UK Certificates of Origin move to Plain Paper

Plain paper UK certificates of Origin came into force on 1st April 2023.   The preprinted orange certificates of origin are no longer used and you should destroy any copies you hold.

Over 40% of Certificates of Origin issued worldwide are now printed on plain paper. As we move into a digital future the BCC wants the Chambers to be in the vanguard working with the Government to achieve its digital ambition for a paperless border by 2025. The move to plain paper Certificates of Origin is the first step in this journey.   All applications will have to be made via our online eCERT platform which if you have not already been signed up to, is free to register.

If wet stamp legalisation is required by an importer, bank or destination country customs authority our team will still be able to provide this.   Additional fees may apply.

Certificates of Origin printed via the eCERT online platform have additional security features such as the QR code allowing anyone with the Certificate of Origin to scan the QR code and see an online version of the Certificate of Origin so they can check the version they have has not been amended or falsified. Anyone with the Certificate of Origin will also be able to verify the authenticity of the Certificate of Origin via the ICC verification website (https://certificates.iccwbo.org). Increasingly Customs authorities worldwide are looking to be able to verify Certificates of Origin online.

This will also simplify the printing of Certificates of Origin by exporters as they will no longer need to insert a blank Certificate of Origin correctly into the printer before printing.

The original certificate of origin must be printed in colour to a suitable standard that will be accepted by Customs authorities.

The layout and style of the certificate of origin will not change as this is laid out in the revised Kyoto agreement.

The copy and application copy must be printed in black and white.  You will receive the certificate of origin and the copy but will only need to the print the original certificate of origin.   You can print the copy for your records if they wish.

If the certificate of origin is refused because of the quality of the printing or the paper, then this will be your responsibility if printed by yourselves.

All applications will now need to be online submitted vi the eCERT platform. Once the application has been approved, the choice is yours as to whether you print on plain paper or print directly to a PDF for attachment to an email to forward to your client.

If your application requires a wet stamp, you will be able to apply as normal via eCERT as a standard certificate of origin, we will print the original in colour and the copy in black and white, however we do urge you to look at applying on eCERT to save time and money.

Please remember to upload all supporting documentation e.g. invoices, packing list, foreign evidence etc to the application and to confirm any special details e.g. post special delivery in the comment section.

For FAQ's on plain paper UK Certificates of origin please click here