#### Certificates of Origin: Perspectives from an American Chamber of Commerce

Mark Peachey Vice President Business Growth and International Affairs Northern Kentucky Chamber of Commerce



#### "The future ain't what it used to be."



#### -Yogi Berra

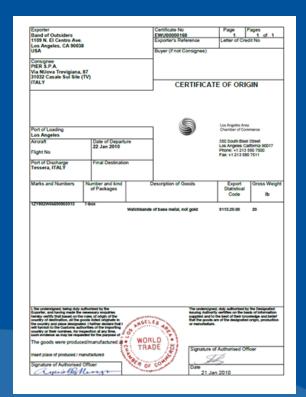
Chambers are undergoing a reengagement of their role to support global commerce.



#### The Origins of Certificates of Origin

Need to know products' origins to determine:

- Duty payable
- Eligibility to enter country
- Food and product safety issues
- Pricing (commodities)
- Homeland security issues





# Why the Chamber of Commerce?

- Exist in every country
- Formalized in 1923 Geneva Convention



 Verify a company's existence / authenticity of signers



#### Stamp Lending and Borrowing

- Chambers rent their stamp to companies
- Companies then pay pennies per stamp
- Foreign customs thinks the chamber has looked over the paperwork when it hasn't.





#### Stamp Lending Referendum

On May 27, 2011, the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) World Chambers Federation gave notice to US Chambers stating:

"Issuance of certificates of origin shall not be outsourced."





#### The Northern Kentucky Chamber Seals Program– Our Story

- Historically strong links to International Trade (NKITA)
- Critical support from DHL and Fidelity Investments to develop and vet Chamber Seal process.
- September 2011, pulled the Certificates of Origin program back to the chamber.





#### Northern Kentucky's Chamber Seal Program





#### How to determine and establish "Origin"?

#### Ad Valorem Percentage Test -

The degree of transformation required to confer origin on the good in terms of a minimum percentage of value (51%) that must come from the originating country.

Rule of Substantial Transformation – Requires an article be transformed into a "new and different article" "having a distinctive name, character or use."





Certificates of Origin – When do you need them?

#### **DEPENDS**...

Where are you shipping?

• What is the product?



• What is the value of the product?



#### Certificates of Origin: Where you are shipping?

Many countries routinely require Certificates of Origin to clear customs - by region these include:

- Asia China, Japan, S. Korea, Singapore, Australia
- Middle East (the majority, but in particular) Israel, Egypt, Saudia Arabia, Qatar, Kuwait, Iraq
- The Americas Canada/Mexico (NAFTA), Chile, Dominican Republic, Colombia NKYChamber of Commerce Northern Kentucky Chamber of Commerce WWW.nkychamber.com

Certificates of Origin: What is the Product?

Many countries require a Certificate of Origin for shipments of textiles, such as fabric and clothing that exceed a certain value.

 Particular for Japan, EU and Latin American Countries



#### Certificates of Origin: What is the value of Product?

In some cases, countries require a Certificate of Origin only for goods that exceed a certain value .

Example: Bolivia- All non-documents valued over \$3,000 USD



#### Are there Country / FTA specific – Certificate of Origin Forms?

#### Yes....

- NAFTA (Canada / Mexico)
- Australia
- Singapore
- Israel

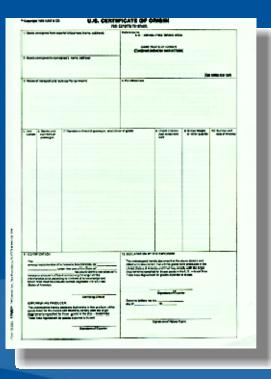


- CAFTA- DR (Central American FTA)
- South Korea (KORUS)



#### Are there Country / FTA specific – Certificate of Origin Forms?

ISRAELI -Signature Blue Certificate of Origin





#### "Electronic" Certificates of Origin



Many countries have adopted electronic Certificates of Origin or eCO's

According to the 2009 ICC World CO Survey, eCOs are recognized by national authorities in these (31) countries:

Australia, Belgium, Canada, Chile, Croatia, Denmark, Ethiopia, Germany, Honduras, Hong Kong, Ireland, Ivory Coast, Japan, Kenya, Korea, Mongolia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, Romania, Singapore, South Africa, Spain, Switzerland, Trinidad and Tobago, Ukraine, UAE, UK, and the USA

## Which countries <u>require</u> manual processing of Certificates of Origin

Middle East – in particular: Israel, Egypt and Qatar.

Example – Qatar now requires CO's be stamped with "nonindelible" ink capable of passing the "smudge test."





#### Chamber Seal Program: Best Practices

- Facility visit / Company validation
- Documents checked for accuracy
- Export Compliance :
  - Dual Use/Military items requiring export license
  - Banned parties / countries list
- Emergency document recovery
- Response to customs inquiries





## Summary



- US Chambers are reclaiming their vital role in the facilitation of global commerce.
- When done properly, the process has the capability to provide value to exporters, importers and customs officials.
- Adoption of e-Certification platforms are critical to the future of stream lining the process of sealing Certificates of Origin and other export documents.
- Proliferation of new Free Trade Agreements will only increase the required use of Certification of Migic hamber

Northern Kentucky Chamber of Commerce

### QUESTIONS:



