

§ 181.75

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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 consent within the meaning of paragraph (c) of this section and shall not otherwise by itself constitute a valid basis upon which Customs may:

(1) Consider a material that is used in the production of a good to be a non-originating material; or

(2) Deny preferential tariff treatment to a good.

(e) *Verification visits within the United States—(1) Notification and consent procedure.* When the Canadian or Mexican customs administration intends to conduct a verification visit in the United States, notification of such intent will be given, and consent will be required, as provided for under Article 506 of the NAFTA. For purposes of the required notification to Customs, such notification shall be sent to Project North Star Coordination Center, P.O. Box 400, Buffalo, New York 14225-0400.

(2) *Postponement of visit.* Following receipt of notification from the Canadian or Mexican customs administration of its intention to conduct a verification visit in the United States, Customs may, within 15 calendar days of receipt of the notification, postpone the pro-

posed 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 Canadian or Mexican customs administration.

(3) *Designation of observers.* A U.S. exporter or producer, including a producer of a material, whose good or material is the subject of a verification visit by the Canadian or Mexican customs administration shall be allowed to designate two observers to be present during the visit, subject to the following conditions:

(i) The U.S. exporter or producer shall not be required to designate observers;

(ii) There shall be no restriction on the class of persons that may be designated as observers by the U.S. exporter or producer;

(iii) The observers to be present are designated in the written consent to the proposed visit or subsequent thereto;

(iv) The observers do not participate in the verification visit in a manner other than as passive observers;

(v) The presence of observers shall in no way affect the right to have legal counsel or other advisors present during the visit;

(vi) There shall be no obligation on the part of the United States government or on the part of the Canadian or Mexican government to designate observers from its staff, even when the U.S. exporter or producer fails to, or specifically declines to, designate observers; and

(vii) The failure of the U.S. exporter or producer to designate observers shall not result in the postponement of the visit.

§ 181.75 Issuance of origin determination.

(a) *General.* Except in the case of a pattern of conduct within the meaning of §181.76(c) of this part, following receipt and analysis of the results of an origin verification initiated under §181.72(a) of this part in regard to a good imported into the United States and prior to denying preferential tariff treatment on the import transaction which gave rise to the origin verification, Customs shall provide the

exporter or producer whose good is the subject of the verification with a written determination of whether the good qualifies as an originating good. Subject to paragraph (b) of this section, the written origin determination shall be sent within 60 calendar days after conclusion of the origin verification process, unless circumstances require additional time, and shall set forth:

(1) A description of the good that was the subject of the verification together with the identifying numbers and dates of the export and import documents pertaining to the good;

(2) Subject to the provisions of § 181.131 of this part and except in the case of a negative origin determination where specific findings of fact cannot be made because of a failure to respond to a follow-up verification letter or questionnaire sent under § 181.72 of this part, a statement setting forth the findings of fact made in connection with the verification and upon which the determination is based; and

(3) With specific reference to the rules applicable to originating goods as set forth in General Note 12, HTSUS, and in the appendix to this part, the legal basis for the determination.

(b) *Negative origin determinations.* If Customs determines, as a result of an origin verification initiated under § 181.72(a) of this part, that the good which is the subject of the verification does not qualify as an originating good, the written determination required under paragraph (a) of this section:

(1) Shall be sent by certified or registered mail, or by any other method that produces a confirmation of receipt by the exporter or producer, if so requested by the customs administration of Canada or Mexico from which the good was exported; and

(2) Shall, in addition to the information specified in paragraph (a) of this section, set forth the following:

(i) A notice of intent to deny preferential tariff treatment on the good which is the subject of the determination;

(ii) The specific date after which preferential tariff treatment will be denied, as established in accordance with § 181.76(a)(1) of this part;

(iii) The period, established in accordance with § 181.76(a)(1) of this part,

during which the exporter or producer of the good may provide written comments or additional information regarding the determination; and

(iv) A statement advising the exporter or producer of the right to file a protest under 19 U.S.C. 1514 and part 174 of this chapter:

(A) Within 90 days after notice of liquidation is provided pursuant to part 159 of this chapter; or

(B) In cases where the negative origin determination does not result in a liquidation, within 90 days after the date of issuance of the written determination.

§ 181.76 Application of origin determinations.

(a) *General.* Except as otherwise provided in this section, an origin determination may be applied upon issuance of the determination under § 181.75 of this part.

(b) *Negative origin determinations.* In the case of a negative origin determination issued under § 181.75(b) of this part:

(1) The date on which preferential tariff treatment may be denied shall be no earlier than 30 calendar days from the date on which:

(i) Receipt of the written determination by the exporter or producer is confirmed, if a request under § 181.75(b)(1) of this part has been made; or

(ii) The written determination is sent by Customs, if no request under § 181.75(b)(1) of this part has been made; and

(2) Before denying preferential tariff treatment, Customs shall take into account any comments or additional information provided by the exporter or producer during the period established in accordance with paragraph (b)(1) of this section.

(c) *Cases involving a pattern of conduct.* Where multiple origin verifications initiated under § 181.72(a) of this part indicate a pattern of conduct by an exporter or producer involving false or unsupported representations on Certificates of Origin that a good imported into the United States qualifies as an originating good, Customs may deny subsequent claims for preferential tariff treatment on identical goods exported or produced by