ICC Guidelines regarding the issue of CO

Martin van der Weide – WCO TCRO Workshop

9-10 February 2023 – Brussels
What is ICC offering?

- CO Guidelines
- CO Accreditation Chain
- CO Verification Website
- CO Online Training
Technical committees

An International CO Council

- Electronic CO Taskforce
- CO Accreditation Chain committee
- Rules of Origin working group (to be created in 2023)
Facilitating Trade through Global Origin Procedures

- Aim to provide Chambers of Commerce and exporters with updates on new processes, including digitalization of the CO process.

- This revised edition:
  - provides an overview of the latest COs developments, notably digitalization;
  - deals with the issuing procedures for non-preferential COs;
  - covers the determination and verification of origin;
  - explains chamber's involvement with preferential COs.

Available on https://2go.iccwbo.org/
Colour Coded:

• **Green Sections** refer to mandatory standards for all members of the ICC WCF International Certificate of Origin Accreditation Chain (CO Chain)

• **Black Sections** describe best practices and suggested procedures that ensure the ease and quality for the process of issuing COs for all chambers of commerce.

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• Due to the divergence in rules of origin and issuing processes, it should be noted that the Guidelines are not a step-by-step rule book for the issuing process but rather general working instructions, with the exception of Chapter 5 which covers a box-by-box completion of the CO.

• Since all chambers must comply with their local legislation, the mandatory sections have been written in such a manner that these obligations will not be in conflict with these legislations.
Chapter 2 - Training Requirements

It is mandatory to have a formal training program in place

A refreshment course is needed every two or three years

➢ Online training program on non-preferential origin available and provided by ICC WCF in partnership with British Chambers of Commerce

➢ Training content on preferential origin developed
Chapter 3 – The applicant

➢ The registration process of an exporter or the applicant of a CO can be seen as simple and quick

But in the origin work of Chambers of Commerce, it is an important element for the origin determination.

➢ The Chamber has the option to visit the company when information is not clear.

➢ The close connection of Chambers to exporting companies in their respective region is an element to detect if origin statements are not true and correct.
Chapter 8 – Fraud

- Usually, applicants for a CO are not looking to commit fraud.
- Companies make a lot of mistakes in relation to origin because of the complexity of origin.
- In some cases, claiming another origin than the actual origin might be very rewarding.
- 100% fake documents.
- Options to detect fraud? The ICC WCF CO Verification website?
Chapter 10, 11 and 12 - Determination of origin

➢ Rules of Origin
➢ Products that need extra attention such as Textiles
➢ Evidence of origin is needed before a CO can be issued
Based on the CO Guidelines, Chambers commit to the highest level of quality, implementing transparent and accountable verification procedures.

Accredited Chambers are allowed to use the international quality label on their CO forms, which reinforces their integrity and credibility as competent trusted third parties in the issuance of COs for goods arriving at the Customs entry point.

An accreditation committee has been set up to review the applications and approve memberships.
Our Accredited Chambers
Our accredited chambers

To date, we have:

• 31 countries members in the CO Chain, represented by their national chambers, Italian Chamber’s network being the latest to join.

• Total of 796 Chambers around the world issuing annually around 8,5 million COs bearing the ICC WCF CO Label.
Our Accredited Chambers
To verify the Certificate of Origin you hold, please scan here the QR Code on the CO Form (currently available for CO issued from 1 April 2022 from Finland).

Input the key records and look up

Finland

(FI1800301) Helsinki Region Chamber of Commerce

FI-E1153730426

2022-05-25

International Chamber of Commerce

76354d

SCAN THE QR CODE

SEARCH
This certificate of origin is valid. This is all the information shared by the chamber. If a download link is presented to you, you can download the original CO.

**Certificate data**

**Chamber** Helsinki Region Chamber of Commerce / FI1800301  
**CO Number** FH1153730426  
**Issuing date** 2022-05-25

**Exporter** Stora Enso Oyj  
Salmisaarenaukio 2  
00180 Helsinki  
Finland

**Destination / Importer** MOKBEL A.AL-KHALAF SONS CO,LTD.  
PRINCE METE B BIN ABDUL STR.  
P.O.BOX 5992  
RIYADH 11432  
SAUDI-ARABIA

**Origin** Finland

**Transport** AMOLIANI KOTKA- JEDDAH Sea freight

**Description**  
REDWOOD  
MAK/JEDDAH  
MADE IN FINLAND
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>1 Consignor - Expéditeur - Expeditör</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Siota Enso Oyj</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saalinsaarentie 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>00189 Helsinki</td>
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<td>Finland</td>
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<th><strong>4 Transport details - informations relatives au transport - datos relativos al transporte (Optional)</strong></th>
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<th><strong>6 Item number, marks, numbers, number and kind of packages; description of goods</strong></th>
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<td>CERTIFICAT D’ORIGINE - CERTIFICADO DE ORIGEN</td>
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<th><strong>7 Quantity</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>295.486 M3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>66 packages</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>156238 KG</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
6 Item number, marks, numbers, number and kind of packages; description of goods
REDWOOD
MADE JEDDAH
MADE IN FINLAND
7 Quantity
2,954,416 M3
66 packages
158.286 KG

8 THE UNDERSIGNED AUTHORITY CERTIFIES THAT THE GOODS DESCRIBED ABOVE ORIGINATE IN THE COUNTRY SHOWN IN BOX 3
HELSINKI REGION CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
HELSINKI 25.5.2022
OLGA FABRITIUS

Security code
703549

Place and date of issue, name, signature and stamp of competent authority
Lieu et date de délivrance, désignation, signature et cachet de l'autorité compétente
Logar y fecha de expedición, designación, firma y sello de la autoridad competente
Quality and credibility in origin

It is all about quality and credibility

➢ Before a Chamber can issue a Certificate of Origin, we need information from the exporter that the origin is true and correct.

➢ Combination of knowledge about rules of origin and knowing your exporters

➢ Is it red tape?
Supporting the business community

It is all about helping exporters and importers

➢ Are FTA’s out of control? (origin procedures and basic principles on origin)

➢ Big struggle for companies, compliance? who is helping SMEs?

➢ If it is not possible to streamline procedures within FTA’s, what is the way forward?

➢ TE, REX en voorbeeldteksten factuurverklaringen (kvk.nl)

➢ Next spaghetti bowl: development of digital systems
Supporting the business community

There is “no one size fits all” solution

➢ Preferential origin, non-preferential origin, exporters, importers, freight forwarders, customs, issuing organizations, ministries, health authorities and many others play a role in origin.

➢ Don’t look at origin with a limited scope.

➢ How can organizations work together and help international trade with origin?
Genesis – Allowing chambers to certify self-certification

**Concept**

ICC to build an in-house engine and integrated interface system which allows contracting chambers of commerce worldwide to certify invoice declaration in the framework of preferential origin in FTAs.
Genesis – Allowing chambers to certify self-certification

➢ Of his own choosing, an exporter shall apply online to the Chamber of Commerce to obtain the certification of its invoice declaration. As such, the invoice declaration becomes more trustworthy thanks to the certification made by the Chamber of Commerce.

➢ An importer receiving an invoice declaration seeing that the document has been certified by a Chamber of Commerce in the country of export, recognizes a reduced level of risk in the transaction.

Manufacturer
It makes the good through a process involving raw materials, components, or assemblies.

Exporter
The exporter of the products shipped is the one declaring that the products are of preferential origin on its invoice.

Chamber of Commerce
Chambers to certify the invoice declaration which would add more credibility to the exporter’s self-certification.

Customs
Authority responsible for collecting tariffs and for controlling the flow of goods into and out of the country. The invoice declaration is checked by Customs.

Importer
An importer is the person or company liable for the payment of any duties and taxes on the imported merchandise.
Thank you.

Martin van der Weide
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ABOUT ICC

The International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) is the institutional representative of more than 45 million companies in over 100 countries. ICC’s core mission is to make business work for everyone, every day, everywhere. Through a unique mix of advocacy, solutions and standard setting, we promote international trade, responsible business conduct and a global approach to regulation, in addition to providing market-leading dispute resolution services. Our members include many of the world’s leading companies, SMEs, business associations and local chambers of commerce.

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