

Plain Paper UK Certificates of Origin FAQ

Q1. What is plain paper printing?

Plain printing as its name implies is where the entire certificate is printed on plain paper rather than just printing details on to a pre-printed form. Many countries now print UK Certificates of Origin this way including China, Belgium, Netherlands, Finland, and Singapore.

Q2. Will this affect other documents such as EUR1's?

No. This change only applies to UK Certificates of Origin.

Q3. Will the online system be adapted to allow for this change?

Yes. All applications for a UK Certificate of Origin will have to be done online.

Q4. What format will the UK Certificates of Origin be received in?

You will be able to print UK Certificates of Origin from the system as picture file or save it as a pdf.

Q5. What happens if the document is printed in black and white?

The UK Certificates of Origin must be printed in colour otherwise it is likely to be refused by customs authorities. It is written in the international conventions controlling Certificates of Origin that they be in colour.

Q6. Do I need special paper to print the UK Certificates of Origin?

No. Standard quality copier paper is acceptable.

Q7. Will these documents be accepted by all countries?

Yes. The British Chambers of Commerce have notified all relevant authorities of the change. Over 40 % of Certificate of Origin issued worldwide are now done this way.

Q8. What happens if the country concerned requires a wet stamp?

Where countries require a wet stamp the Chamber will print and wet stamp the document for you using the eCert standard method. However, please note that we will impose a "Chamber Printed Fee" of £5 for any documentation that needs to be printed in-house.

Q9. Can we still raise more than one original UK Certificate of Origin if needed?

Yes. It will now be easier to do this as the certificate number will not need to be changed on the additional originals.

Q10. Will the UK Certificate of Origin still have unique numbers?

Yes. Each Chamber will have their own two letter prefix followed by a seven-digit unique number.

Q11. Will customs authorities etc still be able to use the QR code and the ICC verification website to check my UK Certificates of Origin?

Yes.

Q12. Can we still have yellow copy documents?

Yes there will be an option to download the yellow copy if required, however the copy is to be printed on plain paper and in black and white print.

Q13. What happens if I accidentally print onto a UK Certificate of Origin blank form?

This will not be accepted by overseas Customs, and you will need to apply again ensuring you add the "replacement" statement in the remarks box.

Q14. If I have remaining unused UK Certificates of Origin would they need returning/destroying?

Yes. Please destroy any stock you have or return them to the Chamber office.

Q15. Sometimes we cannot upload evidence to the system as the files are large and have to send by email - can this continue?

Yes. At present this will still be acceptable but may change in the future.

Q16. Can other documents such as invoices be stamped this way?

Yes. This is currently available via the online systems and will not change.

Q17. Do I need to let my colleagues know who arrange Letter of Credit applications for my company?

Yes, we advise that you inform all colleagues who are involved in international activities on behalf of your company as they may affect them.