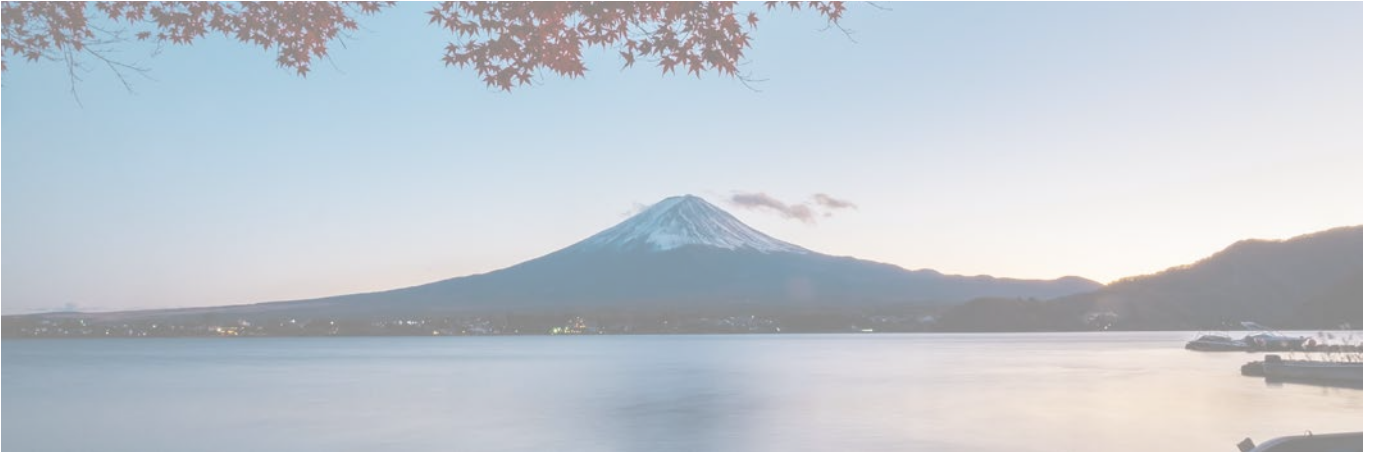


# HOW TO EXPORT USING THE EU-JAPAN ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT (EPA)

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# 1.0 INTRODUCTION

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**This guide supports the requirement by the EU Japan Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) to provide Economic Operators with the necessary information to access and conduct trade overseas.**

The aim of this guide is to provide a simple explanation of the EU Japan Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) in order to enable any Economic Operator to be aware, understand and take advantage of the opportunities created by the EPA.

This guide will focus on the exportation of European goods using the EPA. The guide will provide information on export requirements for goods including customs procedures and other rules governing exports from the EU to Japan.

# 2.0 TRADE STATISTICS: EU AND JAPAN TRADE



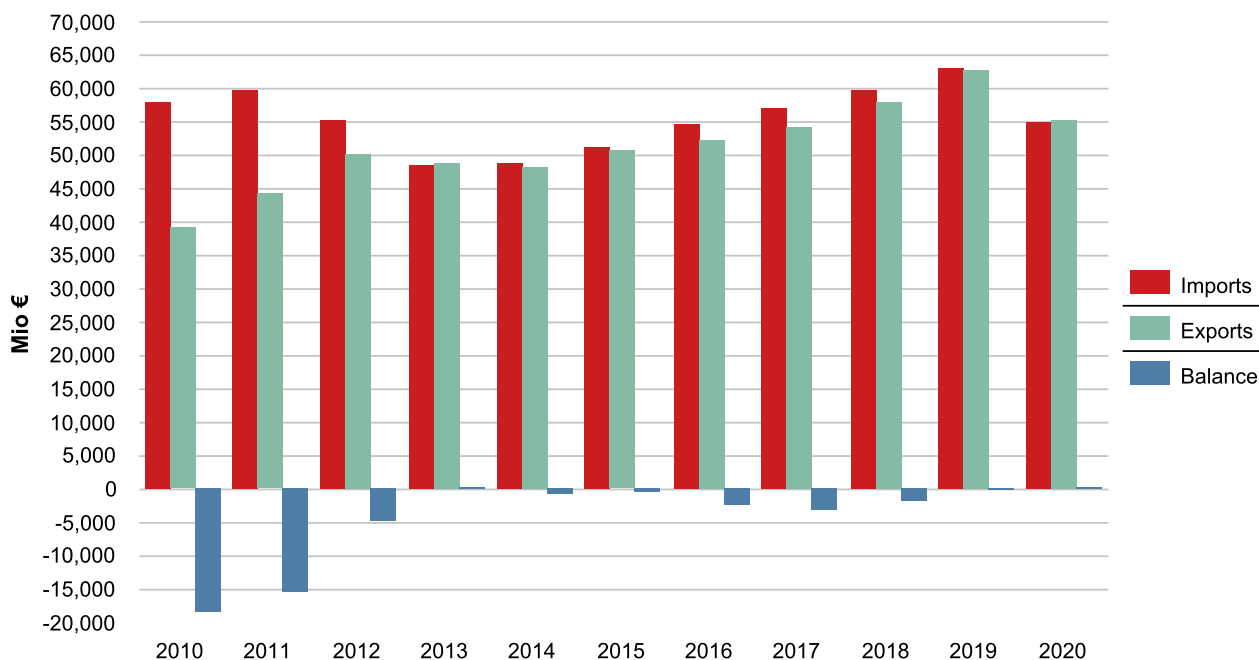
## Japan is:

- the EU's second-biggest trading partner in Asia after China
- the seventh largest partner for EU exports and imports of goods.

Together, the EU and Japan account for about a quarter of the world's GDP (Gross Domestic Product).

EU exports to Japan are dominated by chemicals, motor vehicles, machinery, optical and medical instruments, and food and drink.

## Total goods: EU trade flows and balance with Japan (EU27 after 2019)



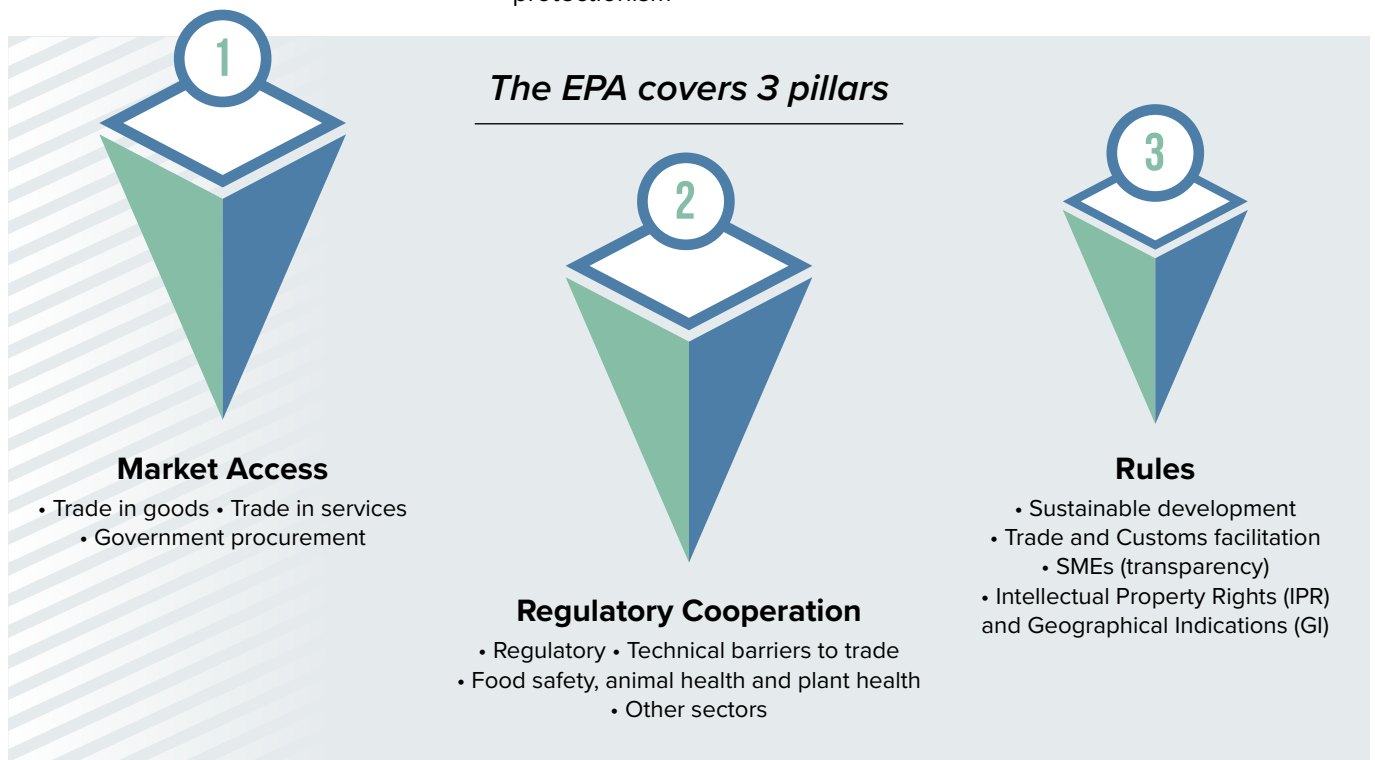
<https://ec.europa.eu/trade/policy/countries-and-regions/countries/japan/>

# 3.0 THE EU-JAPAN EPA IN A NUTSHELL

The EU-Japan Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) is a trade agreement that was signed on 17 July 2018 and entered into force on 1 February 2019.

The EPA:

- removes tariffs and other trade barriers and creates a platform to cooperate in order to prevent obstacles to trade
- helps shape global trade rules in line with the EU and Japan's high standards and shared values
- sends a powerful signal that two of the world's biggest economies reject protectionism



The EPA will increase trade between the two partners by:

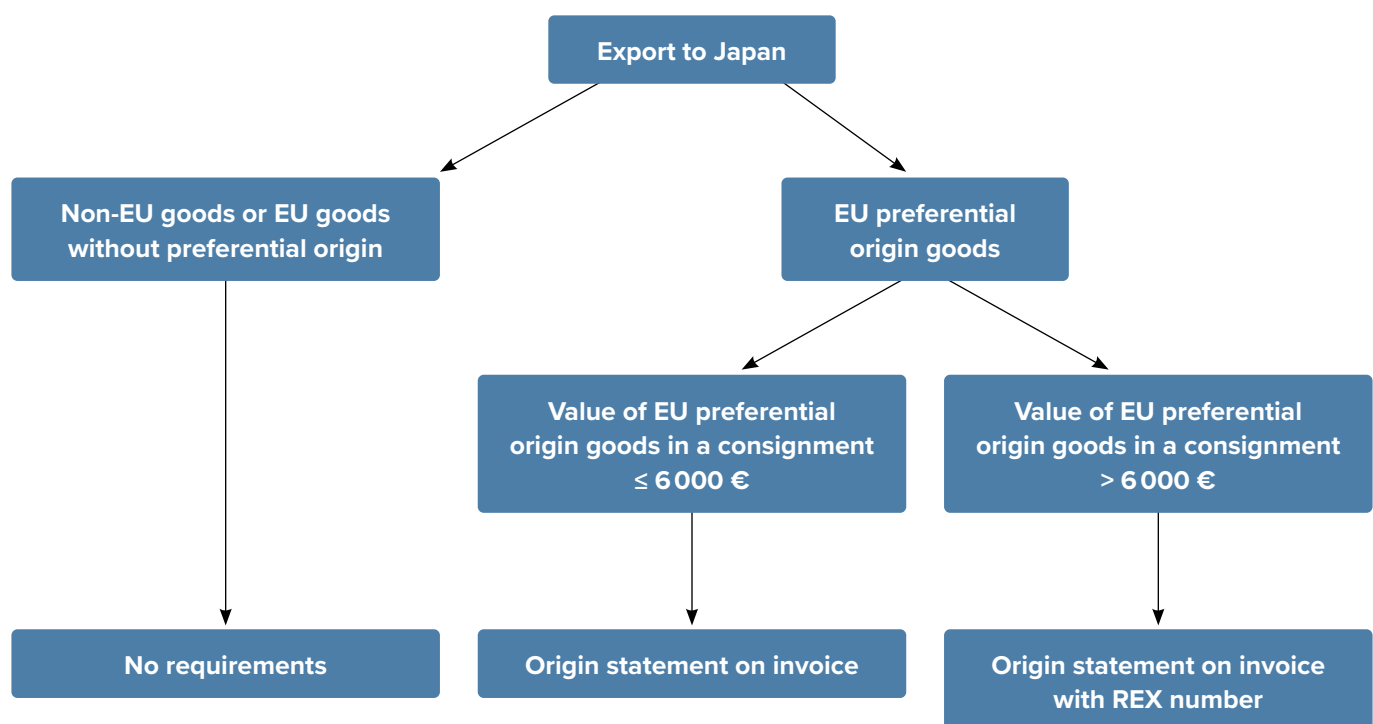
- Removing tariff and other trade barriers, which will facilitate exports and imports by both sides.
- Ensuring the openness of markets for services, in particular for financial services, telecommunications and transport.
- Guaranteeing non-discriminatory treatment of EU businesses operating in public procurement markets.
- Improving the protection of intellectual property rights in Japan as well as the protection of high-quality European agricultural products, so-called geographical indications (GIs).
- Saving companies of both sides substantial amounts of money and time.
- Providing enhanced support to smaller firms which are disproportionately affected by trade barriers.

# 4.0 WHAT CAN EU EXPORTERS EXPECT FROM THE EPA?

Where they can issue a proof of preferential origin for the exported goods, they can enjoy:

- Better access to the Japan market
- Removal of some trade obstacles
- Increase of their trade

## 4.1 ORIGIN REQUIREMENTS FOR THE EXPORTERS

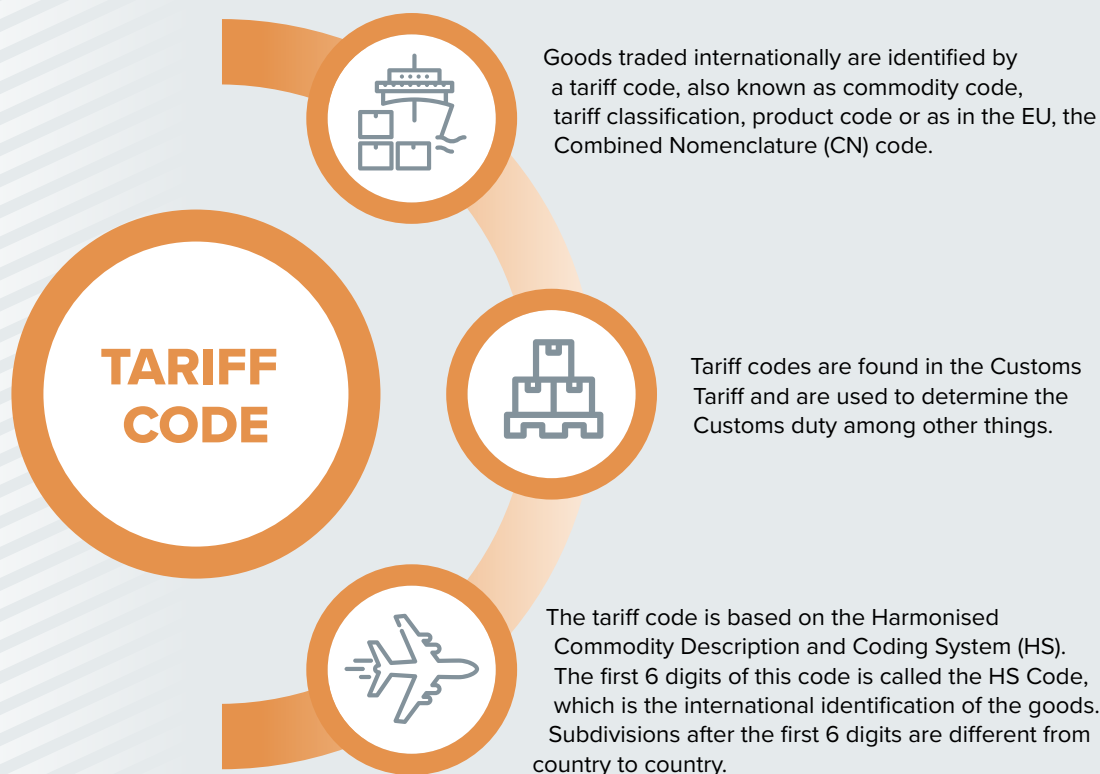


A second possibility to prove the preferential origin is the Importer's Knowledge. No statement is issued by the exporter, who shares, with the importer, all information necessary to prove the preferential origin.

In case there is no preferential treatment on the import in Japan, there is no fiscal benefit from issuing a proof of preferential origin by the exporter in the EU.

## 4.2 HOW TO CHECK WHETHER A PREFERENTIAL TARIFF APPLIES ON THE IMPORT IN JAPAN?

Preferential tariff treatment defines how and at what rate the Customs duty is to be reduced or eliminated. To check preferential tariffs, the tariff code is required. Every tariff code has its own tariff liberalisation treatment, which can be zero tariff, elimination or a reduction of tariffs, according to the tariff reducing schedule.



# 4.3 TOOL TO CHECK THE TARIFF TREATMENT ON THE IMPORT IN JAPAN

European Commission's Access2Markets website: <https://trade.ec.europa.eu/access-to-markets/>

**Step 1: Select My Trade Assistant and enter the Tariff Code, select the EU Member State of export and Japan as country of destination.**

The screenshot shows the 'My Trade Assistant' search interface. The search criteria are: Product name or HS code: 420310, Country from: Belgium, Country to: Japan. The search button is labeled 'Search >'. The interface also includes a language selector set to 'English' and a search bar.

**Step 2: Search and view results**

The screenshot shows the search results for product code 420310. The results are categorized under 'Articles of apparel'. The selected tariff code is 42031010, highlighted with an orange arrow.

Articles of apparel	42	03	10
Trimmed with furskin or combined or trimmed with precious metal, metal clad with precious metal, metal plated with precious metal, precious stones, semi-precious stones, pearls, coral, elephants' tusks or Bekko	42	03	10 10
Other	42	03	10 20

**Step 3: Select the right tariff code (4203 1010)**

Results for product code 4203.10.10 from Belgium to Japan

The screenshot shows the 'Tariffs' page for product code 4203.10.10 from Belgium to Japan. The results are summarized in a table with three rows: General duty rate (40%), Most Favoured Nation rate (16%), and EU preferential rate (10.2%).

Tariffs	General duty rate	Most Favoured Nation rate	EU preferential rate
GEN	40%	16%	10.2%
MFN			
EU			

**Conclusion: There is a fiscal advantage with the proof of EU preferential origin.**



# 5.0 REQUIREMENTS FOR JAPANESE IMPORTERS TO BENEFIT FROM PREFERENTIAL TARIFFS USING THE EPA

## ***Imported product must originate in the EU***

The EPA sets out rules which are known as “Rules of Origin” to determine whether a product can benefit from the preferential origin.

## ***Product may not be altered during transport***

Except for unloading, reloading, splitting of consignments or another specific operation while remaining under Customs control.

## ***Proof of origin must be provided by EU exporter***

In order to claim preferential tariff treatment, the Japanese importer must either have:

1. A Statement on Origin from the EU exporter
2. The importer’s knowledge that the product is originating from the EU

# 5.1 MEETING THE RULES OF ORIGIN (RoO)

## The Basic RoO



### Product wholly obtained or produced

- Mostly applies to agricultural products, fish, minerals, waste and scrap
- Products produced from wholly obtained products
- The EU Member States must be the only countries involved in the production or manufacture of the product



### Products produced exclusively from materials originating in the EU

- Materials that are wholly obtained or have fulfilled product specific rules to be deemed originating



### Products produced using non-originating materials by satisfying

Product Specific Rules (PSRs) which can be based on:

- A production process
- A change in tariff classification
- A value added rule

## Common Product Specific Rules in the EPA

These rules are specific to a product or tariff line and are used to qualify the product as originating in the EU, when non-originating materials are used in manufacturing or producing.

Change in Tariff Classification	Value Added Rule	Production Process
<p>Manufacturing process results in a change in tariff classification between the non-originating materials and the final product.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CC – change in the first 2 digits of the tariff code</li> <li>• CTH – change in the first 4 digits of the tariff code</li> <li>• CTSH – change in the first 6 digits of the tariff code</li> </ul>	<p>The value of all non-originating materials used in the production of a product is not allowed to exceed a certain percentage of the price of the final product.</p>	<p>A specific production process is required.</p> <p>Examples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mixing and blending</li> <li>• Distillation</li> <li>• Purification</li> <li>• Biotechnological processing</li> </ul>

## Other RoO points to note

When manufacturing/processing takes place, do not consider the following to determine the preferential origin:



### Neutral elements

such as fuel, tools or machines used to produce your product



### Packaging materials

used for retail sale



### Accessories, spare parts, tools and information materials

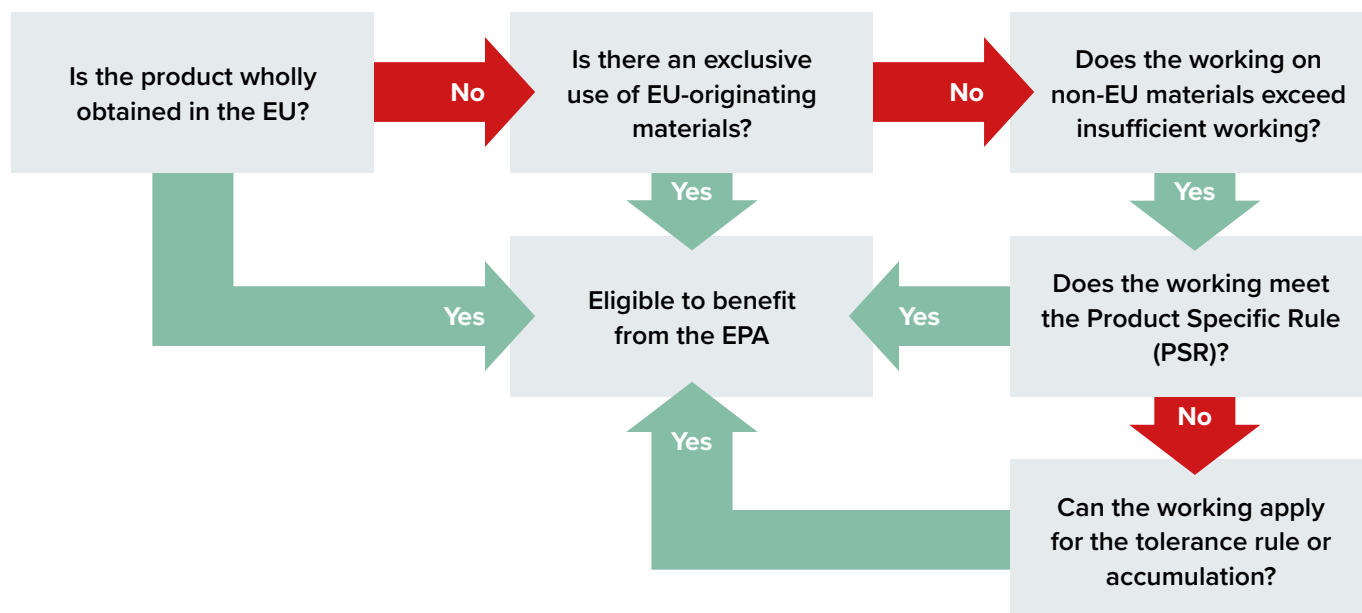
if they are delivered with your product



### Packing materials and containers

for the shipments

## 5.2 ASSESSING WHETHER YOUR PRODUCT MEETS THE ROO



### Insufficient working

One or more operations, listed in Article 3.4 of the EPA, carried out in the EU on non-originating materials will never grant the preferential origin (See 5.2.1).

### Tolerance rule

Allows exporters to use the General Tolerances foreseen by Article 3.6 of the EPA for chapters 1 to 49 and 64 to 97 and by the Introductory Notes to PSRs (Annex 3-A) for chapters 50 to 63.

### Accumulation

Allows materials originating in Japan and further processed or added to products originating in the EU, to be considered originating in the EU.



### Where to find the Rules of Origin?

- The EU-Japan EPA Text - Annex 3-A and Annex 3-B
- Use the Rules of Origin Self-Assessment Online Tool in Access2Markets: <https://trade.ec.europa.eu/access-to-markets/en/content/presenting-rosa>

To locate the RoO applicable to your import, the tariff code is required.

# 5.2.1 INSUFFICIENT WORKING OR PROCESSING (ARTICLE 3.4 OF THE EU-JAPAN EPA TEXT)

In case of use of non-originating materials, before applying the Product Specific Rule, exporters or importers using importer's knowledge should check whether the working or processing goes beyond one or more of the following operations:

- a.** Preserving operations such as drying, freezing, keeping in brine and other similar operations where their sole purpose is to ensure that the product remains in good condition during transport and storage;
- b.** Changes of packaging;
- c.** Breaking-up or assembly of packages;
- d.** Washing, cleaning or removal of dust, oxide, oil, paint or other coverings;
- e.** Ironing or pressing of textiles and textile articles;
- f.** Simple painting or polishing operations;
- g.** Husking, partial or total bleaching, polishing or glazing of cereals and rice;
- h.** Operations to colour or flavour sugar or form sugar lumps; partial or total milling of sugar in solid form;
- i.** Peeling, stoning or shelling of fruits, nuts or vegetables;
- j.** Sharpening, simple grinding or simple cutting;
- k.** Sifting, screening, sorting, classifying, grading or matching including the making-up of sets of articles;
- l.** Simple placing in bottles, cans, flasks, bags, cases or boxes, simple fixing on cards or boards and all other simple packaging operations;
- m.** Affixing or printing marks, labels, logos and other like distinguishing signs on products or their packaging;
- n.** Simple mixing of products, whether or not of different kinds;
- o.** Simple addition of water, dilution, dehydration or denaturation of products;
- p.** Simple collection or assembly of parts to constitute a complete or finished article, or an article falling to be classified as complete or finished pursuant to Rule 2(a) of the General Rules for the Interpretation of the Harmonized System; disassembly of products in parts; or
- q.** Slaughter of animals.

Operations shall be considered simple if neither special skills nor machines, apparatus or equipment especially produced or installed are needed for carrying out those operations.

If the working or processing can be considered as going further than these insufficient operations, the exporter is allowed to consider using the Product Specific Rule.

# 5.3 CASE STUDY EXAMPLE: RoO FOR EXPORT OF WAFFLES FROM EU TO JAPAN

**Tariff code of the waffles:**  
1905 32 99 00

Preparing and baking waffles goes beyond **insufficient workings**.

Is there a **fiscal advantage** for the Japanese importer?

**Results for product code 1905.32 from Belgium to Japan**

<p><b>Tariffs</b></p> <p>Tariffs under a heading</p> <p>Rules of origin - ROSA</p> <p>Rules of origin for other agreements</p> <p>Taxes</p> <p>Procedures and formalities ▾</p> <p>Trade barriers</p> <p>Trade flow statistics</p> <p>How to read the results</p>	<div style="text-align: right;"> <p><b>Tariffs</b></p> <p>latest update: 04 February 2022</p> </div> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr style="border-top: 2px solid blue;"> <td style="width: 10%; text-align: center; border: 1px solid blue; border-radius: 50%; background-color: #0056b3; color: white;">GEN</td> <td style="width: 60%;"><b>General duty rate</b></td> <td style="width: 30%; text-align: right;"><b>30%</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td style="font-size: small;">Tariff applicable to 7 countries and territories</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr style="border-top: 1px solid #ccc;"> <td style="text-align: center; border: 1px solid #ccc; border-radius: 50%; background-color: #0056b3; color: white;">MFN</td> <td><b>Most Favoured Nation rate</b></td> <td style="text-align: right;"><b>18%</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td style="font-size: small;">Tariff applicable to 227 countries and territories</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr style="border-top: 1px solid #ccc;"> <td style="text-align: center; border: 1px solid #ccc; border-radius: 50%; background-color: #0056b3; color: white;">EU</td> <td><b>EU preferential rate</b></td> <td style="text-align: right;"><b>10%</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td style="font-size: small;">Tariff applicable to 27 countries and territories</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	GEN	<b>General duty rate</b>	<b>30%</b>		Tariff applicable to 7 countries and territories		MFN	<b>Most Favoured Nation rate</b>	<b>18%</b>		Tariff applicable to 227 countries and territories		EU	<b>EU preferential rate</b>	<b>10%</b>		Tariff applicable to 27 countries and territories	
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	Tariff applicable to 27 countries and territories																		

## What is the Product Specific Rule?

Harmonised System classification (2017) including specific description	Product specific rule of origin
<b>1905</b>	<p><b>CTH, provided that:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ the weight of non-originating materials of Chapter 4 used does not exceed 10 % of the weight of the product;</li> <li>➤ the total weight of non-originating materials of headings 1003, 1006 and 1101 to 1108 used does not exceed 10 % of the weight of the product;</li> <li>➤ the total weight of non-originating materials of headings 1701 and 1702 used does not exceed 30 % of the weight of the product.</li> </ul>

Source: EU-Japan EPA Text, Annex 3-B

## Applying the RoO

The PSR rule related to HS Classification **1905** applies since the waffles are classified in **1905 32 99 00**.

CTH means “Change in Tariff Heading”. The Tariff Heading is the first

4 digits of the tariff code, which in this case is 1905.

The rule requires all non-originating materials used to produce the waffles, to be classified in a 4-digit code

different from 1905, and also a limit in weight for some non-originating ingredients.

## The non-originating ingredients with their limits

Category 1 → Weight ≤ 10% of weight of the finished product	
<b>Chapter 4</b>	Dairy produce, bird eggs, natural honey
Category 2 → Weight ≤ 10% of weight of the finished product	
<b>Heading 1003</b>	Barley
<b>Heading 1006</b>	Rice
<b>Headings 1101 to 1108</b>	Cereal flours, groats, grains, other flours, starches and inulin
Category 3 → Weight ≤ 30% of weight of the finished product	
<b>Heading 1701</b>	Cane or beet sugar
<b>Heading 1702</b>	Other sugars

The producer has to list all the ingredients, which will, of course, all be of a heading different from 1905.

The next step will be to compare the weight of the ingredients concerned with the weight of the finished product.

If within the limit → **OK**

If above the limit → compulsory to use EU ingredients, with proof of EU origin.

This proof is the supplier's declaration (See 6.0).



## 5.3.1 USING A TOOL TO CHECK THE PREFERENTIAL ORIGIN

This tool is the Access2Markets website: <https://trade.ec.europa.eu/access-to-markets>

**My Trade Assistant**

Including ROSA Rules of Origin Self-Assessment

[How to use this form](#)

[Disclaimer](#) ▼

**Product name or HS code**

**Country from**

 ▼

**Country to**

 ▼

**Search** >

## Results for product code 1905.32 from Belgium to Japan

### Tariffs

Tariffs under a heading

Rules of origin - ROSA

Rules of origin for other agreements

Taxes

Procedures and formalities ▾

Trade barriers

Trade flow statistics

How to read the results

### Tariffs

latest update: 04 February 2022

**GEN** **General duty rate** **30%**  
Tariff applicable to 7 countries and territories

**MFN** **Most Favoured Nation rate** **18%**  
Tariff applicable to 227 countries and territories

**EU** **EU preferential rate** **10%**  
Tariff applicable to 27 countries and territories

Leads to **Product Specific Rules (PSRs)** and a **questionnaire (ROSA = Rules of Origin Self-Assessment)** to help you to check whether the finished product can benefit from the preferential origin status (or not).

## 1 Is my product originating in the EU or Japan?



- i If your product has been produced using any [non-originating materials](#), the product has to fulfil the following **product specific rule** to be considered [originating](#) in the EU or Japan (if there are alternative rules, your product needs to comply with only one of them):

Does my product comply with the rule?

Yes  No

**Production from [non-originating materials](#) of any heading, except that of the product (CTH), provided that:**

Rule explained ▾

- the weight of [non-originating materials](#) of [Chapter 4](#) used does not exceed 10 % of the weight of the product;
- the total weight of [non-originating materials](#) of [headings 10.03, 10.06 and 11.01 to 11.08](#) used does not exceed 10 % of the weight of the product; and
- the total weight of [non-originating materials](#) of [headings 17.01 and 17.02](#) used does not exceed 30 % of the weight of the product.

or

- ii if your product has been **produced exclusively from originating materials**, the product will be considered originating in the EU or Japan.

**Produced exclusively from materials [originating in the EU or Japan](#)**

Rule explained ▾

Yes  No

or

- iii if your product is **wholly obtained** in the EU or Japan, it will be considered originating in the EU or Japan. This is applicable mainly to agricultural products, fish, minerals, waste and scrap.

**Wholly obtained in the EU or Japan**

Rule explained ▾

Yes  No

# 5.4 ISSUANCE OF THE PROOF OF EU PREFERENTIAL ORIGIN

Preferential tariff treatment may be claimed in Japan, based on the EU preferential origin, by using a Statement on Origin issued by the EU exporter or the (JP) importer's (own) knowledge that the product is originating in the EU.



### Statement on Origin

- Text by which the exporter or producer states the origin status of a product
- The text is printed on an invoice or any other commercial document (packing list, proforma invoice)
- Applies to single shipments of one or more products or multiple shipments of identical products, that have obtained the preferential origin under the same criterion



### Importer's Knowledge

- Knowledge is based on supporting documents or records provided by the exporter to the importer



### Record Keeping

Statement on Origin:

- Exporter or producer to keep for 4 years
- Importer to keep for 3 years minimum

Importer's Knowledge:

- Importer to keep records for a minimum period of 3 years from the time the preference is claimed



### Statement on Origin

The exporter may or may not decide to share information with the importer regarding the originating status of a product. However, this will not cause denial of preference by the Japanese Customs, unless the importer is not able to provide a statement on origin issued by the EU exporter.

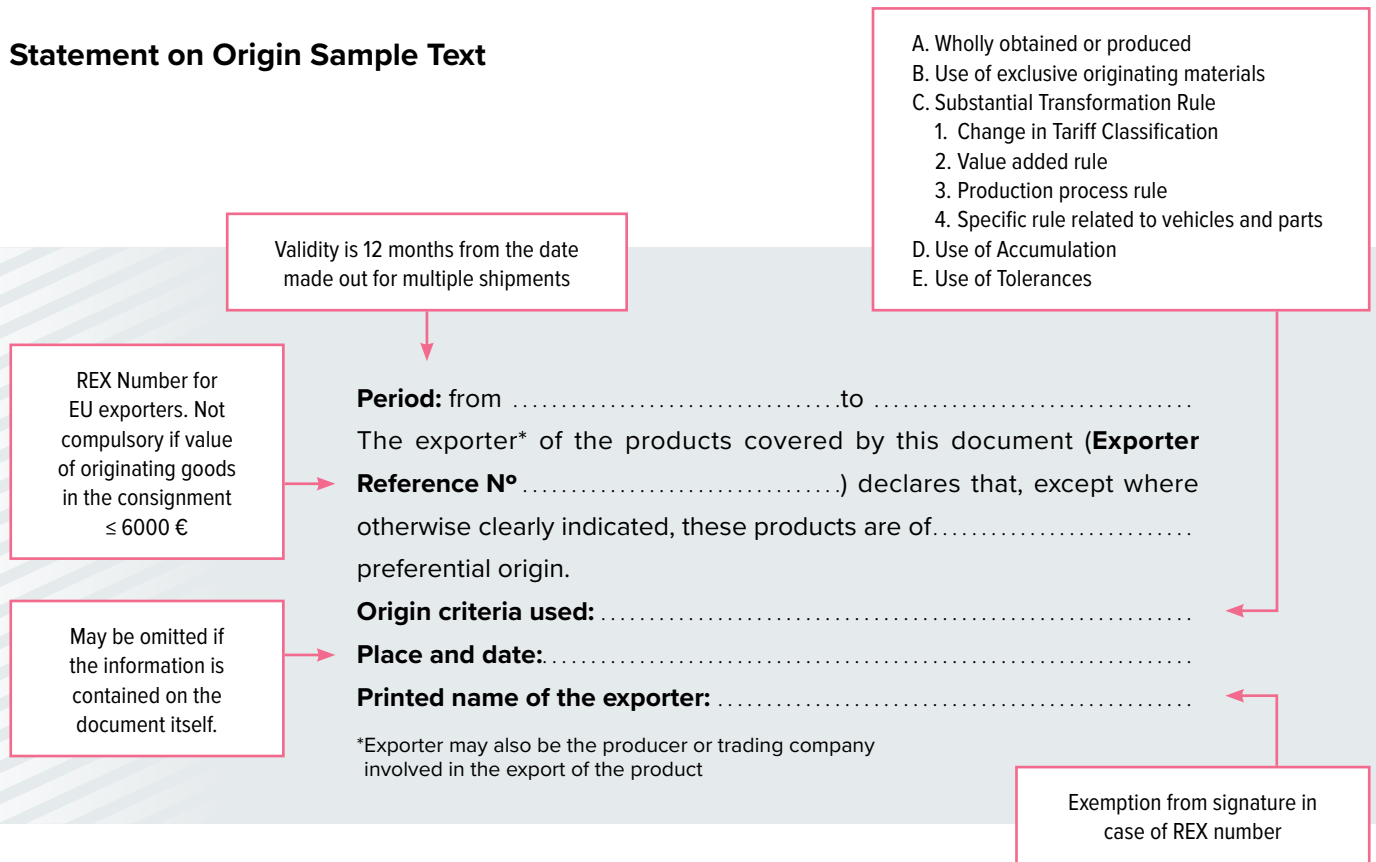
### Importer's Knowledge

This option may be more suited for related parties, where the exporter has no issues disclosing sensitive commercial information to the importer.



# 5.4.1 STATEMENT ON ORIGIN

## Statement on Origin Sample Text



## Verification on the Proof of Origin

A verification of the origin may always be conducted at the time of export by the Customs Authorities of the Member State of export.

A subsequent verification (after shipment) is also possible, by the Customs Authorities of the Member State of export, either on its own initiative, or on request from the Japanese Customs Authorities.

## 5.4.2 IMPORTER'S KNOWLEDGE

The exporter does not issue any proof of origin and does not need a REX-number.

The exporter will give the Japanese importer access to any information necessary to prove the EU preferential origin.

## 5.4.3 THE EXPORT DOCUMENT (SAD)

31 Packages and description of goods	Marks and numbers - Container No(s) - Number and kind	32 Item No	33 Commodity Code			
			34 Country origin Code	35 Gross mass (kg)		
44 Additional information/ Documents produced/ Certificates and authorizations		37 PROCEDURE	a	38 Net mass (kg)	39 Quota	
			b			
		40 Summary declaration/previous document				
		41 Supplementary units				
			A.I. Code			
			46 Statistical value			

**Code in Box 44 if issuance of a Statement on Origin**

- Single shipment → U110
- Multiple shipments → U111

# 6.0 THE SUPPLIER'S DECLARATION

In the EU, a **supplier's declaration** can be used by a supplier to declare the originating status of the goods (s)he provides to his/her customer in the EU who may need this information to prove the preferential origin of these goods in case of export.

This supplier's declaration mentions also for which agreements the good concerned satisfies the sufficient working rule.

A supplier's declaration may never be used as a document on origin for claiming preferential treatment at importation or for proving preferential origin at export.

Link to the **Guidance on the application in the EU of the provisions concerning the supplier's declaration:**  
[https://ec.europa.eu/taxation\\_customs/system/files/2020-01/suppliers-declaration-may-2018\\_en.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/taxation_customs/system/files/2020-01/suppliers-declaration-may-2018_en.pdf)

## *Long-term declaration for products having preferential origin status*

I, the undersigned, declare that the goods described below:

.....<sup>(1)</sup>

.....<sup>(2)</sup>

which are regularly supplied to .....<sup>(3)</sup>, originate in .....<sup>(4)</sup>

and satisfy the rules of origin governing preferential trade with <sup>(5)</sup>

**AD** (Andorra), **AL** (Albania), **BA** (Bosnia-Herzegovina), **CA** (Canada), **CH** (Switzerland), **CL** (Chile),  
**CO** (Colombia), **CI** (Ivory Coast), **DZ** (Algeria), **EC** (Ecuador), **EG** (Egypt), **FO** (Faroe Islands),  
**GE** (Georgia), **GH** (Ghana), **IL** (Israel), **IS** (Iceland), **JO** (Jordan), **JP** (Japan), **KR** (South Korea),  
**LB** (Lebanon), **LI** (Liechtenstein), **MA** (Morocco), **MD** (Moldova), **ME** (Montenegro), **MK** (Macedonia),  
**MX** (Mexico), **NO** (Norway), **PE** (Peru), **PS** (West Bank / Gaza Strip), **SG** (Singapore), **SY** (Syria), **TN** (Tunisia),  
**TR** (Turkey), **UA** (Ukraine), **VN** (Vietnam), **XC** (Ceuta), **XK** (Kosovo), **YD** (Melilla), **XS** (Serbia), **ZA** (South Africa), **ACP**, **Central America**, **Cariforum**, **OCT**, **ESA**, **SADC**, **Western Pacific**, **GSP**, **CAS**

At least Japan should be mentioned  
Compulsory to communicate the origin criteria used

Source: Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2015/2447 – Art. 61 to 93 – Annexes 22-15 to 22-18

# 7.0 APPLICATION TO BECOME A REGISTERED EXPORTER (REX)

The **Registered Exporter system** (the REX system) is a system of certification of the origin of goods based on a principle of self-certification. The origin of goods is declared by economic operators themselves by means of so-called statements on origin. To be entitled to make out a statement on origin, an economic operator has to be

registered in a database by a competent authority. The economic operator thus becomes a «registered exporter».

A REX-number is compulsory when issuing a statement on origin for a consignment containing originating goods of a value exceeding 6000 euro.

## Link for the application

<https://customs.ec.europa.eu/rex-pa-ui/#/create-preapplication/>

## Application to become a registered exporter

### 1. Exporter's name, full address and country, EORI.

**1 EORI number = only 1 Registration**

### 2. Contact details including telephone and fax number as well as e-mail address where available (optional).

### 3. Specify whether the main activity is producing or trading.

**Both can be selected**

### 4. Indicative description of goods which qualify for preferential treatment, including indicative list of Harmonised System headings (or chapters where goods traded fall within more than twenty Harmonised System headings).

**Description + Headings (4 digits)**

### 5. Undertakings to be given by an exporter

The undersigned hereby:

- declares that the above details are correct;
- certifies that no previous registration has been revoked; conversely, certifies that the situation which led to any such revocation has been remedied;
- undertakes to make out statements on origin only for goods which qualify for preferential treatment and comply with the origin rules specified for those goods in the preferential trade agreement concerned;
- undertakes to maintain appropriate commercial accounting records for production / supply of goods qualifying for preferential treatment and to keep them for at least three years (or more depending on the period established in the preferential agreement) from the end of the calendar year in which the statement on origin was made out;
- undertakes to immediately notify the competent authority of changes as they arise to his registration data since acquiring the number of a registered exporter;
- undertakes to cooperate with the competent authority;
- undertakes to accept any checks on the accuracy of his statements on origin, including verification of accounting records and visits to his premises by the European Commission or Member States' authorities;

- undertakes to request his removal from the system, should he no longer meet the conditions
- for applying the Registered Exporter system;
- undertakes to request his removal from the system, should he no longer intend to use the Registered Exporter system.

Place, date, signature of authorised signatory, name and job title

### 6. Prior specific and informed consent of exporter to the publication of his data on the public website

The undersigned is hereby informed that the information supplied in this application may be disclosed to the public via the public website. The undersigned accepts the publication and disclosure of this information via the public website. The undersigned may withdraw his consent to the publication of this information via the public website by sending a request to the competent authorities responsible for the registration.

Place, date, signature of authorised signatory, name and job title

**Consent is NOT compulsory**

### 7. Box for official use by competent authority

The applicant is registered under the following number:

Registration Number: .....

Date of registration: .....

Date from which the registration is valid: .....

# 7.1 CHECK THE VALIDITY OF A REGISTERED EXPORTER'S NUMBER

[https://ec.europa.eu/taxation\\_customs/dds2/eos/rex\\_validation.jsp](https://ec.europa.eu/taxation_customs/dds2/eos/rex_validation.jsp)

European Commission | EN English | Search

Taxation and Customs Union

## REX number validation

**Retrieve REX number validation**

You can launch a validation request by entering the REX or EORI/TIN number and clicking the corresponding "Validate" button.

Search on REX number: BEREXBE [Validate]

Search on [dropdown] number: [Validate]

1 result(s) match(es) your search

REX number	EORI / TIN number	Status
BEREXBE	BE	The REX number is valid

# 8.0 INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS

Protecting Intellectual Property (IP) is a must in the digital age. It is the only legal way to avoid having unique ideas, products, or services copied or used without permission. IP protection can cover many different assets, including trademarks, designs, patents, corporate identities, products, services, and processes.

The EPA promotes the production and trade of innovative and creative products between the EU and Japan. To increase the benefits and trade of these products, the EU and Japan will ensure that the protection of IPR is adequate, effective and not discriminatory, as well as providing enforcement measures against infringements such as counterfeiting and piracy.

Intellectual Property (IP) boosts EU GDP (Gross Domestic Product), productivity, investments and exports of Europe by strengthening IP-intensive sectors. Stronger IP provisions in EU Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) would lead to yearly increases in EU GDP, EU exports, investments in the EU and wages for EU citizens. Every EU Member State would benefit.

Implementing stronger IP provisions in FTAs, in particular with developed countries, would lead to higher GDP and wages, and Europe would become better at attracting investments in cutting-edge innovation.

Source: <https://www.efpia.eu> – European Federation of Pharmaceutical Industries and Associations

## Examples of Types of IPR covered by the EPA



### Patents

The World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) states that “a patent is an exclusive right granted for an invention, which is a product or a process that provides, in general, a new way of doing something, or offers a new technical solution to a problem. To get a patent, technical information about the invention must be disclosed to the public in a patent application”.

The EPA provides common rules for patents, including an extension of the period of protection conferred by a patent on pharmaceutical products and agricultural chemical products.



### Trademarks

The WIPO states that “a trademark is a sign capable of distinguishing the goods or services of one enterprise from those of other enterprises. Trademarks are protected by intellectual property rights.”

The EPA provides common rules for trademarks, including prohibition of preparatory acts such as manufacturing or importing labels and packages indicating registered trademark without the consent of the trademark owner.



### Geographical Indications (GI)

A geographical indication is a name used to identify a product as originating in the territory of a particular country, region or locality where its quality, reputation or other characteristic is linked to its geographical origin.

The EU-Japan EPA foresees full protection for more than 200 EU GIs (foodstuffs, wines and spirits).

#### Examples:

**Belgium:** Beurre d'Ardenne (butter), Jambon d'Ardenne (pork ham)

**France:** Camembert de Normandie (soft cow milk cheese), Roquefort (blue sheep milk cheese)

**Germany:** Nürnberger Lebkuchen (biscuits)

# 9.0 INFORMATION SOURCES

## General information and support for EU-Japan trade



EU-Japan trade overview  
<https://ec.europa.eu/trade/policy/countries-and-regions/countries/japan>



EU-Japan Centre for Industrial Cooperation  
<https://www.eu-japan.eu/summary-activities>



Cooperation between the European Commission's DG GROW and METI of Japan  
[https://ec.europa.eu/growth/industry/international-aspects/cooperation-governments/eu-japan\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/growth/industry/international-aspects/cooperation-governments/eu-japan_en)



“EU Business in Japan” portal for EU SMEs – wide range of resources on all aspects of business with Japan  
<https://www.eubusinessinjapan.eu>

## EU-Japan EPA information and support



Introduction to and explanation in detail of the EPA  
<https://ec.europa.eu/trade/policy/countries-and-regions/countries/japan/>



EPA Guidance – importer's knowledge  
[https://ec.europa.eu/taxation\\_customs/document/download/39b1f9ac-e94a-4b32-9d97-f7dcf2825f27\\_fr](https://ec.europa.eu/taxation_customs/document/download/39b1f9ac-e94a-4b32-9d97-f7dcf2825f27_fr)



EPA Guidance – statement on origin  
[https://ec.europa.eu/taxation\\_customs/document/download/86479fb0-5d11-4fc3-9092-649d632bd1ed\\_fr](https://ec.europa.eu/taxation_customs/document/download/86479fb0-5d11-4fc3-9092-649d632bd1ed_fr)



EPA Guidance – statement on origin for multiple shipments of identical products  
[https://ec.europa.eu/taxation\\_customs/document/download/6d969ee4-d1b8-4085-a93a-0cb28b0ff50d\\_fr](https://ec.europa.eu/taxation_customs/document/download/6d969ee4-d1b8-4085-a93a-0cb28b0ff50d_fr)



EPA Guidance – claim, verification and denial of preference  
[https://ec.europa.eu/taxation\\_customs/document/download/10869698-b7aa-4774-836f-ab4b0716dbe1\\_fr](https://ec.europa.eu/taxation_customs/document/download/10869698-b7aa-4774-836f-ab4b0716dbe1_fr)



EPA Guidance – Confidentiality of information  
[https://ec.europa.eu/taxation\\_customs/document/download/2fcd256c-df32-4f96-bfb6-1cc899cbce20\\_fr](https://ec.europa.eu/taxation_customs/document/download/2fcd256c-df32-4f96-bfb6-1cc899cbce20_fr)

## EU Access2Markets portal



For all products, countries of export and destination  
<https://trade.ec.europa.eu/access-to-markets/en/home>

## Exporting from the EU



Guide for exporters  
<https://trade.ec.europa.eu/access-to-markets/en/content/guide-export-goods>



Rules for EU exports  
<https://ec.europa.eu/trade/import-and-export-rules/export-from-eu/>

## Japan Customs



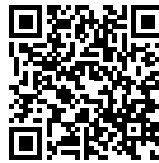
Import procedures in Japan  
<https://www.customs.go.jp/english/summary/import.htm>

## Other source of Information or support

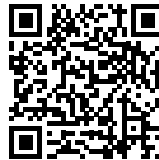


Enterprise Europe Network (EEN) –  
support network for SMEs with  
international ambitions  
<https://een.ec.europa.eu>

## Useful email addresses / Webforms



For customs-related questions  
[taxud-e5\\_eu\\_japan\\_epa@ec.europa.eu](mailto:taxud-e5_eu_japan_epa@ec.europa.eu)



For EPA-related questions and  
issue-specific webinars and factsheets  
<https://www.eu-japan.eu/eu-japan-epa-helpdesk-information>



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**EU-Japan Centre**  
for Industrial Cooperation

一般財団法人  
日欧産業協力センター

### **EU-Japan Centre for Industrial Cooperation**

Office in Europe

Rue Marie de Bourgogne 52, B-1000 Brussels

Tel: +32 (0)2 282 00 40 – Email: [office@eu-japan.eu](mailto:office@eu-japan.eu)

Website: <https://www.eu-japan.eu> / <https://www.eubusinessinjapan.eu>