



Rules of Origin

AFCFTA RULES OF ORIGIN SUPPORT

Rules of Origin are central to AfCFTA trade. They determine whether a product qualifies as originating from an AfCFTA State Party and whether that product may benefit from AfCFTA preferential tariff treatment.

ATFF helps SMEs understand and prepare for Rules of Origin compliance by providing a digital origin assessment workflow, product origin checklist, evidence upload system, Certificate of Origin application support, and review tracking tools.

WHAT ARE RULES OF ORIGIN?

Rules of Origin are the criteria used to determine the economic nationality of a product. Under AfCFTA, a product must satisfy applicable origin requirements before it can be treated as eligible for preferential trade benefits.

A product may qualify based on different origin pathways, including where it is wholly obtained, sufficiently worked or processed, substantially transformed, or qualifies under specific applicable product rules.

WHY RULES OF ORIGIN MATTER TO SMES

Rules of Origin help ensure that AfCFTA benefits are enjoyed by goods genuinely produced, obtained, or sufficiently processed within AfCFTA State Parties.

For SMEs, this is important because incorrect origin claims may lead to customs rejection, denial of preferential treatment, trade delays, buyer disputes, and compliance risks.

HOW ATFF SUPPORTS RULES OF ORIGIN COMPLIANCE

ATFF helps SMEs to:

- identify the HS Code of their products;
- declare country of origin and country of production;
- indicate whether the product is wholly obtained;
- list raw materials and inputs used in production;
- declare imported or non-originating materials;
- record production or manufacturing processes;
- upload supporting documents;
- check preliminary origin readiness;
- prepare Certificate of Origin application documents;
- submit documents for relevant review where applicable;
- track status and corrections through the dashboard.

PRODUCT ORIGIN STATUS ON ATFF

Each product may be assigned a status such as:

Not Assessed	Origin Assessment in Progress	Preliminary Eligible	Pending Designated Authority Review
Additional Documents Required	Not Eligible for AfCFTA Preference	Certificate of Origin Application Prepared	
Certificate of Origin Submitted	Certificate of Origin Issued by Designated Authority		

CERTIFICATE OF ORIGIN SUPPORT

ATFF helps SMEs prepare and organize Certificate of Origin application documentation. The platform may assist with document completeness checks, application tracking, and status monitoring.

Important Compliance Notice

ATFF does not issue official Certificates of Origin and does not replace the Designated Competent Authority, Customs Authority, or any official government agency. ATFF only supports preparation, validation assistance, routing, tracking, and secure storage of Rules of Origin and Certificate of Origin documentation. Official issuance, validation, and verification remain the responsibility of the relevant Designated Competent Authority.

Check whether your product may qualify under AfCFTA Rules of Origin.

Start your origin readiness assessment on ATFF.