

Customs Flash

News you can count on



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New rules concerning the indication of origin

In order to improve the safety of consumer products circulating in the Single Market and to step-up market surveillance concerning all non-food products, including those imported from third countries, the European Commission proposed new rules concerning amongst others the indication of (non-preferential) origin. The draft regulation is currently subject to discussion and foresees under its article 7 that *“Manufacturers and importers shall ensure that products bear an indication of the country of origin of the product or, where the size or nature of the product does not allow it, that indication is to be provided on the packaging or in a document accompanying the product.”*

In a nutshell, all products intended (or likely to be to be intended) for consumers' use will be subject to the aforementioned rule, with the exception of medical products and antiques (amongst others). A full list of the products not covered by the proposal is available through the following link ([EN](#)) under article 2.3.

This new legislation on **product safety and market surveillance** is now going to be debated in the Parliament and the Council; according to the Commission's roadmap, it is expected to come into effect in 2015.

What does it mean for you?

The indication of origin supplements the basic traceability requirements concerning the name and address of the manufacturer. In particular, the indication of the country of origin helps to identify the actual place of manufacture in all those cases where the manufacturer cannot be contacted or its given address is different from the actual place of manufacture.

Although such information can facilitate the task of market surveillance authorities in tracing the product back to the actual place of manufacture and enable contacts with the authorities from the countries of origin in the framework of bilateral or multilateral cooperation on consumer product safety for appropriate follow up actions, it will lead to additional administrative burdens on businesses.

What to do?

Manufacturers and importers are responsible for placing only safe products on the market. They will be asked to provide appropriate information on the product allowing its identification and traceability, including information on the product's origin.

Distributors, such as wholesalers and retailers, must check that the manufacturer or importer has duly labelled the product before selling it to their clients or offering it for sale in their shops.

As the legislation is currently under discussion, economic operators are still able to voice their comments and remarks through, amongst others, the channel of their respective sectorial/industry organisations.

Contact

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