



WORLD CUSTOMS ORGANIZATION
ORGANISATION MONDIALE DES DOUANES

2008 World Customs Forum

Getting to grips with origin

Brussels, 16-17 June 2008

A two-day Conference on rules of origin around the world

Conference co-chaired by

Professor Hans-Michael Wolfgang
Institute of Tax Law, Dept. of Customs and Excise, University of Münster

Antoine Manga
Tariff and Trade Affairs Directorate, World Customs Organization

Target audience

Specialists in international trade, business and taxation issues, senior Customs officials, tax officials, trade negotiators, lawyers, consultants, accountants, auditors, supply chain managers, international traders, financial controllers, Customs brokers, freight forwarders, academics, researchers and representatives from relevant international organizations.

For more information about the Conference, go to the WCO Events Website:

<http://events.wcoomd.org>

PROGRAMME (02 June 2008)

DAY 1: MONDAY 16 JUNE 2008	
08.30	Registration
10.00	Opening address <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Mr. Michel Danet, Secretary General, World Customs Organization, Belgium
10.30	Moderator's remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Professor Dr. Hans-Michael Wolfgang, Institute of Tax Law, Dept. of Customs and Excise, University of Münster, Germany
Session 1	The problematic issue of rules of origin
10.30	<p>The current background to rules of origin and their importance for trade, the multiplication of preferential agreements and the complexity of these rules.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Professor Olivier Cadot, University of Lausanne, Switzerland
11.00	<p>The definition of origin: the difference between preferential and non-preferential origin</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Mr. Pierre-Paul de Vaucher, Technical Attaché, World Customs Organization, Belgium
11.20	<i>Refreshment and networking break</i>
11.50	<p>Progress with the negotiations on the harmonization of non-preferential rules of origin: state of play</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Mr. Eki Kim, Counsellor, Market Access Division, World Trade Organization, Switzerland
12.20	Discussion
12.45	<i>Lunch and networking break</i>
Session 2	Familiarization with the latest rules of origin developments around the globe
14.15	<p>What are the latest trends in preferential agreements? What is happening in emerging countries? What new or future mechanisms are being implemented by the European Union (EPAs with ACP countries, Euro-Med cumulation, GSP)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Mr. Liu Ping, Head, Origin Division, General Administration of Customs of the People's Republic of China, China ▪ Mr. Álvaro L. Ribeiro, Head of the Nomenclature, Classification and Origin of Goods Directorate, Brazilian Federal Revenue and Customs Administration, Brazil ▪ Mr. Miroslaw F. Zielinski, Director Customs Policy, TAXUD, European Commission, Belgium
15.40	Discussion

16.00	<i>Refreshment and networking break</i>
Session 3	How to get to grips with the different systems of rules of origin on a daily basis : the experience of companies
16.30	<p>Dealing with the plethora of rules of origin. Companies wishing to take advantage of preferential rules of origin must do all in their power to understand their complexity. How can one make the most of rules of origin? What tangible benefits can be gained from the cumulation rules? Can one choose not to seek preferential tariff treatment? Is it worth extricating oneself from the procedures involved in preferential origin (certificates of origin, record-keeping)?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ms. Michèle Petitgenet, Director Import / Export, Printemps S.A, France ▪ Mr. Bernd Stadler, Head of International Customs Affairs, Hugo Boss AG, Germany ▪ Ms. Karin Jung, Head of Economy and Statistics Department, Swiss Textile Federation, Switzerland ▪ M. Mathias Petzold, Customs Counsel, Europe, Middle East, Africa, Delphi Corporation, United States
17.50	Discussion
18.00	<i>Close of Day 1 and cocktail</i>

DAY 2 : TUESDAY 17 JUNE 2008	
08.30	Registration
09.30	<p>Introduction and presentation of Day 2 of the Conference</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Professor Dr. Hans-Michael Wolfgang, Institute of Tax Law, Dept. of Customs and Excise, University of Münster, Germany
Session 4	Lawyers' perspectives
9.40	<p>Sound advice is often required prior to using rules of origin. In the event of doubt as to the origin, it is best not to request a preferential procedure. Is the origin disputed? Does the certificate of origin contain inconsistencies? What procedure should be followed in the event of a dispute? What decisions can be challenged? Can the importer demonstrate good faith?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Mr. Fabrice Goguel, Lawyer, SCP Goguel Monestier Vallard and Partners, France ▪ Mr. Michael E. Murphy, Partner, Baker & McKenzie LLP, United States ▪ Mr. Arturo Rangel-Bojorges, Customs Counsel Mexico, Delphi Global Customs Group, Mexico
10.40	Discussion
11.00	<i>Refreshment and networking break</i>
Session 5	Origin and new information technologies
11.30	<p>New computing tools have recently been developed to ensure more effective use of preferential rules of origin. Prior to using the preferential rules, an analysis can now be carried out as to the best product sourcing based on the applied Customs duties. One can also determine whether a product is eligible for a preferential procedure. Certificates of origin can also be drawn up electronically. Is this procedure reliable? How does it work?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Mr. Manfred Biermayer, Managing Director, MIC Datenverarbeitung GmbH, Austria ▪ Mr. Anne van de Heetkamp, Director of Global Trade Compliance TradeBeam, Inc., United States
12.00	Discussion

12.30	<i>Lunch and networking break</i>
Session 6	Solutions provided by the WCO
14.00	<p>Presentation of the WCO's Action Plan (database, comparative study of preferential rules, raising awareness of rules of origin, capacity building, training)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Mr. Antoine Manga, Director, Trade and Tariff Affairs Directorate, World Customs Organization, Belgium ▪ Mr. Ernani Checcucci, Columbus Programme Director, Capacity Building Directorate, World Customs Organization, Belgium ▪ Mr. Thibault Hermes, Training Advisor, Capacity Building Directorate, World Customs Organization, Belgium
16.00	Discussion
16.30	Wrap-up session Outcome of the Conference
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Professor Hans-Michael Wolfgang, Institute of Tax Law, Dept. of Customs and Excise, University of Münster, Germany ▪ Mr. Antoine Manga, Tariff and Trade Affairs Directorate, World Customs Organization, Belgium ▪ Mr. Michel Danet, Secretary General, World Customs Organization, Belgium
17.00	<i>Close of the Conference</i>

The Programme schedule gives delegates ample time for discussions and questions