

JOINT CUSTOMS CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE **JCCC**

INFORMATION PAPER 04 (56)

TARIFF PREFERENCE: PREFERENTIAL TRADE AGREEMENT WITH MEXICO

Who should read:	All involved with exporting goods to from Mexico
What is it about:	Additional instructions issued by the European Commission to assist Customs Administrations / Operators in avoiding problems at importation into Mexico
When effective:	Immediately

1. INTRODUCTION

Since the entry into force of the EC – Mexico Trade Agreement on 1 July 2000, a number of difficulties have arisen - related in particular to the acceptance of proofs of preferential origin (EUR1 Certificates and/or Invoice Declarations) on importation into Mexico

The rejection of such proofs of origin can cause a number of problems – not least the potential loss of business.

In an effort to overcome these difficulties, the European Commission has produced a series of suggested actions that should go some way to ensuring any such problems are avoided in the future.

2. EUR1 CERTIFICATES

a) Box 1 - In Box 1 of the EUR1 Certificate, it is requested that the name / full address and the country of the exporter are entered. Compliance with this is strictly enforced in Mexico.

b) Boxes 2 and 4 - the mention of “Community” or “EC “ origin should be sufficient. If asked to, the names of individual Member States can be added as well as, but not instead of “Community” or “EC” origin.

c) Boxes 3, 6 and 10 – These boxes are all optional boxes. Certificates should not be rejected if these boxes are not completed. However, the Mexican authorities may reject Certificates where these Boxes are filled in, but contain incomplete or incorrect information. It is therefore recommended that these 3 Boxes are left blank.

d) Box 8 – The description of the goods must be in accordance with commercial practices and in sufficient detail to enable them to be identified. The authorities in Mexico tend to compare such descriptions with that on any accompanying invoice.

The goods must be described in sufficient detail to enable them to be identified. It is also recommended that wherever possible, the descriptions on the Certificate and Invoice match up.

Additionally - in line with the heading of Box 8 - Mexican internal regulations require for an Item number to precede each product. The description of any product should be preceded with an Item number (also applies to marks and numbers indicated on the boxes/packaging).

e) Box 8 - It is compulsory to indicate the Tariff Heading to 4-Digit level (eg 8528), although a more specific classification can be given.

However, problems may arise should Mexico and the EC have different views on the exact tariff classification of a product. By limiting any indication of tariff classification to the required 4 digits, then the risk of rejection should be eliminated.

3. INVOICE DECLARATIONS

a) Documentation - According to the terms of the Agreement, an “invoice declaration” can be made out on an invoice or on another commercial document. According to the Mexican authorities, this alternative is limited to those explicitly mentioned in the Agreement – ie Delivery Note, Bill of Lading and Packing List.

If for whatever reason a declaration cannot be put on an invoice, then exporters should restrict themselves to these 3 alternatives.

b) Approved Exporters – Each Approved Exporter is granted a number, which follows an indicative structure.

The Mexican authorities have details of the format / structure of Approval numbers issued by all Member States.

There should be no deviation from this structure. If exporters are in any doubt, then they should contact the office that issued them with the number.

4. EUR1 CERTIFICATES AND INVOICE DECLARATIONS

Both EUR1 Certificates and Invoice Declarations may be issued in any of the 20 official languages of the EC.

However, it is not unusual for the Mexican authorities to request a translation whenever a proof of origin is not completed in English or Spanish.

If the Certificate/Declaration has to be in another language, then it is recommended that a free translation (on a separate piece of paper) in English / Spanish accompanies the official Certificate.

5. FURTHER INFORMATION

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