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Circular

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# Entry into force of the multilateral free trade agreement between EFTA and Georgia on 1 May 2018

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## 1 Preferential rates upon importation

Georgia's status as a developing country that qualifies for preferential treatment will be lifted upon entry into force of this agreement. The preferential rates set within the scope of the free trade agreement will be amended in the electronic customs tariff Tares as at the date of entry into force.

## 2 Origin provisions

The rules of origin of the Regional Convention on Pan-Euro-Mediterranean preferential rules of origin (PEM Convention) apply.

### 2.1 Principle

#### 2.1.1 Multilateral EFTA-Georgia free trade agreement

##### **Territorial scope:**

- EFTA countries
- Georgia

##### **Scope of application:**

This EFTA agreement covers the entire spectrum of goods. Consequently, there are no additional bilateral agricultural agreements like with the other EFTA agreements.

### 2.2 Rules of origin and list rules

The rules of origin and list rules of the PEM Convention, which correspond to those of the Euro-Med origin protocol, apply.

### 2.3 Cumulation of origin

This free trade agreement provides for the application of the rules of origin of the PEM Convention. As Georgia has acceded to the Pan-Euro-Mediterranean Convention (PEM Convention), diagonal cumulation with joint free trade partners within the Euro-Med system is also possible in principle (e.g. with the European Union). However, there is still no legal basis for this at present, with the result that only bilateral EFTA-Georgia cumulation is possible. Changes regarding cumulation options will be published by circular. You can subscribe to a [news service](#).

### 2.4 Drawback

The drawback provisions are to be applied.

## 2.5 Proofs of origin

Valid proofs of origin are the movement certificates EUR. 1 or EUR-MED for consignments of any value and the invoice declaration of origin or the EUR-MED invoice declaration of origin for consignments with goods of origin whose total value does not exceed CHF 10,300. Explanations on issuing proofs of origin EUR-MED can be found in the [guidelines](#) on Pan-Euro-Mediterranean protocols of origin and the proofs of origin [factsheet](#).

### 2.5.1 Text of the origin declaration

The wording provided for in the PEM Convention is to be used.

## 2.6 Approved exporters from Switzerland

The existing authorisations also cover this agreement.

## 2.7 Tariff preferences for goods depending on the intended use

If the granting of tariff preferences is dependent on a specific intended use of the goods<sup>1</sup>, the provisions of [Articles 50-54](#) of the Customs Ordinance apply. In particular, a corresponding end-use commitment must be supplied in writing to the Directorate General of Customs before the first customs declaration.

Please do not hesitate to contact the Customs Tariff and Economic Measures Section if you have any further questions (tel. +41 58 462 65 73).

## 3 Tariff dismantling

The contracting parties will reduce their customs tariffs and duties for industrial products in one step when the agreement enters into force. Exceptions apply for various agricultural products and fish and marine products.

Details of the tariff dismantling:

- [Product coverage of non-agricultural products \(Annex I\)](#)
- [Schedule of tariff commitments on agricultural products \(Annex VII\)](#)

## 4 Transitional provisions

Originating products that are in transit, in temporary storage in a customs warehouse or in a free zone in Georgia or Switzerland when the agreement comes into force can nevertheless benefit from a preferential assessment. For this purpose, a EUR.1 movement certificate (or, if applicable, a movement certificate EUR-MED, see section 2.5) subsequently issued by the customs authorities of the exporting country and documents proving direct transport must be submitted within four months of this date.

## 5 Documents

The full agreement between EFTA and Georgia is available in English on the [EFTA home page](#).

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<sup>1</sup> See "Goods benefiting from customs facilities", section 3, [remarks on the customs tariff – Tares](#)