APEC Self-Certification Pathfinder Operating Guidelines

Submitted by: Singapore
APEC Self-Certification Pathfinder Operating Guidelines

Participating Economies

- Australia
- Canada
- Japan
- Korea
- New Zealand
- Singapore
- United States
Pathfinder Initiative

- Initiative involves:
- 1) APEC pathfinder participants agreeing to practice self-certification with FTA partners based on a set of common operating guidelines; and
- 2) A capacity building program to encourage adoption and ensure successful implementation.

Common Operating Guidelines

- Implementation is based on individual economy circumstances and its relationship with its respective FTA partner.
- The trader’s declaration of a product’s economy of origin is accepted in good faith by the importing authority.
Common Operating Guidelines

The declaration is allowed to be made on an invoice, company letterhead, or other format as agreed to between the partner economies.

Common Operating Guidelines

Verification, carried out selectively based on risk assessment and/or intelligence, is shifted to the post-importation phase. However, there is nothing to prevent verification steps being undertaken at the time the import entry is lodged if Customs wishes to do so.
Common Operating Guidelines

- Comprehensive and effective legislation that contains adequate penalties against the importer is required to deter false declarations and enable recovery of customs duties due.
- Claiming procedures between importer and importing authority are conducted electronically to reduce paper work.

Common Operating Guidelines

- A declaration should include, at a minimum, a full description of the goods, the six-digit Harmonized System Code for the goods, and the names of the producer and importer, if known.
End of Presentation