



French customs: your business partner

Approved exporter status – simplifying the rules of origin!

Approved exporter status (AES) means **greater security for your export operations** in terms of the rules of origin. In addition, when you drop off your application at the main customs office you will receive **individual guidance**.

The status is part of **French customs' ongoing quality process**. Our goal is to boost your company's economic competitiveness while maintaining a constant level of trust.

AES is open to every exporter, both manufacturers and shopkeepers, whether or not you export on a regular basis, and no matter what the value of your shipment is.

■ Preferential origin

Preferential origin, upon presentation of proof of origin, confers certain tariff benefits (entry at a reduced or zero rate of duty) on goods traded between countries which have agreed such an arrangement¹ with the European Union.

In the importing country, proof of origin is shown by one of the following documents:

- ✓ An EUR 1 or EUR MED movement certificate that has been drawn up by the exporter (or an authorised representative), and approved by customs in the exporting country, which means visiting customs offices for each export
- ✓ An invoice declaration made out by the exporter when the exported goods are valued at less than €6,000
- ✓ An **invoice declaration** with no cap, if the exporter has received, from customs officials in the exporting country, **authorisation to be an approved exporter (AE)**.²

■ Approved exporter status

Any exporter – whether manufacturer or shopkeeper, SME or major firm – who qualifies for AE status is given a **single authorisation number**. Customs brokers are excluded from the process, but they may request authorisation on behalf of their clients.

The single authorisation simplifies export formalities and guarantees the correctness of the preferential origin information certified by the exporter on the invoice or other commercial documents.

The preferential origin is certified by the approved exporter directly, by including the following phrase on the commercial documents used:

¹ The list of agreements is available on the French Customs website:

<http://www.douane.gouv.fr/data/file/4124.pdf>

² Approved Exporter status (AE), which is only concerned with preferential origin, is distinct from Authorised Economic Operator status (AEO).

"The exporter of the products covered by this document (customs authorisation No ...) declares that, except where otherwise clearly indicated, these products are of ... preferential origin."

■ To qualify for Approved Exporter status

For your future exports, all you need to do is fill out a **"prior declaration of origin" (*déclaration préalable d'origine* - DPO) one single time**, for all of the goods and importing countries that you wish to include under AE status.

The DPO should be submitted to **a single customs office for the entire EU territory**.

Customs will examine your DPO to make sure that you fully understand the applicable **rules of origin** and the **availability of information required to determine the preferential origin** of goods.

■ The advantages of AE status

Become an approved exporter today and benefit from the following advantages:

✓ Streamlined formalities for proving preferential origin, i.e.:

- No need to go to the customs office to get your movement certificate approved
- Commercial documents (invoices, etc.) may be used to certify origin

✓ Safer trade:

- Customs works with you to evaluate the characteristics of your products
- Customs explains the specific rules that will allow you to verify on your own whether or not your goods benefit from preferential origin, based on the importing country
- Customs approves you for AE status
- Understand the rules of origin and make your trade operations safer

Sound interesting? Get in touch!

Drop off your authorisation request at the customs office nearest your business. You will receive **individual** (and legally secure) **attention and guidance**.

Direction Générale des Douanes et Droits Indirects
Bureau Information et Communication
11, rue des deux Communes 93558 Montreuil Cedex

<http://www.douane.gouv.fr>

Pro.douane portal: <https://pro.douane.gouv.fr>

Customs Information Line - 0 811 20 44 44

(cost of a local call from a land line)

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