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AMENDMENTS TO THE CEPT RULES OF ORIGIN OF THE ASEAN COMMON EFFECTIVE PREFERENTIAL TARIFF (CEPT) SCHEME FOR THE ASEAN FREE TRADE AREA (AFTA)

The ASEAN countries have introduced the following amendment to the CEPT Rules of Origin under the ASEAN Free Trade Area. The full text of the latest CEPT Rules of Origin is available in the ASEAN Secretariat's website at:

<http://www.aseansec.org/17281.htm>

Highlight of the Amendment

Alternative Substantial Transformation Rule (Change in Tariff Classification) for Iron and Steel Products in Chapter 72 as Origin Conferring Criterion

2. A substantial transformation rule (Change in Tariff Classification) has been adopted as an alternative to the CEPT value-added rule criterion for iron and steel products in **HS Chapter 72**. The list of iron and steel products, with HS codes that qualify for the alternative rule, are available at: <http://www.aseansec.org/17281.htm>.

3. For products that qualify under this criterion, the exporter is required to declare the origin criterion text as "ST" in box 8 of the CEPT Form D when applying for this document at the time of export. To minimise inconvenience at the port of clearance, you may wish to verify with your importer whether their Customs Authorities can accept the new origin criterion for iron and steel products in HS Chapter 72.

Wheat Flour, Aluminium and Wood-Based Products

4. The substantial transformation rule (Change in Tariff Classification) had earlier been adopted for wheat flour, aluminium and wood-based products. With this implementation, the categories of products namely wheat flour, aluminium, wood-based products and iron and steel products in HS Chapter 72 will be considered to have undergone a substantial transformation or process if it had been transformed by means of substantial manufacturing or processing into a new and different article of commerce.

5. Please familiarise yourself with the CEPT Rules of Origin in order to take full advantage of the CEPT scheme for your exports to the ASEAN countries. In addition, please highlight the contents of this circular to other colleagues in your organisation and business partners if relevant.

Enquiries

6. For enquiries, you may call our Customs Call Centre at telephone number 6355-2000 on the contents of this circular.



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