

Voluntary Report – Voluntary - Public Distribution

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Report Name: New Certification of Origin Process Under USMCA

Country: Canada

Post: Montreal

Report Category: Country/Regional FTA's

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Report Highlights:

A more flexible certification of origin process under the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement will take effect when the agreement enters into force on July 1, 2020. As there will no longer be an official, government certificate of origin form, private businesses engaged in North American trade have been developing proprietary forms to ensure products continue to receive preferential tariff treatment from July 1.

The United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) will enter into force on July 1, 2020, replacing the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) and rendering the NAFTA certificate of origin form – CBP Form 434 – invalid. Instead, importers, exporters, or producers will have to certify that a product meets the [requirements for preferential treatment](#) under USMCA from July 1, 2020.

The certification of origin requirement for USMCA preferential treatment does not have to follow a prescribed format. The certifier (importer, exporter, or producer) can make the certification on a commercial invoice or other document, as long as the information provided satisfies the nine minimum data elements set out in USMCA [Annex 5-A](#).

For multiple shipments of identical goods, shippers may include a previously signed certification of origin for a “[blanket period](#)” of up to 12 months.

Additional guidance and information is available on the [U.S. Customs and Border Protection website](#). USMCA-related questions and concerns can be addressed to Customs and Border Protection at USMCA@CBP.DHS.gov

In the absence of an official, government certificate of origin, FAS/Canada has received numerous reports from industry sources that importers, customs brokers, freight forwarders, distributors, and/or buyers have developed individual certification of origin documents to prevent trade disruptions from July 1, 2020. FAS/Canada recommends all U.S. companies exporting goods eligible for preferential tariff treatment to Canada contact their export sales partners to confirm the certification of origin procedure to be used under USMCA. FAS/Canada further recommends U.S. exporters review trade partners’ certification of origin documents to ensure the data provided meets USMCA requirements linked earlier in this report and attached below.

Attachments:

[05 Origin Procedures.pdf](#)

[Implementation Instructions.pdf](#)