



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
SECRETARIAT-GENERAL

Service for the EU-UK Agreements
EU-UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement

Brussels

Dear Markus,

As you know, it has always been a priority for the Commission to work closely with EU businesses to prepare for the effects of the United Kingdom's withdrawal from the EU. Against this backdrop, I am contacting you with a reminder of a few significant changes coming up at the end of this year.

Since 1 January 2021 trade between the European Union and the United Kingdom is governed by a free trade agreement (the Trade and Cooperation Agreement). Therefore, importers must be able to demonstrate – among other things – the preferential origin of the goods in order to claim the preferential origin granted under the TCA.¹

To facilitate the uptake of the preferential tariff measures foreseen in the Trade and Cooperation Agreement between the EU and the United Kingdom, the Commission adopted legislation² enacting a transitory period during which EU exporters could make out statements on origin based on supplier's declarations even in the absence of complete documentation, provided that they were able to have it by the end of that period.³

EU exporters should be aware that:

This transitory period comes to an end on 31 December 2021 and will not be extended.

By 1 January 2022, exporters must possess all relevant suppliers' declarations. Exporters who fail to do so must inform importers of this fact no later than on 31 January 2022.

I count on your support in raising awareness of these specifics among your members.

The sectoral readiness notices published by the Commission remain valid and relevant.⁴ Where necessary, they have been updated earlier in the year to reflect the Trade and Cooperation Agreement (e.g. notices on public procurement or on tariff rate quotas).

Yours sincerely,

Richard SZOSTAK
Acting Head of Service

¹ See introductory guide to TCA rules of origin: https://ec.europa.eu/taxation_customs/system/files/2021-07/introductory_guide_tca_rules_of_origin.pdf

² Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2020/2254 of 29 December 2020

³ See stakeholder notice of 5 February 2021: https://ec.europa.eu/taxation_customs/system/files/2021-06/eu-uk_tca_2021_guidance_on_suppliers_declarations_0.pdf

⁴ See repository of readiness notices: https://ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/relations-non-eu-countries/relations-united-kingdom/new-normal/consequences-brexit_en

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