



# AfCFTA Rules of Origin: Your Compliance Checklist

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## About this checklist

This guide was created by **The Community Revolution** to help you understand the requirements for your goods to qualify for preferential tariff treatment under the **African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA)**.

- **Who:** African MSMEs exporting goods within the AfCFTA.
- **What:** The **Rules of Origin**, the requirements that prove a product is "made in Africa."
- **Where:** Across all **State Parties** signed up to the AfCFTA agreement.
- **When:** To be **completed before** preparing any export consignment.
- **Why:** To access **preferential (zero or lower) tariffs**, increasing business competitiveness.
- **How:** By following the **four-step** process below.



## Step 1: Classify your product

Identify your product's **Harmonised System** (HS) Code. This code is the international standard used by customs authorities to classify goods. You must have this code to determine which rules apply to your product.

Product HS Code: \_\_\_\_\_

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### [Sidebar: Quick Definition]

**HS Code:** The Harmonised System (HS) is a standardised numerical method of classifying traded products. It is used by customs authorities worldwide to identify duties and taxes.

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## Step 2: Qualify your goods

Determine if your product meets the "Rules of Origin." Choose the category that applies to your product:

Origin category: \_\_\_\_\_

### Option A: Wholly Obtained

Your product is "wholly obtained" if it was grown, harvested, extracted, or manufactured entirely within a single AfCFTA State Party, without using any materials imported from outside the AfCFTA.

- *Examples:* Minerals extracted in a State Party, live animals born and raised in a State Party, or crops harvested in a State Party.

### Option B: Substantially Transformed

Your product is "substantially transformed" if it uses materials from outside the AfCFTA but has undergone significant processing within a State Party.



- **Criteria:** You must check the specific rule for your HS Code. This usually involves:
    - **Change in Tariff Heading (CTH):** The product is classified under a different heading than the imported materials used.
    - **Value Added:** The value of the non-originating materials used does not exceed a set percentage of the product's ex-works price.
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### [Sidebar: Quick Definition]

**Wholly Obtained:** Products derived entirely from one country, such as natural resources or agricultural produce.

**Substantially Transformed:** Products created using imported materials that have been processed significantly enough to be considered "made" in a State Party.

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## Step 3: Certify your origin

Once you have confirmed your product qualifies, you must provide proof.

- Certificate of Origin:** Apply to your Designated Competent Authority for an official AfCFTA Certificate of Origin.
- Origin Declaration:** If your consignment value is below USD 5,000, or you are an "Approved Exporter," you may provide an Origin Declaration on your commercial invoice or delivery note.

## Step 4: Final compliance check

Before you export, ensure your documentation is complete and verifiable.

- Documentation:** Ensure your commercial invoice, transport documents, and Certificate of Origin are aligned.
- Record keeping:** Maintain all records for at least five years, including production receipts, purchase orders, and cost statements.
- Direct consignment note:** Ensure your goods are transported directly between State Parties.
  - Note: Direct consignment requires specific documentation (e.g., a through bill of lading) if goods transit through non-AfCFTA territories.*



## Contact your national customs authority

To ensure your documentation meets local requirements, you must identify your specific local application portal.

**Action:** [Contact your national customs authority or designated competent authority to identify your specific local application portal.]

**TCR Operational Note:** This document is for guidance purposes. Always refer to the official *AfCFTA Rules of Origin Manual* and your local customs authority for the most current legal requirements.

## Resources

To ensure your export compliance remains accurate and up-to-date, please refer to the following official documentation:

- **AfCFTA Rules of Origin Manual:** This is the primary legal framework for origin requirements.  
[https://au.int/sites/default/files/documents/37121-doc-AfCFTA\\_RULES\\_OF\\_ORIGIN\\_MANUAL.pdf](https://au.int/sites/default/files/documents/37121-doc-AfCFTA_RULES_OF_ORIGIN_MANUAL.pdf)
- **Official AfCFTA Secretariat:** For broader legal updates and news, visit [www.au-afcfta.org](http://www.au-afcfta.org).
- **National Customs Authorities:** To access specific application forms and portal requirements for your country, visit your national customs authority or designated competent authority. If you are unsure of your authority, visit the AfCFTA portal above to find local contact details.

*Note: This document is for guidance purposes. Always verify your specific requirements against the latest version of the official AfCFTA Rules of Origin Manual and your local customs authority protocols.*