

## Customs & Excise

Customs and Excise Strategy  
& Legal Policy: Rules of Origin

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### External Stakeholders

Dear Sir / Madam

### **APPROVED EXPORTER STATUS IN TERMS OF THE SADC-EU EPA AND SACU-EFTA TRADE AGREEMENTS**

Article 25 of Protocol 1 to the Southern African Development Community-European Union Economic Partnership Agreement (SADC –EU EPA) and Article 22 of Annex V of the Southern African Customs Union-European Free Trade Association (SACU-EFTA) trade agreements, makes provision for customs authorities of the exporting country, to issue upon application approved exporter status to exporters, who make frequent shipments of qualifying products.

In South Africa, any exporter who has a good compliance record and exports under the above-mentioned free trade agreements, is eligible to apply for approved exporter status.

The benefit of being an approved exporter includes the following: -

- Paperless exports and self-declaration – there is no need to visit SARS to obtain EUR 1 certificates, thereby saving costs, provided that the trader is registered for Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) transactions with SARS;
- Shorter turnaround times on processing of export declarations;
- Twenty four (24) hour exports – which means that exporters do not have to wait for SARS offices to open in order for export declarations to be processed;
- Compliance with the requirements of the free trade agreements is verified by SARS in advance, thereby providing certainty and predictability.

Kindly visit your nearest Customs and Excise Office or follow this link for the Registration and Licensing Policy, Standard Operating Procedures and the relevant forms:

<http://www.sars.gov.za/AllDocs/OpsDocs/Policies/SC-CF-19%20-%20Registration%20Licensing%20and%20Designation%20-%20External%20Policy.pdf>

Sincerely

SIGNED

**COFFET LEBEPE**

**Group Executive: Customs and Excise Strategy and Legal Policy**