



Global Trade News Alert Belgium

Use of REX system results in countries being denied GSP benefits

Introduction

The EU introduced origin of goods self-certification through the Registered Exporter System (REX) in 2010, to replace the FORM system from 1 January 2017 onwards. Under the REX system, (registered) exporters can produce statements on origin themselves. The REX system is used for GSP origin certification and progressively in bilateral trade agreements (e.g. CETA). GSP beneficiary countries and territories had the possibility to notify the European Commission of their delayed use of the REX system, i.e. as of 1 January 2018 or 1 January 2019. A transition period is foreseen.

Meeting legislative pre-requisites is essential to ensure GSP benefits

To use the REX system, the third country must submit to the European Commission an Undertaking providing for administrative cooperation in the framework of the REX system. The contact details of the competent authorities dealing with the registration of exporters and administrative cooperation also need to be provided to the Commission. Meeting both pre-requisites is essential to ensure GSP benefits for export to the EU, as confirmed by a recent [EU Notice to importers](#).

The following countries did not comply with pre-requisites in due time: Burundi, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo, Democratic Republic Congo, Djibouti, Equatorial Guinea,

Liberia, Micronesia, Nauru, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Sudan, Timor Leste, Togo, Tonga and Tuvalu. These GSP beneficiary countries and territories cannot use the REX system and thus cannot benefit from GSP preferences from 1 July 2018, until they have fulfilled the pre-requisites.

What does it mean for you?

When importing goods from the above-mentioned countries, the scheme of tariff preferences under the GSP will no longer apply as of 1 July 2018. However, it should be noted that other tariff preference may be applicable upon import into the EU, due to existing bilateral agreements.

The European Commission encourages businesses to consult the EU's [website on REX](#) on a regular basis, in order to check whether and when GSP beneficiary countries or territories are entitled to use the REX system.

Contacts

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