



The Indian Silk Export Promotion Council

(Sponsored by Ministry of Textiles Govt. of India)
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ISEPC Cir NO 46-4/2020-21

7th April 2020

To: All Members of the Council;

Subject: Letters from Embassies / Consulate on Certificate of Origin under Trade Agreements: Reg:

Dear Member,

We wish to inform you that regard to the issuance of **Certificate of Origin**, we have received a message from the Office of the Addl.DGFT, Mumbai forwarding important communications from – Embassy of India (Tokyo), Embassy of India (Seoul) and Consulate General & Trade Centre of Argentina (Mumbai) addressed to Members of Trade.

In a communication received from Embassy of India in Tokyo (copy of the message enclosed) at ANNEXURE-A they have informed that with the current situation Japan Customs has decided to accept post importation submission of Certificate of Origin (CO), if it is difficult for the importer to submit its CO at the time of importation due to unavoidable reasons caused by the spread of the novel coronavirus infection, such as the case in which the authority has suspended the issuance of CO.

Also, Embassy of India in Seoul has received a reply from Korea Customs Service (copy of the letter enclosed) ANNEXURE-B to India's concern over the delayed submission of import/export documents and the resulting problems with clearance of goods from India. Korea Customs have informed that in cases of delayed issuance of certificates of origin for India-originating goods, they will allow importers to postpone tariff payments and make post-importation claim for preferential tariff treatment when they are able to submit certificates of origin subsequently.

Consequently, Consulate General & Trade Centre of Argentina Republic, Mumbai vide its letter (copy of the letter enclosed) ANNEXURE-C has informed that operations in Argentina Ports are taking place without difficulties.

Letters/messages received in this regard are enclosed for your information and ready reference.
Thanks n regards,

Sanjeev Kr Sharma
Sr Director – ISEPC
New Delhi, India
Mobile #: +9899573797

Encls: a/a

Message from Japan Customs to Embassy of India, Tokyo

- (i) Given the current situation, Japan Customs decided to accept post importation submission of Certificate of Origin (CO), if it is difficult for the importer to submit its CO at the time of importation due to unavoidable reasons caused by the spread of the novel coronavirus infection, such as the case in which the authority has suspended the issuance of CO.
- (ii) In addition, Japan Customs can also accept submission of CO (PDF files, etc.) electronically if it fulfills all of the following conditions.
 - Color image (Not monochrome)
 - With resolution of 200dpi or more
 - Clear and easily identifiable
- (iii) As a matter of course, as is provided for in IJCEPA, CO which is issued retrospectively after the shipment is acceptable.
- (iv) Overall, when the issuing authority issues a CO at a later point in time, Japan Customs will accept that an importer submits it in paper or electronically, regardless of whether it is submitted at the time of importation, on the understanding that such issuance will be implemented in accordance with relevant provisions of IJCEPA. (However, this does not mean that a waiver of the CO. It is required to be submitted as soon as it is obtained.
- (v) Japan is on the same page with India about that the recent negative influence of the CO-VID 19 on CO issuance by the issuing body.
- (vi) Finally, recognizing the importance of trade facilitation between India and Japan, Japan would like to continue discussion to remove obstacles to utilization of the IJCEPA, including your proposal on electronic CO presented in the Sub-Committee on Rules of Origin last year.

MoFA has also mentioned that traders may be informed to contact Japan Customs through the importer/exporter in Japan, if they have any questions in this regard.

Regards

Abhishek Bahuguna
ASO, E&C Wing
Embassy of India, Tokyo

April 6, 2020

Ms. Nayantara Dabariya
Secondary Secretary for Commerce
Embassy of India in Seoul

Dear Ms. Nayantara Dabariya,

On behalf of Korea Customs Service, I would like to express our gratitude to you for sending the letter on difficulties facing Indian exporters in sharing physical copies of the documents to Korea Customs Service.

We fully understand that the COVID-19 outbreak and the subsequent lockdown by the Government of Indian have severely affected the flow of goods and services.

Regarding your concerns about delayed submission of import/export documents and the resulting problems with clearance of goods from India, the following is our responses.

In cases of delayed issuance of certificates of origin for India-originating goods, we will allow importers to postpone tariff payments and to make a post-importation claim for preferential tariff treatment when they are able to submit certificates of origin subsequently.

In addition, scanned copies of commercial documents are already accepted for clearance of goods.

Since difficulties caused by the COVID-19 outbreak are facing both India and Korea, in connection with the above-mentioned matters, we request you to take mutually reciprocal actions to goods exported from Korea.

Hopefully, Korea and India could overcome the coronavirus crisis wisely, and this effort of cooperation will be an opportunity to enhance close relations and effective commutation between the two countries.

Sincerely,

Mr. Im, Hyun-Cheol
Director for Origin Verification Division
FTA Implementation Bureau
Korea Customs Service

임현철



Mumbai, 6 April 2020

Dear Sir/s,

Regarding recent rumors and disinformation related to Argentine grains, grains byproducts and biofuels exports, the Consulate General and Trade Promotion Centre of the Argentine Republic in Mumbai informs that operations in Argentine ports are taking place without difficulties.

Furthermore, please note

Ports: the 22 Argentine ports of grains and byproducts are open and operating normally.

Shipments: agreed shipments are timely fulfilled.

Grain exports: reception of grains at ports and processing plants for export has been normalized.

Reception of ships from countries with positive cases of COVID19: preventive and control measures were implemented in cooperation with national authorities' guidelines; ships are allowed to enter the ports accordingly.

Yours sincerely,



GUILLERMO E. DEVOTO
CONSUL GENERAL