



**Israeli National Federation of International Freight  
Forwarders & Customs Clearing Agents**

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**The Israeli Customs Directorate announced a three months postponement of the updating of the Israel US bilateral Free Trade Agreement:**

**The elimination of the requirement for a Certificate of Origin (the green form) has been postponed from April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018 to June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2018**

As announced in January this year, the Governments of the United States of America and Israel have agreed on updating the bilateral Free Trade Agreement and mutually decided to eliminate the requirement for a Certificate of Origin (the green form) under the Agreement on the Establishment of a Free Trade Area between the United States and Israel (FTA).

**The three months postponement, was provided by the Israeli Customs Directorate, following the request of the Israeli importing community and in order to allow the US exporting public, more time to adapt to the amended bilateral trade régime.**

**According to the newly agreed terms, U.S exporters to Israel are no longer required to submit the green form Certificate of Origin ( C.O.O.) and replace it with origin / invoice declaration. ( i.e. The new measure introduces an invoice declaration, which the US exporter applies to the trade document, in order to enable the identification of the goods concerned.)**

- **As from July 1<sup>st</sup> 2018, the green form Certificate of Origin (C.O.O.) will be no longer valid and accepted by the Israeli customs.**
- **The declaration of origin must be printed on the commercial invoice or on any commercial document such as packing list (These commercial document are clearly linked to the Invoice).**

**The declaration must be related only to the exported items that comply with USA origin, according to the FTA'S rules of origin.**

- US exporters/ producers are kindly requested to take all necessary steps and make all necessary adaptations in their export systems in order to update the export commercial documentation.
- The rules for completing an origin declaration (invoice declaration) can be found below. **Correctly completed, this gives the customs administration in the recipient country formal grounds for giving your products preferential treatment.**

### **Rules for completing an origin declaration (invoice declaration)**

1. The invoice declaration must be **printed** on the invoice / packing list or any other commercial document which describes the products concerned in sufficient detail to enable them to be identified
2. When the export shipment includes items that are of USA origin and other that are not, the items that **are not qualifying** for USA origin, must be marked in a very clear method **by line item**.
3. The invoice declaration should be signed only by the exporter or the producer and **not** by logistic partner such as freight forwarder etc.
4. Any corrections on the invoice declaration must be confirmed by a **signature and stamp of the exporter / producer**.
5. **Tax identification** – The tax identification must be one of the following: TIN (Tax Identification Number), ITIN (Individual Tax Identification Number) or EIN (Exporter Identification Number).
6. Name – The **whole name**, including their first and surname , and sometimes any **middle names of the** employee within the exporter / producer that has signed the invoice declaration.
7. Title – The official job title of the employee within the exporter / producer that has signed the invoice declaration.
8. Email – The E-mail address of the employee within the exporter / producer that has signed the invoice declaration.
9. Signature - The Signature of the employee within the exporter / producer that has signed the invoice declaration.

**Specimen Invoice Declaration text**

**I, the undersigned, hereby declare that unless otherwise indicated, the goods covered by this document fully comply with the rules of origin and the other provisions of the Agreement on the Establishment of a Free Trade Area between the Government of Israel and the Government of the United States of America.**

**(The Exporter (whether the exporter is the producer or not)**

**(The Producer (is not the exporter)**

**Tax identification:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Title:** \_\_\_\_\_

**E-mail:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

*On behalf of the Israeli trading community we would like to note that we highly appreciated your cooperation in this regard.*

*We strongly suggest that the responsible person in your company be in contact with your Israeli importer, in order to verify that the origin declaration is correct and qualify duty free entry.*

## ***The Important role of Rules of Origin***

One of the key ways to take advantage of the Free Trade Agreement (FTA) is to understand the Rules of Origin (ROOs). Put simply, to qualify for the reduced-duty benefit, the product exported must originate from a US party or must contain a specified percentage of U.S. inputs and components.

Products meeting U.S.-Israel FTA Rule of Origin = No (zero) tariff. A product qualifies for FTA tariff treatment if it contains at least 35% American content.

To receive preferential treatment under the Israel US FTA, the exported good:

1. Must be made in the US territory
2. Must meet the appropriate Rule of Origin pertaining to specific products.
3. Must be documented as originating via appropriate invoice DECLARATION provided to the importer or its representative broker.
4. To be eligible for the benefits set forth in the agreement, the consignment must be shipped directly from the US to Israel.

**NOTE: Retain information on how the product was qualified in case of a customs audit. Most of the FTA agreements require retention of the documents for up to 5 / 7 years.**

**Faithfully yours,**

**IFFCCA**