

AfCFTA Rules of Origin, Non-tariff Measures and Implementation Tools

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Overview

What you need to know if you are exporting goods to - or importing from - other African countries?

- **AfCFTA Operational Tools**
 - Tariff Book
 - Rules of Origin Portal
 - NTB Reporting, Monitoring and Elimination Mechanism
 - Pan African Payment and Settlement System
 - African Trade Observatory

AfCFTA: key issues

- What is a **free trade area** (FTA)? Countries that want to develop trade amongst themselves will negotiate an agreement to **reduce and eventually duties/tariffs** and also eliminate **non-tariff barriers** (to facilitate cross-border trade)
- Key objective of the AfCFTA: **Boost intra-Africa**
- The minimum requirements for an FTA: Tariff concessions and Preferential Rules of Origin
- **Rules of Origin** – rules that determine the economic nationality of a product
- The primary purpose of preferential Rules of Origin: to prevent transshipment (that goods originating in non-FTA members trade under preferences)

Introduction to the AfCFTA RoO:

- *Key provisions, sectoral approach and outstanding issues*

The AfCFTA: From concept towards reality

The African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) is an ambitious undertaking that aims to eventually bring together 55 African countries with a combined 1.3 billion people to create the world's largest free trade area, as measured by number of Member States. Its objective is to create an integrated market for the trade in goods and services, as well as the free movement of people and capital.

The role of Rules of Origin in a preferential trade area

Rules of Origin (RoO) are legal provisions that are used to determine the nationality of a product in the context of international trade. A distinction can be made between **non-preferential** and **preferential** RoO: non-preferential RoO involves national laws used to allocate origin to traded goods for purposes such as trade statistics, trade remedies, labelling requirements and various other purposes, while preferential RoO are the regulations contained in the agreements of preferential trade areas between two or more countries (such as those forming part of the AfCFTA), and which prescribe the minimum amount of processing and other criteria that must be complied with in order to make a determination on the **preferential trade status** of a product.



- AfCFTA Agreement signed, ratification deposited
- AfCFTA Agreement signed
- Confirmation of parliamentary approval pending
- AfCFTA Agreement not signed

<https://www.tralac.org/resources/infographics/16400-factsheet-update-on-the-status-of-afcfta-rules-of-origin-negotiations.html>

WHAT APPROACH DOES THE AfCFTA FOLLOW FOR DETERMINING ORIGIN STATUS ?



*The AfCFTA RoO are essentially being negotiated on a **sector by sector level**, resulting in product-specific origin rules (rather than generic origin criteria that apply equally to all products). The advantage of this is that suitable criteria can be designed that better take account of the specific dynamics of each sector; however, this process also means that negotiations are more complex and time consuming. The general RoO provisions contained in the main RoO Protocol (Annex II) however apply equally to all products.*

The **economic origin** of a good is determined based on whether it is the '*growth, product or manufacture*' of the exporting country (or of any other particular country); this generally means that it is made up only of local inputs, or in the case of goods extracted from the soil or sea bed, or agricultural products, is extracted, grown, harvested or otherwise obtained locally. Such products are then referred to as being '**wholly obtained**' in the country of origin.

**WHOLLY OBTAINED
GOODS**

or

**SUBSTANTIALLY TRANSFORMED
GOODS**

If a product claiming origin status for purposes of benefiting from AfCFTA preferential market access includes materials sourced from non-AfCFTA countries, then it must first be proven that any non-originating inputs have been **substantially transformed** locally. For this, the producer or exporter must consult the **AfCFTA RoO**. These rules set specific criteria that, for each product, represent 'substantial transformation', and can be based on one or more of the three methodologies listed below.

Description

This methodology uses percentage thresholds as criteria to determine origin status. The AfCFTA RoO, where applicable, set a percentage-based upper limit on the amount of *imported* materials that may be used.

Also known as the 'technical' test, this methodology, frequently used in the AfCFTA, sets product-specific processing conditions that must be fulfilled in order to obtain origin status.

Where products use any non-originating materials, the local processing must result in a product that becomes classified under a new HS classification.

RoO methodology

PERCENTAGE

SPECIFIC PROCESSING

CHANGE IN TARIFF CLASSIFICATION

WHAT ABOUT CUMULATION ?

Cumulation of origin is an important part of the AfCFTA RoO. These provisions allow countries party to the agreement to **jointly** fulfil the RoO criteria in a shared value-adding arrangement, thereby reducing the burden on individual producers while encouraging the development of regional value chains. Inputs sourced from and originating in other Member States then count as local inputs when further processed.

How will a trader determine the origin status of a product? Key steps:

- What is the export destination? If it is part of the same REC, then those RoO (not AfCFTA RoO) apply
- Know the correct HS code for the product
- Consult the product-specific RoO (Appendix IV)
- Consult the general RoO provisions (Part II of Annex II)
 - Is the product made from local inputs only? *[wholly obtained provisions]*
 - Have inputs been sourced from other AfCFTA Member States? *[cumulation / info procedures]*
 - Does all the local processing combined go beyond 'insufficient operations'? *[Art. 7]*

The AfCFTA RoO are included as Annex II to the AfCFTA agreement (Annex I covers the import tariff concessions.). Parts I and II of Annex II contain the general provisions, including provisions such as the criteria for 'wholly obtained', cumulation, origin declarations, simple/insufficient processing, key definitions, and others.

The RoO Annex also contains a number of Appendixes:

- Appendix I: A sample copy of the Certificate of Origin
- Appendix II: The text of the origin (self) declaration *(for shipments by approved exporters)*
- Appendix III: A sample AfCFTA supplier declaration *(to cover regional inputs)*
- Appendix IV: The AfCFTA product-specific RoO criteria

Proof of Origin

4. An Origin Declaration shall be made out by the Exporter by typing, stamping or printing on the invoice, the delivery note or another commercial document using one of the AU official languages and in accordance with the provisions of the national legislation of the exporting State Party. If the Origin Declaration is handwritten, it shall be written in ink in printed characters. Origin Declarations shall bear the original signature of the Exporter.
5. An Origin Declaration may be made out by the Exporter when the Products to which it relates are exported, or after exportation on condition that it is presented in the importing State Party no longer than twelve (12) months after the importation of the Products to which it relates as provided for under national legislation.

For consignments (value not exceeding US\$ 5 000), you can make a self-declaration

If you are an Authorised Economic Operator, you can make a self-declaration (no value limit)

Key AfCFTA administrative procedures

Consignment: Direct shipment

Goods claiming AfCFTA origin status must be shipped directly from the source country to their destination, may not enter the commerce of another country, and must remain under customs control when goods are transhipped through other countries.

Proof of origin

A claim for AfCFTA origin status may use different options:

(a) a *certificate of origin* obtained from a designated local competent authority;

(b) an origin *self-declaration*, which can be made out by an *approved* exporter (with no value limits), or whenever the consignment value does not exceed \$5,000.

Approved exporters are those authorised by the designated competent authority of the exporting country, for example Customs. *Self-declarations* are not generally possible in African RECs. However, in the AfCFTA this facility is still dependent on obtaining approved exporter status.

AfCFTA RoO Flexibilities

What flexibilities have been included?

Cumulation: Provisions that allow the processing in two or more State Parties to jointly contribute to meeting the local processing (substantial transformation) criteria.

Value tolerance: An allowance that permits up to 15% (of the ex-works price of the product) in the use of materials generally disallowed by the product-specific rules. This provision does not apply to textiles and clothing, and does not apply to 'wholly obtained' products.

Absorption principle: A more recent update to the RoO negotiations, whereby any upstream materials and semi-finished goods that have obtained local origin status themselves may be considered as 100% originating for purposes of calculating local content for such final goods claiming origin status.

Operational Instruments assist traders to comply - to be able to trade under the AfCFTA

AfCFTA Operational Instruments



The *AfCFTA e-tariffbook* is a digital platform containing the tariff schedules with applicable tariff rates for all AfCFTA State Parties based on the WCO 6-digit Harmonized System (HS). Goods are classified in three Categories: i) Category A – non sensitive products, ii) Category B – sensitive products, and iii) Category C – products that are excluded from liberalization. <http://etariff.au-afcfta.org/>



The *AfCFTA Online Mechanism for Reporting, Monitoring and Elimination of NTBs* is a portal for online reporting of identified non-tariff barriers (NTBs), including for reporting via SMS. Reported NTBs and the status of their resolution can be tracked. www.tradebarriers.africa



The *Pan-African Payment and Settlement System (PAPSS)*, developed by the African Export-Import Bank (Afreximbank) in collaboration with the African Union and AfCFTA Secretariat, is a cross-border payment and settlement infrastructure for transactions across Africa. PAPSS allows for payment and settlement using local currencies. <https://papss.com/>



Rules of Origin Manual

THE AFRICAN CONTINENTAL FREE TRADE AREA SECRETARIAT

**Note: e-Tariff Book, includes
link to the Rules of Origin**



**RULES OF ORIGIN
MANUAL
VOLUME 1.0 (JULY 2022)**



https://au.int/sites/default/files/documents/42397-doc-AfCFTA_RULES_OF_ORIGIN_MANUAL.pdf

AfCFTA Hub for traders, African Trade Observatory (ATO)



The AfCFTA Secretariat has partnered with AfroChampions, governments and industry to launch the [AfCFTA Hub](https://hub.au-afcfta.org/) platform. The AfCFTA Hub aims to simplify AfCFTA rules for SMEs and startups, level the playing field in e-commerce & e-logistics so everyone can participate and benefit from the stated objectives of the AfCFTA, and facilitate the integration of African economies.

<https://hub.au-afcfta.org/>



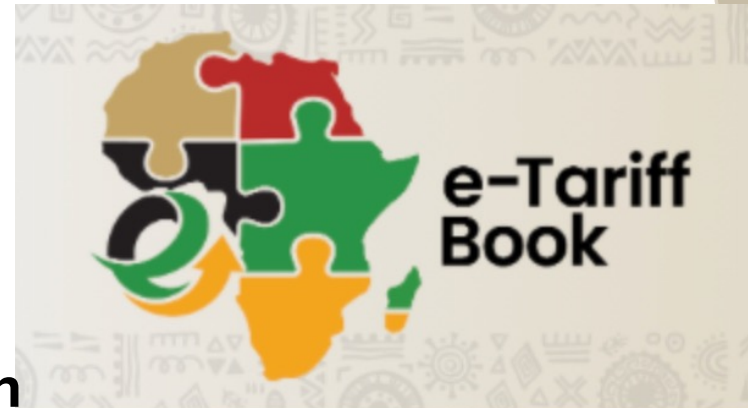
African Trade Observatory <https://ato.africa/en>



Using the eTariff Book

- What tariff will be levied on your exports to a buyer in an AfCFTA State Party?
- What duty will you pay on goods imported under the AfCFTA?

<https://etariff.au-afcfta.org/mapsearch>



Search Criteria

MODIFY SEARCH

MAURITIUS

NIGERIA

ECOWAS

APPLE

ENGLISH

CATEGORY ALL

STEP DOWN TIME FRAME ALL

VIEW YEAR ALL

BACK TO HOME

COMPARE SELECTED

DOWNLOAD TO PDF

Nigeria is part of the ECOWAS Customs Union. ECOWAS submitted their tariff offer and it was adopted and included in the Ministerial Directive on Provisional Schedule of Tariff Concessions on 26 October 2021.

HS / National Code	Description	AfCFTA Category	Time Frame	MFN Rate	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
08.08	Apples, pears and quinces, fresh.													
0808.10	- Apples													
<input type="checkbox"/> 0808.10.00.00	- Apples			20										
0808.30	- Pears													
<input type="checkbox"/> 0808.30.00.00	- Pears	A	10	20	18.0	16.0	14.0	12.0	10.0	8.0	6.0	4.0	2.0	0.0
0808.40	- Quinces													
<input type="checkbox"/> 0808.40.00.00	- Quinces	A	10	20	18.0	16.0	14.0	12.0	10.0	8.0	6.0	4.0	2.0	0.0

If you don't know the tariff code, you can use the product description



Search by keywords

I am exporting from ?

I am importing into ?

Language ?

Search for product ?

BEGIN SEARCH →

Mauritius

Nigeria

English

shirt

HELP



What about importing into Mauritius?

Search Criteria

MODIFY SEARCH

NIGERIA

MAURITIUS

SHIRT

ENGLISH

CATEGORY ALL

STEP DOWN TIME FRAME ALL

VIEW YEAR ALL

BACK TO HOME

COMPARE SELECTED

DOWNLOAD TO PDF

Mauritius submitted their tariff offer and it was adopted and included in the Ministerial Directive on Provisional Schedule of Tariff Concessions on 26 October 2021.

HS / National Code	Description	AfCFTA Category	Time Frame	MFN Rate	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	
6105	Men's or boys' shirts, knitted or crocheted.									Rules Of Origin
6105.10	- Of cotton									Rules Of Origin
<input type="checkbox"/> 6105.10.00	- Of cotton	A	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	
6105.20	- Of man-made fibres									Rules Of Origin
<input type="checkbox"/> 6105.20.00	- Of man-made fibres	A	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	



NOTE: Mauritius is liberalising tariffs as a non-LDC (for Category A products= 5 years)

Using the Mauritius Tariff Schedule

CUSTOMS TARIFF SCHEDULES (INTEGRATED TARIFF) HS 2022 VERSION As at 01 September 2025

NOTICE TO VISITORS

NOTE

This publication is intended to provide guidance and information purely as measure of trade facilitation. While every effort has been made to ensure that the information in this document is accurate, the MRA Customs Department does not hold itself liable for any consequences, legal or otherwise, arising out of use of any such information. Only the latest official version of the laws or regulations is authoritative.

Please notify the Tariff Unit of any typing error observed on the following:

Tel: 2020500 Ext 7486, 7487, 7488

Email: customs@mra.mu

Fax: 2167601, 2169567

<https://www.mra.mu/download/TariffInformation010925.pdf>

Heading	H.S. Code	Description	Statistical Unit	General	Excise Duty	VAT	COMESA* Group I	COMESA* Group II	SADC	IOC	INDIA	PAKIS TAN	EC	TÜRKİ YE	UK	CHINA	AfCFTA	UAE	Agency
				%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	
61.01		Men's or boys' overcoats, car-coats, capes, cloaks, anoraks (including ski-jackets), wind-cheaters, wind-jackets and similar articles, knitted or crocheted, other than those of heading 61.03.																	
	6101.20.00	- Of cotton	U	0		15	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	MIC for Export under AGOA
	6101.30.00	- Of man-made fibres	U	0		15	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	MIC for Export under AGOA
	6101.90.00	- Of other textile materials	U	0		15	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	MIC for

Mauritius has made a tariff offer⁴⁵⁵ covering all tariff lines (Categories A. B and C – note tea, spices, crude oil, margarine, blended oils, beet and cane sugar, bottled water, aerated beverages (bottles or cans), wine.... – not liberalised)

Non-tariff Measures and Non-tariff Barriers

- NTMs: legitimate measures to ensure human, animal, plant health and to protect the environment (e.g. sanitary and phyto-sanitary measures, including limits on pesticide residues in plants/vegetables; technical regulations, including regulations for electrical/electronic equipment, packaging/labelling)
- NTBs: any barrier other than a tariff (including delays at border posts, administrative/implementation procedures for SPS/TBT regulations; quotas, licenses (import/export))
- **In the AfCFTA, State Parties agree to eliminate NTBs (Annex to Protocol on Trade in Goods), and establish a mechanism to notify, monitor and eliminate NTBs**

Examples of Non-Tariff Barriers

- **Quotas**
- **Licensing requirements**

Technical barriers to trade (TBT)

These include standards, testing, and certification requirements that can be difficult to meet, particularly for foreign producers.

Sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) measures

Regulations related to food safety and animal and plant health that can be used to restrict trade.

Note: SPS and TBT have legitimate public policy objectives – but sometimes, how they are implemented, may become NTBs

- **Customs procedures**

Complex or burdensome customs procedures, such as excessive paperwork, valuation issues, or delays in clearance, can act as NTBs.

Eliminating Non-Tariff Barriers



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Creating One African Market

NON-TARIFF BARRIERS

Reporting, Monitoring and Eliminating Mechanism

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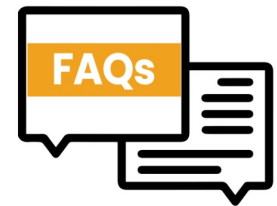
[Language](#) [Login/Register](#) ➔



Report an
NTB Online



Report via
Mobile App



FAQs

<https://www.tradebarriers.africa>

What are NTBs?

- Customs formalities
- Rules of Origin
- Standards
- Restrictive practices
-



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NON-TARIFF BARRIERS

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What are Non-Tariff Barriers to Trade?

Let's Register!



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Login as a registered user

Email address*



Password



Register an account

To submit a trade barrier complaint, you must log in as a registered user.
If you do not have an account yet, click on the **"Register"** button below.

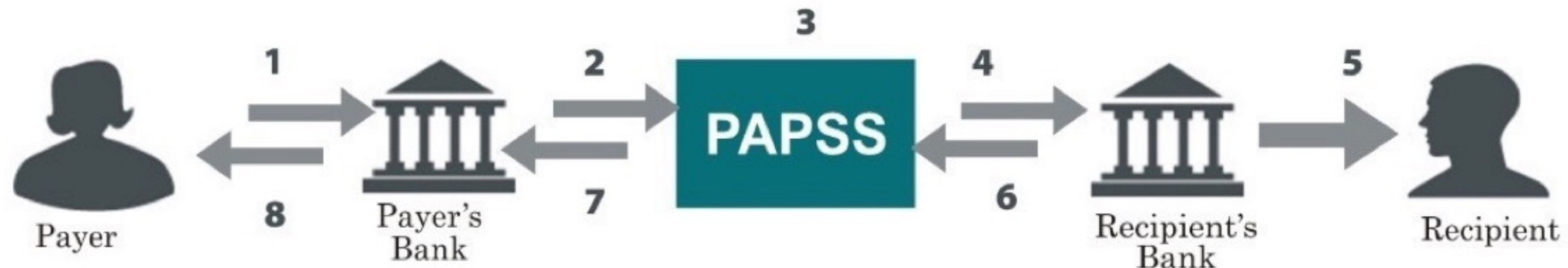
After you have completed your registration, if you do not receive an activation email within 30 minutes, please check your spam mail folder, or alternatively: [Resend your activation link](#)

www.tradebarriers.africa

Pan-African Payment and Settlement System (PAPSS)

PAPSS, developed by the African Export Import Bank (Afreximbank) in collaboration with the African Union and AfCFTA Secretariat, is a cross-border financial market infrastructure for enabling payment transactions across Africa. PAPSS allows for payment and settlements using local currencies.

How does PAPSS work?




African Trade Observatory




Welcome to the African Trade Observatory dashboard

BETA

 **African Trade Observatory**

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Compare


Compare trade and market access information across countries, products or markets.

Markets Products ⓘ Exporters

Choose an exporter ▾

Choose a product ▾

START




Explore

Find detailed trade and market access-related information for a country-product-market combination.

Choose an exporter ▾

Choose a market ▾



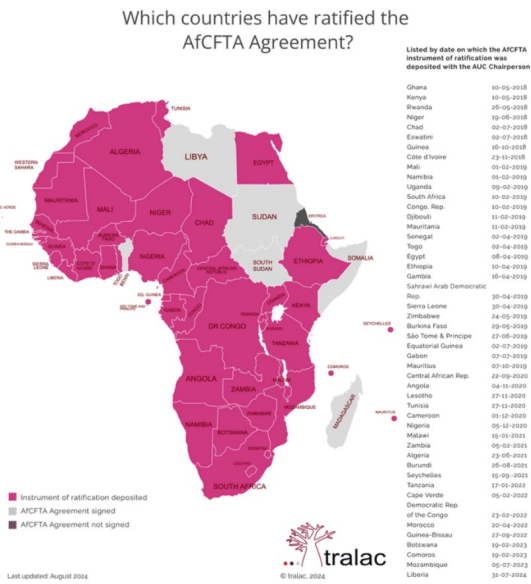
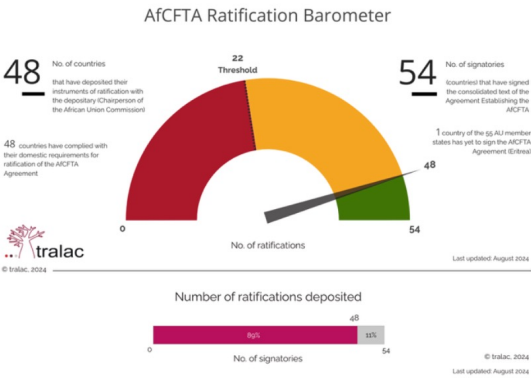
Monitor

Monitor state of intra-African integration over time and track advanced trade indicators

START

Mauritius Works

Useful AfCFTA Resources Portal



AfCFTA Negotiations timeline

tralac has followed developments in the AfCFTA negotiations with keen interest. Below is our collection of legal documents and resources, including the text of the AfCFTA Agreement, its Protocols and its Annexes.

Launch of the negotiations

The establishment of the AfCFTA and the implementation of the BIAT Action Plan provide a comprehensive framework to pursue a developmental regionalism strategy. The former is conceived as a time bound project, whereas BIAT is continuous with concrete targets to double intra-African trade flows from January 2012 and January 2022.

Decision on Boosting Intra-African Trade and Fast Tracking the Continental Free Trade Area

Declaration on Boosting Intra-African Trade and The Establishment of a Continental Free Trade Area (CFTA)

Boosting Intra-African Trade (BIAT): Issues Affecting Intra-African Trade, Proposed Action Plan for Boosting Intra-African Trade and Framework for the fast-tracking of a CFTA

Synthesis Paper on BIAT and Fast Tracking the CFTA



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