

# How to become a Registered Exporter and obtain Certificates of Origin

1. Read the "**Application Procedures**" document and follow instructions to ascertain whether your goods are considered originating goods and therefore eligible for preferential tariff treatment.

Before Certificates of Origin (CO) can be issued to businesses exporting to Thailand under the TAFTA, companies must become a Registered Exporter of specified products. Registered Exporters are companies that have established, through a rigorous investigation of the TAFTA Rules of Origin, that their products meet the relevant Rules of Origin, and have officially stated their understanding.

NOTE: Alternately, you can obtain a Certificate of Australian Origin (CAO) from the ACCI for exports to Thailand for any product, where such is required, for goods that do not attract preferences or concessions under the TAFTA, or where the exporter does not wish to avail themselves of those preferences or concessions.

2. However, where you wish to export to Thailand under the TAFTA you will need to complete the Registered Exporter's **Deed of Declaration**
3. Complete the **Authorised Signatories Form**
4. Send the Deed of Declaration and Authorised Signatories Form to:

VECCI  
International Trade Department  
486 Albert Street  
East Melbourne VIC 3002

The term "ACCI", where it appears, refers to the Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, and member and allied organisations as determined by it as holding its delegated authorities to issue Certificates of Australian Origin.

5. Where a CO is issued under the terms and conditions of the TAFTA, the ACCI will assess your documentation, and as stipulated in the TAFTA, can call for supporting documentary evidence or carry out any check considered appropriate. You will be notified if your Exporter Registration application is approved within five working days and provided with an "Exporters Registration Reference Number".
6. If your application is not approved, you will be provided with an explanation within five working days.
7. Once you have received your Exporters Registration Reference Number, you may apply to have Certificates of Origin certified. Please use the **Certificate of Origin Template** to produce Certificates and follow the **Completing Certificates of Origin for Thailand Instructions** to have them certified.

## Penalties

There are penalties that will be applied to those companies that claim origin, and obtain a duty preference, when their goods in fact do not qualify. Registered Exporters can be audited at any time, and must keep sufficient documentation to prove origin for five years after export.

Under the terms of TAFTA, Thai Customs could:

- call up duty short-paid on past imports of the goods in question and deny preference to future imports of those goods (this would actually constitute action against the Thai importer but would have obvious ramifications on the Australian exporter).
- dispute, at the time of entry, the duty payable on future imports of ANY goods from that exporter, or anyone associated with it, even if a Certificate of Origin exists for those goods (this could delay clearance of the goods through Customs, which would not normally be allowed under the agreement).
- take additional action, such as the imposition of administrative penalties (once again, against the Thai importer, which would impact the business relationship).

Further, Australian Customs can:

- impose penalties if TAFTA exporters or producers fail to answer Customs' questions, make false or misleading statements or fail to produce relevant documentation/records.