

§ 10.308

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computerized format or such other format as is approved by the Headquarters, U.S. Customs Service, Office of Trade Operations, Washington, DC 20229. Alternative formats must contain the same information and certification set forth on Customs Form 353.

(2) *Blanket certifications.* A blanket Exporter's Certificate of Origin, not to exceed a period of 12 months, issued for goods claimed as originating goods under the Agreement, can only be used if the certifying exporter is able to verify that the goods in each shipment to be covered by the blanket certification actually qualify for treatment under the Agreement. A blanket certification does not allow an exporter to average its costs over the blanket certification period in order to establish that the exported goods meet the criteria for originating goods under the Agreement. Under §10.308, the exporter must retain supporting records that will permit a review of the eligibility of the goods in each shipment covered by a blanket certification.

(e) *Exceptions to documentation requirements.* Exceptions to the foregoing documentation requirements may be authorized at the discretion of the port director in the following circumstances:

(1) *Exception for informal entries.* As set forth in paragraphs (e)(1) (i) and (ii) of this section, an Exporter's Certificate of Origin may be waived in connection with an entry entitled to informal entry procedures as authorized in §§ 143.21 and 143.22 of this chapter if:

(i) *Commercial goods which qualify for informal entry.* The invoice, or an appropriate Customs release document, for commercial goods which qualify both for informal entry and a preference must include the following statement, on the invoice or appropriate Customs document:

I hereby certify that the goods described herein are eligible for a preference based upon the rules of origin enumerated in the United States-Canada Free-Trade Agreement.

Check One:

- ( ) Manufacturer
- ( ) Supplier
- ( ) Exporter

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

Title \_\_\_\_\_  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_

(ii) *Noncommercial goods which qualify for informal entry.* The importation of goods from Canada by a person for non-commercial use may be exempt from documentation requirements if the goods are legally marked "Made in Canada", or it can otherwise be shown that they are originating goods under the Agreement and there is no evidence to the contrary.

(2) *Waiver of evidence of direct shipment.* The port director may waive the submission of evidence of direct shipment when otherwise satisfied, taking into consideration the kind and value of the goods, that the goods were, in fact, imported directly from Canada, and that they otherwise qualify for a preference in accordance with the Agreement.

[T.D. 89-3, 53 FR 51766, Dec. 23, 1988, as amended by T.D. 92-8, 57 FR 2455, Jan. 22, 1992]

§ 10.308 Records retention.

(a) *Importer.* The importer of record shall retain the exporter's certificate of origin required by §10.307(d) for a period of 5 years and it must be made available upon request by the appropriate Customs official.

(b) *Exporter.* Any person who exports, or who knowingly causes to be exported, any merchandise to Canada shall make, keep, and render for examination and inspection, such records (including certifications of origin or copies thereof), which pertain to such exportation for a period of 5 years from the date of exportation. In the event that the appropriate Customs official requests submission of the records, they shall be submitted directly to the requesting official.

§ 10.309 Verification of documentation.

Any evidence of country of origin or of direct shipment submitted in support of a preference under the Agreement shall be subject to such verification as the appropriate Customs official may deem necessary. If the U.S. importer or U.S. exporter or their agent does not provide the information requested by the appropriate Customs officer, the port director may

refuse to grant the claim for preference, in addition to other available sanctions.

**§ 10.310 Election to average for motor vehicles.**

(a) *Election.* In determining whether a motor vehicle is originating for purposes of the preferences under the Agreement or a Canadian article under the Automotive Products Trade Act of 1965 (APTA), a manufacturer may elect to average, over its 12-month financial year, its calculation of the value-content requirement for vehicles of the same class or sister vehicles which are assembled in the same plant as provided for in the Agreement. A manufacturer must declare its election to average before the importation of any vehicles produced within the identified 12-month period. The election to average is subject to the conditions and requirements set forth in §§ 10.310 and 10.311.

(b) *Effect of election.* An election to average shall be binding at the time of the first entry of vehicles for which the election has been made and shall remain binding for the plant for the entire period covered by the election. If a manufacturer's annual report, required by § 10.311, does not verify the claim that the vehicles are originating goods under the Agreement or Canadian articles under APTA, or if a manufacturer otherwise fails to comply with the reporting requirements, entries of the vehicles identified in the averaging declaration will be subject to liquidation in accordance with the rate of duty which would otherwise apply.

(c) *Election in lieu of certificate of origin.* In lieu of the Exporter's Certificate of Origin required in § 10.307(c), an importer of vehicles covered by an election to average under this section may have its claim for preference based on a copy of the declaration of election.

[T.D. 89-3, 53 FR 51766, Dec. 23, 1988, as amended by T.D. 92-8, 57 FR 2455, Jan. 22, 1992]

**§ 10.311 Documentation for election to average for motor vehicles.**

A manufacturer who elects to average for motor vehicles shall submit a declaration of election to average,

quarterly reports, and an annual report in the form and manner as follows:

(a) *Declaration of election.* A declaration of election to average, signed by an authorized company official, shall be submitted by the manufacturer to the U.S. Customs Service, Regulatory Audit Division, Detroit, Michigan 48226-2568 on Customs Form 355, Declaration of Election to Average.

(b) *Quarterly Report.* A quarterly report shall be submitted to the Regulatory Audit Division, at the above address, on Customs Form 356, Vehicle Cost Report (Quarterly), within 30 days after the end of each quarter. In lieu of the Customs Form 356, the manufacturer may submit the information required on the form in an approved computerized format or such other format as is approved by the U.S. Customs Service, Regulatory Audit Division, Detroit, Michigan 48226-2568. Alternative formats must contain the same information set forth on the Customs Form 356. Negative quarterly reports are required.

(c) *Annual Report.* An annual report shall be submitted to the U.S. Customs Service, Regulatory Audit Division, Detroit, Michigan 48226-2568, on Customs Form 357, Vehicle Cost Report (Annual), within 90 days of the end of the financial year identified in the Election to Average, Customs Form 355. In lieu of the Customs Form 357, Vehicle Cost Report (Annual), the manufacturer may submit the information required on the form in an approved computerized format or such other format as is approved by the U.S. Customs Service, Regulatory Audit Division, Detroit, Michigan 48226-2568. Alternative formats must contain the same information set forth on Customs Form 357.

**PART 11—PACKING AND STAMPING; MARKING**

PACKING AND STAMPING

Sec.

- 11.1 Cigars, cigarettes, medicinal preparations, and perfumery.
- 11.2 Manufactured tobacco.
- 11.2a Release from Customs custody without payment of tax on cigars, cigarettes and cigarette papers and tubes.