Australian Government
Department of Home Affairs

DEPARTMENT OF HOME AFFAIRS NOTICE No. 2018/30

Change to Chinese issuing authority for Certificates of Origin under China-Australia Free Trade Agreement (ChAFTA)

The General Administration of Customs of the People's Republic of China (GACC) has advised that the responsibilities of the General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine of the People's Republic of China (AQSIQ) has recently been integrated into the GACC and that from 20 August 2018 the activities of AQSIQ will be completed by the GACC.

From 20 August 2018, the GACC will be issuing Certificates of Origin (CoO) under the ChAFTA. CoOs issued by AQSIQ prior to 20 August 2018 will remain effective for their duration of validity as per ChAFTA Article 14.4 of Chapter 3 (Rules Of Origin). The full text of the ChAFTA is available on the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade's Free Trade Agreement website (dfat.gov.au) for reference.

Customs Brokers and Importers will notice a change in the issuing authority stamp in box 14 of the ChAFTA CoO.

The new stamps will be issued by one of the GACC 42 Customs Districts within China (GACC will not appear on the stamp). Each of the GACC 42 districts has its own stamp. CoOs will have the local Customs authorised body as the stamp. The AQSIQ prefix has also been removed from number the bottom of the certificate.

Customs Brokers and Importers who have a concern about issuing authority stamp should send a copy of the CoO to the Origin and Verification Team. The Origin and Verification Team will be able to advise if the Certificate of Origin can be used to claim preferential tariff treatment under ChAFTA.

Certificates of Origin issued by the China Council for the Promotion of International Trade (CCPIT) and its regional branches will not be changed and remain valid.

There remains two authorised bodies for issuing ChAFTA Certificates of Origin in China: the GACC and CCPIT.

[signed]

Tim Fitzgerald
Assistant Secretary
Trusted Trader and Trade Services
28 August 2018