

IMPORTING AND EXPORTING

NAFTA BASICS FIVE COMMON ERRORS ON A CERTIFICATE OF ORIGIN

Importing and Exporting

NAFTA basics Five common errors on a Certificate of Origin

The dos and don'ts of NAFTA certificates

Making a mistake on a North America Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) Certificate of Origin could mean severe penalties and retroactive duty applied to your shipment. Still there are five common errors that importer/exporters make all the time – and that you definitely want to avoid:

1 Failing to qualify your goods

DON'T – complete a certificate without having properly qualified the goods under NAFTA rules.

DO – look up the specific rule of origin that applies to your goods and properly qualify them on the Certificate of Origin.

2 Incorrectly choosing preference criteria

DON'T – misinterpret “preference criteria” descriptions such as the use of criteria “A” when it is not applicable.

DO – ensure that you are using the correct preference criteria descriptions for your goods by asking an expert, such as a customs broker, if necessary.

3 Directing Customs to contact the wrong person in case of error

DON'T – include the signature and title of an employee on the certificate who has no knowledge of NAFTA qualifications/eligibility.

DO – include the information of an employee or agent who has the required knowledge of NAFTA so that if he/she is contacted with questions he/she can answer effectively.

4 Providing an inadequate product description

DON'T – include an insufficient product description.

DO – include a description that allows customs officers to determine the nature or use of the product, codes, or brand names.



Learn the top five errors that exporters make when filling out a NAFTA Certificate of Origin and how to avoid them.

5 Filling out Field 9 improperly

DON'T – indicate a dollar value on Field 9 of the form.

DO – indicate an “NC” to specify that they did not meet the preference criteria and were required to calculate the net cost based on “regional value content”, or “NO” to specify that they did meet the preference criteria and did not have to calculate net cost.

Contact Livingston

Have questions or need help with your shipments? Contact your account executive, write to us at: simplify@livingstonintl.com or give us a call at 1-800-837-1063