



Australian Government  
Australian Customs Service

11 15 March 2005  
Submission No. 5

RECEIVED  
28 JUN 2005

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The Chair  
Joint Standing Committee on Treaties  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Sir

**SINGAPORE – AUSTRALIA FREE TRADE AGREEMENT: COMMITTEE MEETING ON 20 JUNE 2005**

At the public hearing on 20 June 2005 for the Singapore – Australia Free Trade Agreement (SAFTA), the Deputy Chair of the Joint Standing Committee on Treaties, Mr Kim Wilkie MP, asked for an explanation of the proposed changes to the rules of origin.

The explanation provided by Mr Baldwin of this Branch did not address all of the changes. In the interests of ensuring that the Committee has a more detailed understanding of the proposed changes, the following explanation is provided.

Current Arrangements

(a) *Type of Documents*

At present, an Australian importer needs two (2) documents (a certificate of origin and a declaration) to be eligible to claim a preferential rate of customs duty under the SAFTA.

The Singapore Government issues the certificates of origin. A certificate of origin is valid for multiple shipments of the goods described in the certificate that are exported within two years from the date of issue, provided that the first shipment occurs within the first year of issue.

The Singapore exporter issues the declarations. A separate declaration is required for each shipment, and a declaration must include a statement that the goods are identical to the goods specified in a valid certificate of origin as well as a statement that the goods are originating goods that comply with the rule specified in the nominated certificate of origin.

*(b) Timing of Documentation*

At present, both documents must be issued before the goods are exported from Singapore to Australia.

Proposed Arrangements

*(a) Type of Documents*

Under the proposed changes, an Australian importer would need to possess:

- a certificate of origin for each shipment (provided that the certificate was used within one year of issue); or
- a certificate of origin for multiple shipments of the goods described in the certificate (provided that the certificate was used within two years from the date of issue and that the first shipment occurred within the first year of issue) and a declaration,

to be eligible to claim a preferential rate of customs duty under the SAFTA.

Where a certificate of origin was to be used for multiple shipments, a declaration would not be required for the first shipment but would be required for all subsequent shipments.

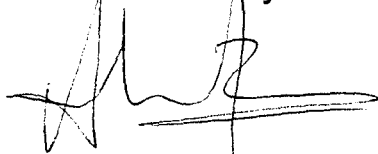
*(b) Timing of Documentation*

Under the proposed changes, the document(s) would not need to be issued before the goods were exported from Singapore to Australia.

The importer would need to possess the document(s) at the time that the goods were entered for home consumption.

Additional information on the proposed changes can be obtained by contacting the Director, Valuation and Origin Section, Mr John Arndell, by telephoning (02) 6275 6383 or by e-mailing [john.arndell@customs.gov.au](mailto:john.arndell@customs.gov.au).

Yours faithfully



Andrew Rice  
National Manager  
Trade Branch

29 June 2005