

CHAPTER III

THE DECLARATION AND CERTIFICATE OF ORIGIN

ARTICLE 9

In order for goods or products to benefit from the preferential treatment provided under this Agreement, a Certificate of Origin in the format set down in the Appendix to this Annex shall be prepared, which in a single document shall provide:

- a declaration by the exporter or the final producer that the origin requirements prescribed in this Annex have been fulfilled;
- a certificate by the authorised body of the exporting country that the declaration by the exporter or the final producer, as the case may be, is accurate.

Where the exporter is not the final producer of the goods or products, the former shall present the declaration of origin to the authorised body.

The competent authority in the exporting country shall carry out such control as is necessary to permit the certification provided for in this Article and shall confirm all the data set out in the Certificate of Origin.

The Certificate of Origin shall have affixed the signature of an official notified by the authorised body of the exporting country pursuant to Article 11.

The date of the Certificate of Origin may not precede that of the relevant commercial invoice.

The Certificate of Origin shall be valid for a period of 180 days from the date of issue.

ARTICLE 10

Each Party shall require the exporter or final producer who completes and signs a Certificate of Origin to keep all the records and documents pertaining to the origin of the goods or products for a minimum of three years from the date of the certificate and to produce these records and documents as requested by the competent authority, in accordance with national legislation.