

INTRODUCTION

The decisions taken by the Technical Committee on Rules of Origin since the inception of the Harmonization Work Programme were scattered in working matrices, referral documents and reports. The Technical Committee decided to reproduce in a single publication all origin rules that have so far been developed or evolved as well as the proposals that are still under discussion in the Technical Committee or have been submitted to the Committee for consideration. This is to provide Members with a complete and ever-updating compendium - the "Consolidated Text", for ease of reference, comparison and the grasping of a comprehensive picture of all decisions on rules of origin so as to further enhance the efficiency of the work of the Harmonization Programme.

The Consolidated Text also indicates the decisions made by the Committee on Rules of Origin as reproduced in the consecutive versions of WTO doc. G/ROW/22.

This Consolidated Text puts together the following :

- **Agreement on Rules of Origin***

The legal basis for the Harmonization Work Programme. This part is included to facilitate Members to make reference to the Agreement whenever necessary.

- **General Rules - Minimal Operations or Processes**

This covers the general principles on how the harmonized rules of origin should be structured and interpreted. There are a total of 6 General Rules under development.

- **Appendix 1 – Definitions of Wholly Obtained Goods**

This Appendix is made up of two parts, in which both the definitions elaborated by the Technical Committee and the decisions taken by Committee are recorded.

- **Appendix 2 - Product Specific Rules**

In this Appendix, the origin rules are presented chapter by chapter. Against each rules, the decisions taken by both Committees as well as the relevant referral documents are indicated.

* The Agreement contains 2 annexes and the agreed origin rules will constitute the third one, Annex 3. Consequently, upon completion of the Harmonization Work Programme, the above-mentioned General Rules and Appendices 1 to 3 may be wrapped up to form Annex 3, which as prescribed in Article 9. 4 of the Agreement on Rules of Origin, is an integral part of the Agreement.

- **Appendix 3 – Definitions of Minimal operations or processes**

Appendix 3 has been deleted by the Technical Committee. It is maintained in the Consolidated Text, because it contains some decisions taken by the Committee, following earlier views and opinions submitted for endorsement by the Technical Committee.

- **Information of interest**

This part serves to give additional information to Members and interested parties about the Harmonization Work Programme. Included in this part is three lists of information concerning respectively the plenary sessions and intersessional discussion groups, the issues referred to the Committee for decision, and a compilation of referral documents.

This Consolidated Text will be updated by means of supplementary sheets, to make it more comprehensive and reflective of all new origin rules elaborated by the Technical Committee on Rules of Origin or of any subsequent change made to them as deemed necessary.

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