EU Commission has advised that the South Korean Authorities will only accept retrospective declarations which have been issued in the EU within a

year from the date of the importation into South Korea of the goods concerned.

UK exporters are therefore recommended to ensure that any necessary retrospective origin declarations are issued within a year from the date on which the goods were originally exported.

3. Contact

Yvette Belcher,
HM Revenue and Customs, Excise,
Customs, Stamps and Money,
Duty Liability, 10th Floor South-East,
Alexander House,
21 Victoria Avenue,
Southend-on-Sea,
SS99 1AA.
Tel: 01702 367721, FAX: 01702 367342,
E-Mail: yvette.belcher@hmrc.gsi.gov.uk

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If you have a question about the content of this paper please use the details provided in the Contacts section. For general HMRC queries speak to the VAT, Excise & Customs Helpline on Tel 0845 010 9000.

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