

§ 181.73

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or producer, if so requested by the customs administration of Canada or Mexico from which the good was exported; or

(B) By any method, if no request under paragraph (d)(1)(ii)(A) of this section has been made by the Canadian or Mexican customs administration.

(2) *Nonresponse to follow-up letter or questionnaire*—(i) *Producer of a material*. If a producer of a material fails to respond to a follow-up verification letter or questionnaire sent under paragraph (d)(1) of this section, Customs may consider the material to be non-originating for purposes of determining whether the good to which that material relates is an originating good.

(ii) *Exporter or producer of a good*. If the exporter or producer of a good fails to respond to a follow-up verification letter or questionnaire sent under paragraph (d)(1) of this section, Customs may consider the good to be non-originating and consequently may deny preferential tariff treatment on the good as follows:

(A) If the follow-up letter or questionnaire included a written determination as provided for in paragraph (d)(1)(i) of this section and the exporter or producer fails to respond to the follow-up letter or questionnaire within 30 calendar days or such longer period as specified therein:

(1) From the date on which the follow-up letter or questionnaire and written determination were received by the exporter or producer, if sent pursuant to paragraph (d)(1)(ii)(A) of this section; or

(2) From the date on which the follow-up letter or questionnaire and written determination were either received by the exporter or producer or sent by Customs, if sent in accordance with paragraph (d)(1)(ii)(B) of this section; or

(B) Provided that the procedures set forth in §§ 181.75 and 181.76 of this part are followed, if the follow-up letter or questionnaire does not include a written determination as provided for in paragraph (d)(1)(i) of this section and the exporter or producer fails to respond to the follow-up letter or questionnaire within 30 calendar days or such longer period as specified in the letter or questionnaire:

(1) From the date on which the follow-up letter or questionnaire was received by the exporter or producer, if sent pursuant to paragraph (d)(1)(ii)(A) of this section; or

(2) From the date on which the follow-up letter or questionnaire was either received by the exporter or producer or sent by Customs, if sent in accordance with paragraph (d)(1)(ii)(B) of this section.

(e) *Calculation of regional value content under net cost method*—(1) *General*. Where a Canadian or Mexican producer of a good elects to calculate the regional value content of a good under the net cost method as set forth in General Note 12, HTSUS, and in the appendix to this part, Customs may not, during the time period over which that net cost is calculated, conduct a verification under § 181.72(a) of this part with respect to the regional value content of that good.

(2) *Cost submission for motor vehicles*. Where, pursuant to General Note 12, HTSUS, and the appendix to this part, a Canadian or Mexican producer of a light duty vehicle or heavy duty vehicle, as defined in the appendix to this part, elects to average its regional value content calculation over its fiscal year, Customs may request, in writing, that the producer provide a cost submission reflecting the actual costs incurred in the production of the category of motor vehicles for which the election was made. Such a written request shall constitute a verification letter under paragraph (a)(2)(i) of this section, and the requested cost submission shall be submitted to Customs within 180 calendar days after the close of the producer's fiscal year or within 60 days from the date on which the request was made, whichever is later.

§ 181.73 Notification of verification visit.

(a) *Written notification required*. Prior to conducting a verification visit in Canada or Mexico pursuant to § 181.72(a)(2)(iii) of this part, Customs shall give written notification of the intention to conduct the visit. Such notification shall be delivered:

(1) By certified or registered mail, or by any other method that produces a confirmation of receipt, to the address

of the Canadian or Mexican exporter or producer whose premises are to be visited;

(2) To the customs administration of the country in which the visit is to occur; and

(3) If requested by the country in which the visit is to occur, to the embassy of that country located in the United States.

(b) *Contents of notification.* The notification referred to in paragraph (a) of this section shall include:

(1) The identity of the Customs office and officer issuing the notification;

(2) The name of the Canadian or Mexican exporter or producer of the good, or producer of the material, whose premises are to be visited;

(3) The date and place of the proposed verification visit;

(4) The object and scope of the proposed verification visit, including specific reference to the good or material that is the subject of the verification;

(5) The names and titles of the Customs officers performing the proposed verification visit;

(6) The legal authority for the proposed verification visit; and

(7) A request that the Canadian or Mexican exporter or producer of the good, or producer of the material, provide its written consent for the proposed verification visit.

§ 181.74 Verification visit procedures.

(a) *Written consent required.* Prior to conducting a verification visit in Canada or Mexico pursuant to §181.72(a)(2)(iii) of this part, Customs shall obtain the written consent of the Canadian or Mexican exporter or producer of the good or producer of the material whose premises are to be visited.

(b) *Written consent procedures.* The written consent provided for in paragraph (a) of this section shall be delivered by certified or registered mail, or by any other method that generates a reliable receipt, to the Customs officer who gave the notification provided for in §181.73 of this part.

(c) *Failure to provide written consent or to cooperate or to maintain records.* Except as otherwise provided in paragraph (d) of this section, where a Canadian or Mexican exporter or producer

of a good, or a Canadian or Mexican producer of a material, has not given its written consent to a proposed verification visit within 30 calendar days of receipt of notification pursuant to §181.73 of this part, Customs may deny preferential tariff treatment to that good, or for purposes of determining whether a good is an originating good may consider as non-originating that material, that would have been the subject of the visit, provided that, as regards the good, notice of intent to deny such treatment is given to that exporter or producer of the good and to the U.S. importer thereof prior to taking such action. A failure on the part of the Canadian or Mexican exporter or producer of a good, or on the part of the Canadian or Mexican producer of a material, to maintain records or provide access to such records or otherwise cooperate during the verification visit shall mean that the verification visit never took place and may be treated by Customs in the same manner as a failure to give written consent to a verification visit. However, in the case of a Canadian or Mexican producer of a good who is found during a verification visit to have not maintained records in accordance with the Generally Accepted Accounting Principles applied in the producer's country, Customs may deny preferential tariff treatment on the good based solely on a failure to so maintain those records only if the producer does not conform the records to those Principles within 60 calendar days after Customs informs the producer in writing of that failure.

(d) *Postponement of visit in Canada or Mexico.* Following receipt of the notification provided for in §181.73 of this part, the Canadian or Mexican customs administration may, within 15 calendar days of receipt of the notification, postpone the proposed verification visit for a period not exceeding 60 calendar days from the date of such receipt by providing written notice of the postponement to the Customs officer who issued the notification of the verification visit, unless a longer period is requested and agreed to by Customs. Such a postponement shall not constitute a failure to provide written