



PROFIT

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Certificates of origin

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Certificates of origin

1. Introduction

Certificates of origin (CO) verify a product's country of origin and state where the product was manufactured, produced or processed, though this can become more complicated when raw materials come from one country and a product is then manufactured in another. In essence, they provide evidence of the nationality of the product and will satisfy the Customs authorities who normally require a certificate of origin as part of the clearance process for importing goods. They are required by countries that apply tariffs to goods from certain countries or that have import quotas. For countries that share trade agreements, they will provide the evidence required for reduced tariffs. There are thus two kinds of CO: non-preferential and preferential.

2. Securing a certificate of origin

Certificates of origin are usually issued by chambers of commerce. They will be able to tell you if you need one and, if you do, how to go about getting it. You will need one for every shipment. You may be able to apply online, or you may have to complete a form and then have it approved and stamped by the chamber. Your freight forwarder may be able to handle this for you. Some countries require that the certificate is 'legally' approved by their embassy or Ministry of Foreign Affairs, which can be time consuming.

2.1. Cambodia

To be eligible for a CO, a business must be registered with the Department of Trade Preferences and must have concluded product registration procedures before applying for a CO. Registration, both by company and product to be exported, has to be renewed annually.

Cambodia issues preferential certificates of origin for exports to India (form AI) and Vietnam (form S). Countries within the general system of preferences (LDC and LLDC) require form A and non-preferential countries require form N. The issuing authority in Cambodia is the Export-Import Department at the Ministry of Commerce. Full details are available on the

Cambodia Customs website (see <http://www.customs.gov.kh/procedures-of-other-relevant-ministries/certificate-of-origin/>)

The Ministry is moving to an automated process for issuing COs. This is currently under trial for any exporter who wishes to participate.

2.2. India

The Indian Chamber of Commerce issues non-preferential certificates to members and non-members. Full details are available at <https://www.indianchamber.org/services/certificate-of-origin/>.

It is also possible, however, to apply for COs, including preferential COs, through a web interface (see <https://coo.dgft.gov.in/>).

2.3. Thailand

The Thai Chamber of Commerce is authorised to issue non-preferential COs. There is a free trade agreement between India and Thailand, so in this case a preferential form will be required.

2.4. Vietnam

The Ministry of Industry and Trade issues certificates of origin but it has also authorised the Vietnam Chamber of Commerce and Industry to issue certificates. Businesses in Vietnam wishing to apply for COs need to register their trade dossier before they are able to apply. See <https://vcci-hcm.org.vn/activities/certificate-of-origin/c-o-issuance-procedure/> for further details. The process is available electronically.

3. Information requirements

The certificate of origin will need to include:

- The exporter's name and contact information
- The producer's name and contact information (if different from the exporter)
- The buyer's name and contact information
- A description of the goods including the HS code, quantity and weight

 The country of origin

There may be the option to include further details such as means of transport and route, commercial invoice number etc. There is no need to give this additional information but it may speed up the process of clearance if information is all available in one place.

4. Further information

In addition to the links for information already mentioned in the text above, the International Chamber of Commerce has a good introduction. See [iccwbo.org/resources-for-business/certificates-of-origin/](https://www.iccwbo.org/resources-for-business/certificates-of-origin/).

The International Chamber of Commerce has established a certificate of origin verification website to enable customs authorities and others to verify authenticity. For more information, see [iccwbo.org/resources-for-business/certificates-of-origin/certificates-origin-verification-website/](https://www.iccwbo.org/resources-for-business/certificates-of-origin/certificates-origin-verification-website/)

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