

## THE AUTHORIZED EXPORTER STATUS

### Benefits for the exporter and beneficiary countries

The status of authorized exporter is a facility provided for by the Community customs legislation and the preferential agreements signed by the EU with certain third countries (so-called Accord countries).

The authorized exporter can issue declarations of preferential origin on an invoice regardless of the value of the exported goods. These declarations replace the Eur1 certificates of origin as proof of the preferential origin of the goods.

This benefit is issued by the customs authorities, which allow both **production and commercial companies to be able to certify, directly on the invoice, the preferential origin of the products exported in the agreement countries**, rather than by issuing the Eur1 certificate, even when the value of the products exported exceeds **6,000 euros**.

It should be remembered that for amounts below this value, in fact, the declaration of preferential origin on invoice is allowed, without any customs authorization.

The main [ADVANTAGES](#) linked to the status of authorized exporter are:

- elimination of customs waiting times for issuing the Eur1 Certificate
- cancellation of the costs associated with the issuance of the Eur1 certificate
- reduction of the risks of error, also criminally sanctioned, in relation to any discrepancies between what is indicated on the invoice and what is reported in the Eur1

[FUNDAMENTAL REQUIREMENTS](#) for obtaining the status of authorized exporter

- **Regular exports** (the number is not relevant, but the **regular frequency** towards the country / countries considered). In the agreement signed between the EU and South Korea, however, this requirement is not required: since the Korean authorities do not accept Eur1 certificates, for exports, even occasional ones, exceeding 6000 euros it is still necessary to affix the declaration on invoice, and then request the status of authorized exporter.
- **Preferred origin** of the goods to be exported (it is assumed that the operator knows the preferential rules of origin applicable to the products he exports and that he is in possession of all the supporting documents allowing a verification, such as the declarations of preferential origin issued by the providers).

The granting of the status of approved exporter is subject to the presentation of a **written request** by the exporter.

The application for authorization must be complete with all the [information necessary for the verification](#) by customs officials of the possession of the requirements:

- **frequency** of foreign trade
- **description of the production** and / or commercial processes that determine the acquisition of the preferential origin of the products

- **knowledge of the rules relating to preferential agreements** and rules of origin applicable to exported products.

In particular, the status will be issued if the exporter is able to prove, at any time, **the original nature** of the goods to be exported and if he is able to provide sufficient guarantees on the original nature of the goods concerning his past and present activities on the subject of export.

In the instance, the operators can request the granting of the benefit with reference to one or more countries, or for all the countries or groups of countries that provide for such relief in the ambit of the preferential regimes adopted by the EU.

### **AUTHORIZATION RELEASE**

When the authorization is issued, **the exporter must:**

- undertake to issue invoice declarations only for the goods for which it possesses the proofs or accounting elements at the time of the transaction.
- take full responsibility in the event of improper use of the declaration of origin or authorization.
- take responsibility that the person representing the company knows the rules of origin to comply with the relevant legislation.
- undertake to keep any documentary evidence for a period of at least 3 years starting from the date of the declaration
- undertake to submit to the Customs, at any time, each item of evidence and to accept to be checked at any time by the same authority.

The competent customs authority, at the end of the investigation and following an **audit** at the company to verify the possession of the requirements, will issue the economic operator with an **alphanumeric code** that identifies him as an authorized exporter and that he will have to quote on the invoice together with the declaration of preferential origin. This code is composed as follows:

ISO code of Italy / Authorization number with progressive numbering of the Office issuing the authorization / **Reference of the province** where the territorially competent Regional Directorate is located / Last two digits of the year of release.

Therefore, the **declaration of origin on the invoice** of the approved exporter will have the following content:

The exporter of the goods covered in this document [customs authorization no. IT / 001 / PR / 14] declares that, unless otherwise stated, the goods are of preferential EC origin.

By affixing the alphanumeric code, the exporter's handwritten signature can also be omitted (while in the case of a declaration of origin on the invoice without affixing this code, the exporter's handwritten signature is necessary).

According to the provisions of Circular No. 97 of 29/4/1999 of the Customs Agency, also taken up in Circular No. 54 / D of 10/1/2004, *"it is necessary to verify, on a regular basis, the activity of the authorized exporter in order to check the correct use of the authorization"*, which can therefore be subject to **periodic checks**.

The status of authorized exporter, with the related benefits, can therefore be revoked by the customs authorities if the loss of one of the requirements is established.

The countries with which the EU has signed bilateral preferential agreements (or Free Trade Agreement - FTA) are the following:

#### EFTA countries

- Switzerland
- Norway
- Iceland
- Farøe Islands (Denmark)
- European Economic Area (EU, IS, LI, NO).

#### Mediterranean countries

- Turkey, for unprocessed agricultural products and for former ECSC products. The Customs Union with the EU applies to processed agricultural products and industrial products
- Algeria
- Tunisia
- Morocco
- Israel
- Est Palestine and Gaza Strip
- Egypt
- Jordan
- Lebanon
- Syria

#### Balkan countries

- Macedonia Republic of Macedonia
- Albania
- Bosnia-Herzegovina
- Montenegro
- Serbia

#### Other countries and territories

- Andorra, for agricultural products not included in the Customs Union with the EU
- South Africa
- Mexico
- Chile
- Sud South Korea
- Peru: provisional application from 1 March 2013
- Colombia: provisional application from 1 August 2013

### Central America

- Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama: provisionally effective from 1 August 2013
- Costa Rica: entered into force provisionally from 1 October 2013
- El Salvador: provisionally effective from 1 October 2013
- Guatemala: provisionally effective from 1 December 2013

### ACP Countries

- Papua New Guinea: agreement entered into force on 20 December 2009
- Madagascar, Mauritius, Seychelles, Zimbabwe: agreement provisionally in force since May 14, 2012.

The EU has also concluded free trade agreements that **have not yet entered into force** with: Singapore, Moldova, Armenia, Georgia, Ukraine, while it **has started negotiations** with: US, Japan, Canada, Vietnam, Malaysia, Thailand, Mercosur area, others ACP countries.