

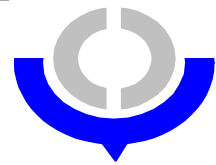
# Simplifying administrative procedures related to Origin Certification

UNCTAD Workshop on Preferential Rules of Origin

9 April 2014

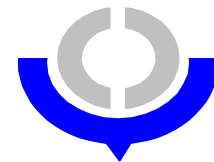
Geneva, Switzerland

Mette Werdelin Azzam  
Technical Officer  
Origin Sub-Directorate  
World Customs Organization  
[Mette.azzam@wcoomd.org](mailto:Mette.azzam@wcoomd.org)



# WTO Agreement

- WTO Agreement on Rules of Origin
  - No mentioning of origin certification
  - No mentioning of procedural requirements

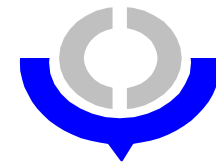


# Revised Kyoto Convention (RKC)

- General Annex – Chapter 3

## 3.16. Standard

In support of the Goods declaration the Customs shall require **only those documents necessary** to permit control of the operation and to ensure that all requirements relating to the application of Customs law have been complied with.

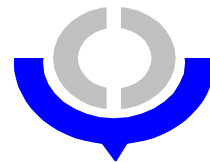


# Revised Kyoto Convention (RKC)

- Specific Annex k – Chapter 2

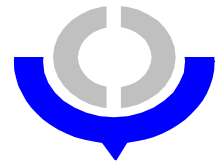
## 2. Recommended Practice

Documentary evidence of origin should be required **only when it is necessary** for the application of preferential Customs duties, of economic or trade measures adopted unilaterally or under bilateral or multilateral agreements or of measures adopted for reasons of health or public order.



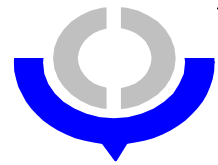
# Legal framework

- Conclusion
  - No international discipline regarding requirements for documentary proofs of origin
  - But **“only when it is necessary”**



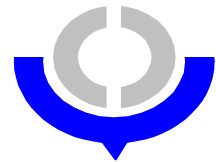
# Legal framework

- Non preferential origin
  - National legislation (in accordance with RCK and the WTO Agreement on Rules of Origin)
- Preferential origin
  - Relevant preferential trade agreement (concluded between the contracting parties in accordance with RKC and the WTO principles)



# Issuance of Certificates of Origin

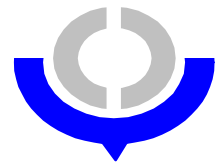
- Non preferential origin
  - Chamber of Commerce
  - Ministry of Commerce
  - Customs (sometimes only for visa)
- Preferential origin
  - Customs
  - Competent authority according to the FTA



# Issuance of Certificates of Origin

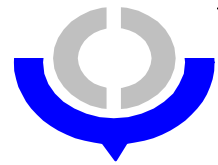
- Requirements
  - Formal
  - Factual
- Authentic certificates and stamps
- The true origin of the goods





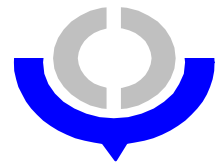
# Preferential Proof of Origin

- Validity: 10 months (in most agreements)
- Invoice declaration
  - Approved/registered exporter (no value limit)
  - Others: if the value of the consignment does not exceed XX
- Exemption from proof of origin
  - Travelers' personal luggage
  - Shipment of small packages
  - Occasional importations (personal and non commercial)



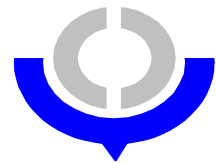
# Documentary Proofs of Origin

- Requirements according to the Preferential Trade Arrangement in question
  - Certificates of origin
    - Paper Certificate of Origin
    - Electronic Certificate of Origin
  - Self-certification
    - Invoice declaration
  - No certificate
    - Importer declaration (align the advantages with the responsibility)



# WCO Study on Non Preferential Certificates of Origin

- Result 2002
  - 15 % never request a certificate
  - 16 % always request a certificate
- Result 2013
  - 11 % never request a certificate
  - 8 % always request a certificate
- The majority of Members request a non preferential certificate of origin in some cases



# WCO work in relation to certification

- World Trends in Preferential Origin Certification and Verification
- Studies on the use of Non Preferential Certificates of Origin (2002, 2005 and 2013)
- Revision of the RKC Specific Annex K
  - Guidance materials, guidelines, standards etc.