

**APPLICATION IN THE EUROPEAN UNION OF THE PROVISIONS CONCERNING PRINTING  
TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS OF MOVEMENT CERTIFICATES EUR.1, EUR-MED, A.TR. AND  
CERTIFICATES OF ORIGIN FORM A**

**EUROPEAN UNION GUIDELINES**

Legal scope

**a. The technical requirements for EUR.1**

- Annex IIIa<sup>1</sup> to Appendix I of the Regional Convention on pan-Euro-Mediterranean preferential rules of origin and similar provisions of the origin protocols of preferential agreements concluded by the European Union;
- Appendix 3 to Annex II of the Market Access Regulation<sup>2</sup>;
- Appendix III to Annex VI of the OCT Decision<sup>3</sup>;
- Annex 22-10 IA<sup>4</sup> – Movement certificate EUR. 1 and relevant applications;

**b. The technical requirements for EUR-MED**

- Annex III b<sup>5</sup> to Appendix I of the Regional Convention on pan-Euro-Mediterranean preferential rules of origin and similar provisions of the origin protocols of preferential agreements concluded by the European Union with pan-Euro-Mediterranean partners;

**c. The technical requirements for A.TR.**

- Article 9 (1) and (2) of Decision no 1/2006 of the EC-Turkey Customs Cooperation Committee of 26 July 2006<sup>6</sup>;

**d. The technical requirements for Form A**

- Annex 22-08 IA<sup>7</sup> – Certificate of origin Form A

These guidelines do not constitute a legally binding act and are of an explanatory nature. Their purpose is to provide a tool to facilitate uniform application by the Member States of the above legal provisions.

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<sup>1</sup> e.g. see Annex III a to Appendix I of Regional Convention on pan-Euro-Mediterranean preferential rules of origin (OJ L 54 of 26.2.2013, p. 4).

<sup>2</sup> Council Regulation (EC) No 1528/2007 of 20 December 2007 applying the arrangements for products originating in certain states which are part of the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) Group of States provided for in agreements establishing, or leading to the establishment of, Economic Partnership Agreements (OJ L 348 of 31.12.2007).

<sup>3</sup> Council Decision of 25 November 2013 on the association of the overseas countries and territories with the European Union ('Overseas Association Decision') (2013/755/EU), OJ L 344 of 19.12.2013.

<sup>4</sup> see Annex 22-10 to Commission implementing regulation (EU) 2015/2447 of 24 November 2015 laying down detailed rules for implementing certain provisions of Regulation (EU) No 952/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council laying down the Union Customs Code (OJ L 343 of 29.12.2015). Hereafter referred to as IA

<sup>5</sup> e.g. see Annex III b to Appendix I of Regional Convention on pan-Euro-Mediterranean preferential rules of origin (OJ L 54 of 26.2.2013, p. 4).

<sup>6</sup> Decision no 1/2006 of the EC-Turkey Customs Cooperation Committee of 26 July 2006 laying down detailed rules for the application of Decision No 1/95 of the EC-Turkey Association Council (2006/646/EC), OJ L 265 of 26.9.2006.

<sup>7</sup> see Annex 22-08 IA

## Guidelines

When issuing movement certificates EUR.1, EUR-MED, A.TR. or replacement certificates of origin Form A, as well as when examining such certificates provided to them upon release of goods for free circulation, the customs authorities of the Member States should ensure fulfilment of the following requirements:

### **a. The technical requirements for EUR. 1**

Movement certificates EUR. 1 shall be made out on the form of which a specimen appears in Annexes and Appendices mentioned above (Legal scope – part a). This form shall be printed in one or more of the official languages of the European Union. Certificates shall be made out in one of these languages and in accordance with the provisions of the domestic law of the exporting Member State. If they are handwritten, they shall be completed in ink and in capital letters.

By way of example, Annex IIIa to Appendix I of the Regional Convention on pan-Euro-Mediterranean preferential rules of origin and similar provisions of the origin protocols of preferential agreements concluded by the European Union with pan-Euro-Mediterranean partners specifies the following:

1. Each form shall measure 210 x 297 mm; a tolerance of up to minus 5 mm or plus 8 mm in the length may be allowed. The paper used must be white, sized for writing, not containing mechanical pulp and weighing not less than 25 g/m<sup>2</sup>. It shall have a printed green guilloche pattern background making any falsification by mechanical or chemical means apparent to the eye.
2. The competent authorities of the contracting parties (exporting Member State) may reserve the right to print the forms themselves or may have them printed by approved printers. In the latter case, each form must include a reference to such approval. Each form must bear the name and address of the printer or a mark by which the printer can be identified. It shall also bear a serial number, either printed or not, by which it can be identified.

### **b. The technical requirements for EUR-MED**

Movement certificates EUR-MED shall be made out on the form of which a specimen appears in Annexes and Appendices mentioned above (Legal scope – part b). This form shall be printed in one or more of the official languages of the European Union. Certificates shall be made out in one of these languages and in accordance with the provisions of the domestic law of the exporting Member State. If they are handwritten, they shall be completed in ink and in capital letters.

Annex IIIb to Appendix I of the Regional Convention on pan-Euro-Mediterranean preferential rules of origin and similar provisions of the origin protocols of preferential agreements concluded by the European Union with pan-Euro-Mediterranean partners specifies the following:

1. Each form shall measure 210 x 297 mm; a tolerance of up to minus 5 mm or plus 8 mm in the length may be allowed. The paper used must be white, sized for writing, not containing mechanical pulp and weighing not less than 25 g/m<sup>2</sup>. It shall have a printed green guilloche pattern background making any falsification by mechanical or chemical means apparent to the eye.
2. The competent authorities of the contracting parties (exporting Member State) may reserve the right to print the forms themselves or may have them printed by approved printers. In the latter case, each form must include a reference to such approval. Each form must bear the name and address of the printer or a mark by which the printer can be identified. It shall also bear a serial

number, either printed or not, by which it can be identified.

**c. The technical requirements for A. TR.**

Article 9 (1) and (2) of Decision no 1/2006 of the EC-Turkey Customs Cooperation Committee of 26 July 2006 specifies the following:

1. A.TR. movement certificates shall be made out in one of the official languages of the European Union or in Turkish and in accordance with the provisions of the national law of the exporting State. When certificates are made out in Turkish, they shall also be made out in one of the official languages of the European Union. They shall be typed or hand-written in block letters in ink.
2. Each form shall measure 210 x 297 mm. The paper used must be white, sized for writing, not containing mechanical pulp and weighing not less than 25 g/m<sup>2</sup>. It shall have a printed green guilloche pattern background making any falsification by mechanical or chemical means apparent to the eye.

**d. The technical requirements for Form A**

Annex 22-08 IA – Certificate of origin Form A – specifies the following:

1. Certificates of origin Form A must conform to the specimen shown in this Annex. The use of English or French for the notes on the reverse of the certificate shall not be obligatory. Certificates shall be made out in English or French. If completed by hand, entries must be in ink and in capital letters.
2. Each certificate shall measure 210 × 297 mm; a tolerance of up to minus 5 mm or plus 8 mm in the length and in the width may be allowed. The paper used shall be white writing paper, sized, not containing mechanical pulp and weighing not less than 25 g/m<sup>2</sup>. It shall have a printed green guilloche-pattern background making any falsification by mechanical or chemical means apparent to the eye.

If the certificates have several copies, only the top copy which is the original shall be printed with a printed green guilloche-pattern background.

3. Each certificate shall bear a serial number, printed or otherwise, by which it can be identified.
4. Certificates bearing older versions of the notes on the back of the form may also be used until existing stocks are exhausted.

**The colour of movement certificates EUR.1, EUR-MED, A.TR. and certificates of origin Form A**

The rules prescribe that the background shall be a green guilloche-pattern. However, they do not specify any particular shade of green, nor are there any plans to do so. Green is not a primary colour, but a mixture of blue and yellow, and changing the proportion may have a significant impact on the production cost. Consequently, there may be significant variations in colour.

Certificates which do not comply with the technical requirements laid down by European Union law (including origin protocols of preferential agreements and European Union Regulations and Decisions) should be rejected for "technical reasons". However, this should only be done where there is no doubt that they fail to comply. Where there is any room for doubt, in particular as regards the colour, the benefit of such doubt should be given to the economic operator and the certificate should be accepted.

## **The tolerance for the size of movement certificates EUR.1, EUR-MED, A.TR. and certificates of origin Form A**

The technical requirements already contain a tolerance for the size of the form except for movement certificate A.TR.

Each certificate shall measure 210 × 297 mm; a tolerance of up to minus 5 mm or plus 8 mm in the length may be allowed for movement certificates EUR.1, EUR-MED and certificates of origin Form A.

A tolerance of up to minus 5 mm or plus 8 mm in the width is also allowed for certificates of origin Form A.

These tolerances, laid down in technical requirements, cannot be further extended with the exception of the point below.

*- Exceptional tolerance given by the European Union for width of EUR.1 and EUR-MED movement certificates*

Currently no tolerance in the width is mentioned in the technical requirements for movement certificates EUR.1 and EUR-MED. Until necessary amendments of the IA and the relevant origin protocols of preferential agreements, as a transitional measure, movement certificates EUR.1 and EUR-MED can have a tolerance in width of up to minus 5 mm or plus 8 mm. They should not be rejected by customs authorities of the Member States for only this reason.

## **The tolerance for the weight of movement certificates EUR.1, EUR-MED, A.TR. and certificates of origin Form A**

Concerning the weight, relevant provisions only define a minimum threshold of 25 g/m<sup>2</sup> that movement certificates EUR.1, EUR-MED, A.TR. and certificates of origin Form A need to fulfill.

## **The guilloche of movement certificates EUR.1, EUR-MED, A.TR. and certificates of origin Form A**

The above referred requirements laid down by EU law (including origin protocols of preferential agreements and EU Regulations and Decisions) consist of demanding that *"the certificate shall have a printed green guilloche-pattern background making any falsification by mechanical or chemical means apparent to the eye."*

"Mechanical means" implies the use of a tool whereas "chemical means" implies the use of a process. "Mechanical means" implies an attempt to overwrite or disguise, e.g. through the use of a pen or a rubber, while "chemical means" implies something that would change the paper itself in some way.

The rules prescribe that the background shall be a green-guilloche pattern. However, they do not specify any particular template for the green-guilloche pattern background.

Since the technical rules require that the form bears a green, guilloche-pattern background and that its aim is to help combat fraud, the focus should be on the presence or absence of the anti-falsification characteristic of the guilloche pattern and not the form/shape of the guilloche itself. Where any falsification of these certificates by the above means would be apparent to the eye, then they have to be considered as compliant.

The anti-falsification characteristic of the guilloche pattern is paramount and this characteristic may result from a variety of patterns. Concretely, it is through the printed "guilloche", with or without wavy green lines, with or without interlaced ribbons, that invisible changes after the issue of the

certificate are made impossible and given this, the pattern can be considered as an anti-fraud feature.

As soon as the certificate meets the criteria, namely that the pattern must be such as to make "any falsification by mechanical or chemical means apparent to the eye", then it is compliant. There is no mandatory type of guilloche to be respected provided the pattern can be considered as an anti-fraud feature.

Nevertheless, when the green-guilloche pattern background of the certificate contains a name or logo, it should be rejected. A white logo in the centre would indeed allow a number/digit or a letter to be changed without this being apparent to the eye.