

Q. What is a Certificate of Origin?

Ans. A Certificate of Origin (CO) is a document which is used for certification that the products exported are wholly obtained, produced or manufactured in India. It is generally an integral part of export documents.

Q. Why is it required?

Ans. India is signatory to World Trade Organization because of which Indian exports are accorded preferential treatment available to all WTO members. Secondly, India has also entered into bilateral and multilateral trade pacts with its trade partners because of which Indian exports get into these countries at concessional import duty regime. In order to avail the preferential treatment, the Indian exporter are required to furnish the proof that the goods manufactured are, indeed, of Indian origin. Hence, the need for Certificate of Origin.

Q. Does it help importers of Indian goods?

Ans. : Yes. It is a document that helps improve the competitive edge of your exports. It enables your buyers to claim preferential tariff treatment when importing your products under many schemes of preferences such as available under WTO, Generalised System of Preferences (GSP), Commonwealth Preference (CP), Global System of Trade Preferences (GSTP), CO for MFA etc.

Q. Are different Certificate of Origins required by your importers to avail different concessions?

Ans. Generally, yes. Your importer will usually tell you the type of Certificate of Origin required by him. The Certificate of Origins could be broadly classified under two categories.

1. Certificate Of Origin (Preferential)
2. Certificate Of Origin (Non-Preferential)

Preferential Certificate of Origins as Certificate for Exports for Textile Quota (under MFA), GSP etc. are issued by designated Government Offices.

For most of other countries Non-Preferential Certificate of Origins are required and that are issued by Chamber of Commerce of Industries.

Q. Can any Chamber of Commerce and Industry/ Association issue the Certificate of Origins?

Ans : No. Only bodies authorized by DGFT, Union Ministry of Commerce and Industry can issue Certificate of Origin. It is important to know which Office/ Chamber of Commerce can issue the Certificate of Origin.

Q. Where from can I find out the list of authorized agencies who can issue Certificate of Origins?

Ans. Handbook of Procedures Vol-1, Export Import Policy (2002-07) issued by Director General of Foreign Trade, Ministry enlists the authorized agencies as below:

Appendix -35 Agencies authorized to issue GSP

Appendix -35A Agencies authorized to issue CO for SAPTA and Bangkok Agreement

Appendix -35B Agencies authorized to issues Non-Preferential Certificate of Origins (like you can **find ISAP on app 293 under Delhi**)

Q. How can I start getting Certificate of Origins issued from ISAP?

Ans : You need to get the Proforma of Certificate of Origin from ISAP. Fill it up and submit it alongwith documents required to be attested (like Invoice and Packing List). You could also download the format from ISAP's website.

Q. What are the advantages if you get the Certificate issued from ISAP?

Ans. There are several advantages:

- ISAP is open six days a week (open on Saturdays)
- Minimum processing time (5 minutes)
- Convenient Timings from 9.30 AM to 06.00 PM
- ISAP Certified documents are authenticated by CPV Division, Ministry of External Affairs for purposes of legalization of documents also.