



Trade Related Assistance & Quality  
Enabling Programme

## TRAQUE

# Rules of Origin

# How to prove & verify the origin of a product?

### The TRAQUE Programme

Funded by the European Union, it aims at supporting the Ministry of Trade and Industry (MoTI), in private sector development, trade facilitation and capacity building with special attention in industrial strategy and the Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) implementation.

The TRAQUE programme is under the contracting authority of the National Authorising Office at the Ministry of Finance, and being implemented by MoTI with support of an international technical assistance team provided by Agriconsulting Europe S.A (AESAs).

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*“This publication has been produced with the assistance of the European Union through the TRAQUE programme. The contents of this publication are the sole responsibility of the Ministry of Trade and Industry”*



This project is funded by  
the European Union



# How to prove & verify the origin of a product before exporting it to the EU?

An important part of the TRAQUE project is dedicated to improving trade related capacity and performance of MoTI and related agencies in trade policy analysis and formulation. This support includes the successful implementation of trade agreements such as the EPA.

A key part to successfully implement the EPA or any trade preference, and so gain the competitive advantage a trade agreement provides, is to properly implement their Rules of Origin (RoO).

RoO are used to determine the country of origin of a product for international trade. The RoO specifically describe the local processing requirements necessary for a good to be considered as having a “Ghanaian origin” and hence qualify for preferential market access under a given preferential trade agreement.

Even though since the Cotonou Agreement, Ghanaian exports have been benefitting from preferential access when using the correct RoO, there is a general lack of knowledge on the use and implementation of the EU RoO both from customs officials and private sector. This hampers Ghana’s competitive position in the EU market.

In Ghana, the value of the RoO is not known or appreciated. Many exporters do not use them and therefore pay more tariffs than they should. Besides, most exporters wrongly consider the proofs of origin as EU requirements, i.e. as a condition for export. Moreover, many customs officials lack the knowledge on how to implement or verify the EU RoO (and usually confuse them with the US ones) therefore they face problems with the EU customs officers that delay or hamper the Ghanaian exports to the EU.

There is the need to train the Ghana Revenue Authority (GRA) officials and the exporting community on the implementation of EU Rules of Origin including, use/need of rules of origin, benefits, minimal operations, tolerance, cumulation, direct transport, duty drawback and proofs of origin.

To this end, TRAQUE will carry out a needs assessment, develop a tool-kit and to train the customs and the private sector.

The main objective of this TRAQUE activity is that the GRA staff can efficiently implement and verify the EU rules of origin and correctly deliver the correspondent proof of origin.

Likewise it is:

- to assess the current application of the rules of origin, challenges and needs for the GRA to adjust to the new situation.
- to draft a tool-kit establishing the procedures customs officials must follow to verify the correct implementation of the rules of origin and to deliver the correspondent proof of origin.
- to inform the private sector on the benefits and the correct use of the rules and proofs of origin (awareness campaign).

