



Bern, 19.12.2016

No. 071-16.1-KR

Circular

R-30

Free trade agreement between EFTA and Republic of Korea

Amendments in the area of rules of origin

1 Amendments

Following a protracted process, the EFTA States and the Republic of Korea have agreed to amend two points in Annex I of the Free trade agreement between EFTA and the Republic of Korea.

- Firstly, the limit of 10 months for replying to requests for subsequent verification of origin declarations has now been set at 15 months. In the interests of the exporters, this reduces the danger that complex cases of requests for subsequent verification cannot be responded to within the timeframe.
- The second point concerns the obligation for exporters to retain records regarding copies of declarations of origin and origin-related documents. From the time of entry into force of the amendments, documents of this nature must be retained for at least 5 years (cf. also [Article 5 paragraph 1 letter b of the Ordinance on the Issue of Evidence of Origin, SR 946.32](#)). Consequently, all declarations of origin completed after this amendment has entered into force can be verified for up to 5 years after being completed.

Furthermore, it was recognised that, up until entry into force of the amendments, a shorter period for record-keeping (in Switzerland three years) was "in line with the requirements in accordance with Article 21 paragraph 1".

2 Entry into force of the amendments

The amendments will enter into force on 1 January 2017.

3 Documents

The document R-30 "Free trade agreements, preferential tariffs and origin of goods" and the other documentation will be amended accordingly.