

Frequently Asked Questions

Trade in Goods

Arrangements for submission of requests for developing CEPA rules of origin (ROOs) for goods that have no CEPA ROOs

- 1. What are the procedures and requirements for Hong Kong manufacturers to apply for development of CEPA rules of origin (ROOs)? What should the manufacturers take note when completing the relevant forms?**

Traders should refer to Certificate of Origin Circular No. 13/2009 issued on 8 December 2009, announcing the application procedures and arrangements for submitting requests for developing CEPA ROOs. Manufacturers should provide information of the relevant goods and production details to TID by completing the application form attached to the circular. They are advised to read the contents of the circular and the form carefully. Information submitted in other formats will not be accepted. The completed forms should be returned to Factory Registration and Origin Certification Branch of TID in person or by post, fax or email (email address: cepaco@tid.gov.hk).

TID will conduct ROO consultations with the Mainland in respect of the goods requested by Hong Kong manufacturers twice a year according to the date of receipt of the applications concerned. Applications received between 1 August last year to 31 January this year will be included in the first round of consultations this year, while applications received from 1 February to 31 July will be included in the second round of consultations this year. Applications received after 31 July will be included in the consultations next year.

- 2. Are the manufacturers required to have valid Factory Registration before making the request? For the person signing Part Three (Declaration) of the application form, is it mandatory for he/she to be the authorized signatory under the Factory Registration?**

Hong Kong manufacturers without valid Factory Registration may also submit a request. For manufacturers who have a valid Factory Registration, they should fill in the Factory Registration details in the form.

The signatory of Part Three (Declaration) of the form needs not be the authorized signatory under the Factory Registration, but he/she should either be the proprietor (for sole proprietorship), one of the partners (for partnership), or a director or an authorized officer (for limited company) of the company.

3. Can requests be submitted for goods which are not being produced in Hong Kong?

Yes. Manufacturers, regardless of whether they are currently producing or planning to produce the goods concerned, may make a request for developing CEPA ROOs by completing the application form attached to Annex 1 of the Certificate of Origin Circular No. 13/2009 issued on 8 December 2009.

4. How can manufacturers obtain the Hong Kong HS (Harmonized System) codes and the Mainland tariff codes for the goods covered by their CEPA ROOs applications?

Manufacturers may refer to the “Hong Kong Imports and Exports Classification List (Harmonized System)” for information about the Hong Kong HS codes, which is available on the webpage of the Census and Statistics Department (C&SD) (The enquiry hotline of the Trade Classification Section of C&SD is 2877 1818). A copy of the list is also available at the Support and Consultation Centre for SMEs (SUCCESS) at M/F, Trade and Industry Department Tower, 700 Nathan Road, Kowloon. If manufacturers are not familiar with the HK HS codes or are not sure about the HK HS codes for the goods covered by their applications, they may fill in the enquiry form at the Annex 2 of the Certificate of Origin Circular No. 13/2009 issued on 8 December 2009 and submit it to C&SD. Manufacturers should then submit the completed form returned by

C&SD together with the application form to TID.

For the Mainland tariff codes, the manufacturer may check with their importer or the Mainland Customs.

5. After receiving the requests submitted by the manufacturers, when will TID announce the CEPA ROOs for the relevant goods?

After receiving the requests submitted by the manufacturers, TID will conduct ROO consultations with the Mainland in respect of the goods requested by Hong Kong manufacturers twice a year according to the date of receipt of the applications concerned. In accordance with Supplement II to CEPA, the ROO consultations should be completed before 1 June and 1 December each year respectively, and the agreed ROOs should be promulgated accordingly.