

**Committee on Rules of Origin**

**NOTIFICATIONS UNDER ARTICLE 5 AND PARAGRAPH 4 OF ANNEX II OF  
THE AGREEMENT ON RULES OF ORIGIN**

A. NON-PREFERENTIAL RULES OF ORIGIN

1. Article 5.1 of the Agreement on Rules of Origin envisages that each Member shall provide to the Secretariat, within 90 days after the date of entry into force of the WTO Agreement for it, its rules of origin, judicial decisions and administrative rulings of general application relating to rules of origin in effect on that date. If by inadvertence a rule of origin has not been provided, the Member concerned shall provide it immediately after this fact becomes known. Lists of information received and available within the Secretariat shall be circulated to the Members by the Secretariat.

2. Article 5.2 of the Agreement on Rules of Origin provides that during the period referred to in Article 2, Members introducing modifications, other than *de minimis* modifications, to their rules of origin or introducing new rules of origin, which, for the purpose of this Article, shall include any rule of origin referred to in paragraph 1 and not provided to the Secretariat, shall publish a notice to that effect at least 60 days before the entry into force of the modified or new rule in such a manner as to enable interested parties to become acquainted with the intention to modify a rule of origin or to introduce a new rule of origin, unless exceptional circumstances arise or threaten to arise for a Member. In these exceptional cases, the Member shall publish the modified or new rule as soon as possible.

3. Previous notifications received are listed in the G/RO/N/- series. Further notifications have been received as follows<sup>1</sup>:

PANAMA  
(Notification in Spanish)

Panama, in its legislation, does not have judicial decisions or administrative rulings relating to non-preferential rules of origin.

B. PREFERENTIAL RULES OF ORIGIN

1. Paragraph 4 of Annex II of the Agreement on Rules of Origin envisages that Members shall provide to the Secretariat promptly their preferential rules of origin, including a listing of the preferential arrangements to which they apply, judicial decisions, and administrative rulings of general application relating to their preferential rules of origin in effect on the date of entry into force of the WTO Agreement for the Member concerned. Members shall provide any modifications to their preferential rules of origin or new preferential rules of origin as soon as possible to the Secretariat. Lists of information received and available within the Secretariat shall be circulated to Members by the Secretariat.

---

<sup>1</sup> The notifications are available for consultation in the Secretariat (Market Access Division).

2. Previous notifications received are listed in the G/RO/N/- series. Further notifications have been received as follows<sup>2</sup>:

EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES, BULGARIA, THE CZECH REPUBLIC, HUNGARY, ICELAND, LIECHTENSTEIN, NORWAY, POLAND, ROMANIA, THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC, SLOVENIA AND SWITZERLAND  
(Notification in English)

1. On 1 July 1998, the delegations of the European Communities, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, Poland, Romania, the Slovak Republic, Slovenia and Switzerland submitted a joint notification on the system of European Cumulation of Origin<sup>3</sup>.

2. Following that joint communication, the European Communities wishes to inform the WTO of the European Communities' agreements to which the system of European Cumulation of Origin applies.

The annexed material<sup>2</sup> provides copies of the European Communities' agreements in question, information on the entry into force of the new cumulation rules and the date of publication in the Official Journal of the European Communities. The European Communities is making this material available for the information of other WTO Members, in view of the obligation under paragraph 4 of Annex II of the WTO Agreement on Rules of Origin to provide the WTO Secretariat with information on any modifications of preferential rules of origin.

3. This information is provided by the European Communities and also on behalf of its partners in the Agreements concerned. We would be grateful if you would circulate this information to WTO Members.

4. A copy of this information is also being sent to the Committee on Regional Trade Agreements (CRTA) for information.

List of annexed documents:

I. Origin Protocols which entered into force during the first half of 1997:

Country concerned	Date of publication in Official Journal (OJ)	OJ reference	Date of entry into force
Czech Republic	31.12.96	L343	1.1.97
Slovak Republic	5.8.97	L212	1.1.97
Hungary	7.4.97	L92	1.7.97
Poland	11.8.97	L221	1.7.97
Bulgaria	24.5.97	L134	1.1.97
Romania	24.2.97	L54	31.1.97
Estonia	28.4.97	L111	1.4.97
Latvia	28.4.97	L111	1.4.97
Lithuania	27.5.97	L136	1.4.97
EEA	23.1.97	L21	1.12.96
Switzerland	23.7.97	L195	1.1.97
Iceland	23.7.97	L195	1.1.97

<sup>2</sup> The notifications are available for consultation in the Secretariat (Market Access Division).

<sup>3</sup> See document G/RO/N/22. See also communications to the CRTA (WT/REG1, 2, 12, 13, 15, 16/N/1).

Country concerned	Date of publication in Official Journal (OJ)	OJ reference	Date of entry into force
Norway	23.7.97	L195	1.1.97

II. Explanatory notes concerning the definition of “originating products” and methods of administrative cooperation in the context of Protocol 4 to the Europe Agreements with the Central and East European countries.

III. Communication by the European Commission pursuant to Article 4(4) of Protocol 4 to the Europe Agreements and pursuant to Article 4(4) of Protocol 3 to the Free Trade Agreements with Iceland, Norway and Switzerland and pursuant to Article 3(4) of Protocol 4 to the EEA Agreement.

#### PANAMA

(Notification in Spanish)

Preferential rules of origin provided for under bilateral preferential trade agreements concluded between Panama and the following countries:

Colombia, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico and Nicaragua.

---