

**MEMORANDUM**

TO : ALL DEPUTY COMMISSIONERS
ALL DISTRICTS / SUPPORT COLLECTORS
ALL EXPORT DIVISIONS OR EQUIVALENT UNIT
OTHERS CONCERNED

FROM : ATTY. EDWARD JAMES A. DY BUCO
Deputy Commissioner, AOCG

SUBJECT : Extension of Transition Period of Application of Exporters,
Traders and Stakeholders to the EU-GSP Registered Exporter
(REX) System until 31 December 2020

DATE : 01 July 2020

Please be informed that the request of the Philippine Government for the extension of the transition period of application to the EU-GSP Registered Exporter (REX) System has been granted by the Directorate – General for Taxation and Customs Union.

Thus, Exporters, Traders and stakeholders must submit their application for the REX System **not later than 31 December 2020**.

Therefore, General System of Preference Form A can still be issued and accepted until said date. Starting January 1, 2021, Certificate of Origin GSP form A shall no longer be issued by the Export Divisions or equivalent office of all Collection Districts.

The details of the extension of the transition period for the Philippines is already reflected at the webpage of the EU REX System at https://ec.europa.eu/taxation_customs/business/calculation-customs-duties/rules-origin/general-aspects-preferential-origin/arrangements-list/generalised-system-preferences/the-register-exporter-system_en

For your information and guidance.

South Harbor, Gate 3, Port Area, Manila 1099
Tel. Nos 527-4537, 527-1935

Website: www.customs.gov.ph Email: Boc.cares@customs.gov.ph

A Modernized and Credible Customs Administration That is Among the World's Best

**BUREAU OF CUSTOMS***Professionalism Integrity Accountability*

June 17, 2020

JEAN-MICHEL GRAVE

Head of Unit

DIRECTORATE – GENERAL FOR TAXATION AND CUSTOMS UNION

European Commission

Brussels, Belgium

Dear **Mr. Grave**:

The Philippine Government, through Proclamation no. 929, declared a state of calamity throughout the Philippines due to the Corona Virus Disease 2019 or COVID-19 pandemic. Under this proclamation, an Enhanced Community Quarantine was imposed in Luzon beginning 16 March until 30 April whereby domestic and international travel were prohibited and non-essential movements were restricted.

The rise in the number of confirmed cases also resulted to lockdowns in both private establishments and government institutions. At present, appropriate quarantine measures are still observed in various regions of the Philippines.

Having this situation, our exporters, traders and stakeholders have expressed difficulties in meeting the 30 June 2020 deadline of registration to the Registered Exporter (REX) system.

Relative thereto, the Philippine Bureau of Customs respectfully requests the extension of the transition period for the Philippines to 31 December 2020, as established by Regulation (EU) 2020/750. This is to provide our exporters with a reasonable time to normalize their operations as they recover from the economic and financial impact of the pandemic on their businesses.

Thank you and we hope for your consideration on the matter.

Very truly yours,


REY LEONARDO B. GUERRERO
Commissioner JUN 25 2020

BOC-01-03442

South Harbor, Gate 3, Port Area, Manila 1099

Tel. Nos 527-4537, 527-1935

Website: www.customs.gov.ph Email: Boc.cares@customs.gov.ph*A Modernized and Credible Customs Administration That is Among the World's Best*

From: Jollan Margaret A. Llanaza <JollanMargaretLlanaza@dti.gov.ph>
Sent: Tuesday, June 30, 2020 8:30 AM
To: Salvador V. Seletaria, Jr. <Salvador.SeletariaJr@customs.gov.ph>
Subject: Re: Request for extension of REX application

Dear Sir,

The EU REX webpage already reflects that the extension period due to COVID19 has been applied to the Philippines: https://ec.europa.eu/taxation_customs/business/calculation-customs-duties/rules-origin/general-aspects-preferential-origin/arrangements-list/generalised-system-preferences/the-register-exporter-system-en



REX – Registered Exporter system | Taxation and Customs Union

The Registered Exporter system (the REX system) is a system of certification of origin of goods based on a principle of self-certification. The origin of goods is declared by economic operators themselves by means of so-called statements on origin.

BC 2020-003 26

For BOC's information and reference po.

Thank you,

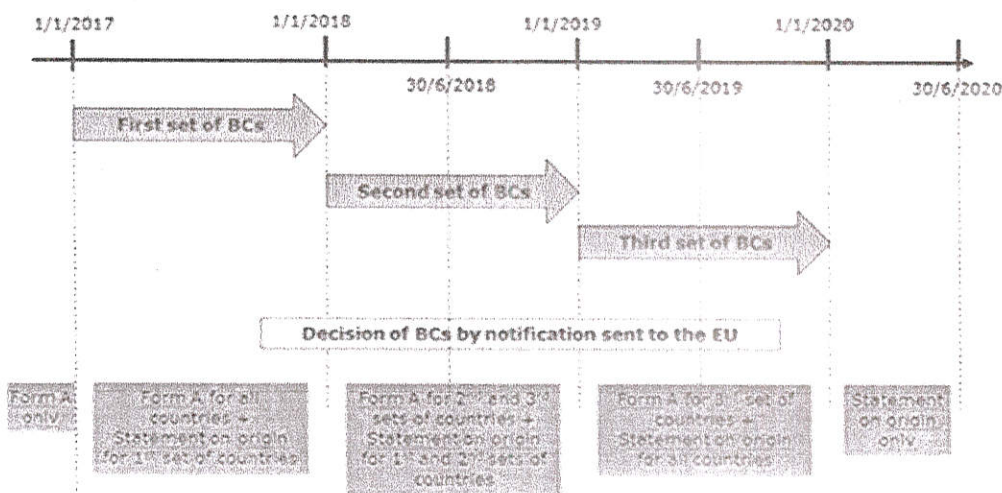
Jollan Margaret A. Llanaza (Ms.)
Bilateral Relations Division
Bureau of International Trade Relations
Department of Trade and Industry
375 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City, 1200 Philippines
Tel: + 63 2 84 65 33 00 local 402

Please note that, in line with government advice, I am currently working remotely.

Transition period

There were 3 different dates for the application of the REX system: 1 January 2017, 1 January 2018 or 1 January 2019. The first set of beneficiary countries contains all GSP beneficiary countries which did not notify a postponement of the application of the REX system or which directly confirmed they wanted to start applying the REX system from 2017. The second and third sets of beneficiary countries contains the countries according to the date they notified to the European Commission.

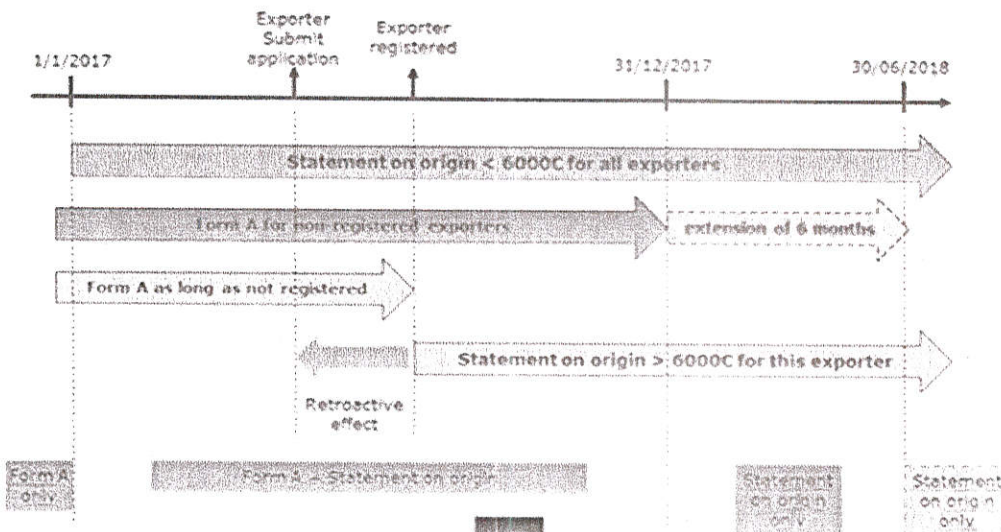
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The global transition period is maximum 3.5 years.

When a beneficiary country starts the application of the REX system, the system of origin certification with certificates of origin Form A continues to apply in parallel during 12 months. In case those 12 months are insufficient for the beneficiary country to abandon the system with certificates of origin Form A, an extension of 6 additional months is possible.

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Details of a one-year transition period for a GSP beneficiary country, illustrated for the application of the REX system starting on 1 January 2017

application of the REX system starting on 1 January 2017

For instance, for the first group of beneficiary countries (2017):

- From 1 January 2017, the competent authorities of a beneficiary country which effectively applies the REX system start registering in the REX system exporters who request it. From 1 January 2017, and if the country effectively applies the REX system, the exporters are entitled to make out statements on origin for consignments of origin goods having a value below 6 000 EUR.
- Until 31 December 2017, the competent authorities may continue to issue certificates of origin Form A at the request of exporters who have not yet been registered in the REX system (green arrow). The competent authorities should cease issuing certificates of origin Form A for exporters who have been registered in the system (yellow arrow). If the transition period is insufficient for a beneficiary country, it may request an extension by maximum six months (grey arrow), i.e. until 30 June 2018.

At the end of the transition period, consignments above 6 000 EUR will be entitled to GSP preferential tariff treatment in the EU only if accompanied by a statement on origin made out by a registered exporter.

The same applies for the second and third groups of beneficiary countries (2018 and 2019). Therefore, the ultimate deadline for the application of the REX system by all beneficiary countries is 30 June 2020.

Update June 2020:

Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, some beneficiary countries of the third group (2019) are facing serious difficulties to respect the 30 June 2020 time-limit for the application of the REX system. Those countries in which the REX system could not

be deployed or used due to the pandemic may benefit from another extension of the transition period to 31 December 2020, as established by Regulation (EU) 2020/750. The beneficiary countries willing to benefit from that possibility should notify DG TAXUD (TAXUD-UNIT-E5@ec.europa.eu) in writing by 15 July 2020 at the latest, providing:

- an explanation why an extension of the transition period is necessary due to the COVID-19 pandemic
- a work plan containing detailed information on how the notifying country intends to fully apply the REX system by 31 December 2020

A beneficiary country which benefit from that extension of the transition period shall submit to DG TAXUD (TAXUD-UNIT-E5@ec.europa.eu) by 30 September 2020, a report detailing the progress made in implementing the work plan, and elaborating on any corrective measures necessary to meet the time-limit of 31 December 2020 for the application of the REX system.

Dates of application of the REX system for all GSP beneficiary countries

GSP beneficiary countries	Effective application date of the REX system (*)	End of the transition period (**)
Afghanistan	29/03/2019	30/06/2019
Angola	25/04/2018	30/06/2018
Armenia	01/01/2018	30/06/2019
Bangladesh	01/01/2019	31/12/2020 (**)
Benin	19/11/2019	31/12/2019
Bhutan	01/01/2017	30/06/2018
Bolivia	08/05/2018	30/06/2019
Burkina Faso	20/05/2020	30/06/2020
Burundi	27/07/2018	30/06/2018
Cambodia	01/01/2019	30/06/2020
Capo Verde	12/02/2020	30/06/2020

Central African republic	REX system not yet applied	31/12/2017
Chad	REX system not yet applied	30/06/2018
Comoros	06/01/2017	30/06/2018
Congo	28/03/2019	30/06/2018
Cook Islands	17/04/2018	30/06/2018
Democratic Republic Congo	REX system not yet applied	30/06/2018
Djibouti	REX system not yet applied	31/12/2017
Equatorial Guinea	REX system not yet applied	30/06/2018
Eritrea	19/06/2019	30/06/2019
Ethiopia	07/03/2017	31/12/2017
Gambia	08/10/2019	30/06/2019
Guinea	18/05/2019	30/06/2019
Guinea Bissau	05/12/2017	30/06/2018
Haiti	REX system not yet applied	30/06/2020
India	01/01/2017	30/06/2018
Indonesia	20/11/2019	30/06/2020
Kenya	01/01/2017	31/12/2017
Kiribati	04/04/2018	30/06/2018
Kyrgyzstan	12/02/2019	30/06/2020
Laos	01/01/2017	31/12/2017
Lesotho	17/09/2019	30/06/2020
Liberia	01/10/2019	31/12/2017

Madagascar	25/02/2020	30/06/2020
Malawi	01/01/2018	31/12/2018
Mali	22/06/2018	30/06/2018
Mauritania	21/01/2020	30/06/2020
Micronesia	REX system not yet applied	31/12/2017
Mongolia	24/12/2019	30/06/2020
Mozambique	28/12/2018	30/06/2019
Myanmar	01/01/2018	31/12/2018
Nauru	REX system not yet applied	31/12/2017
Nepal	01/01/2017	30/06/2018
Niger	16/01/2020	30/06/2019
Nigeria	21/03/2019	31/12/2019
Niue Island	28/06/2017	31/12/2017
Pakistan	06/03/2017	31/12/2017
Philippines	28/05/2019	31/12/2020 (**)
Rwanda	07/03/2018	31/12/2018
Samoa	REX system not yet applied	31/12/2019
Sao Tomé & Príncipe	29/06/2018	30/06/2018
Senegal	01/01/2019	30/06/2020
Sierra Leone	16/08/2018	31/12/2017
Solomon Islands	20/09/2017	30/06/2018
Somalia	REX system not yet applied	31/12/2017
South Sudan	REX system not yet applied	31/12/2017

Sri Lanka	01/01/2018	30/06/2019
Sudan	21/01/2020	30/06/2019
Syria	REX system not yet applied	31/12/2018
Tajikistan	REX system not yet applied	31/12/2020 (**)
Tanzania	14/06/2018	31/12/2018
Timor Leste	REX system not yet applied	30/06/2018
Togo	27/07/2018	30/06/2018
Tonga	REX system not yet applied	30/06/2018
Tuvalu	03/10/2018	31/12/2017
Uganda	01/01/2019	31/12/2019
Uzbekistan	01/01/2019	30/06/2020
Vanuatu	01/01/2019	31/12/2019
Vietnam	01/01/2019	30/06/2020
Yemen	09/06/2018	30/06/2018
Zambia	01/01/2017	30/06/2018

(Last update on 29/06/2020)

(*) the "effective application date of the REX system" is the date when the beneficiary country has communicated to the European Commission all the information necessary to fulfil the 2 pre-requisites for the application of the REX system.

(**) including the extension of transition period due to the COVID-19 pandemic

Certification of origin of goods with statements on origin

The rules for determining the origin of goods in the GSP scheme of the EU remain unchanged with the application of the REX system. Only the method to certify the origin of goods is changed.

To be entitled to make out a statement on origin, an economic operator needs to be registered in the REX system and to have a valid registration, i.e. a registration which is not revoked. It is however allowed that unregistered exporters make out statements on origin for consignments of originating goods having a value which is below 6 000 EUR.

A statement on origin is a declaration of origin added by the registered exporter on an invoice, a delivery note, a packing list, or any other commercial document allowing to identify the goods and the exporter. The text of the statement on origin is laid down in Annex 22-07 of Regulation (EU) 2015/2447. For the rules concerning the statement on origin, please refer mainly to Article 92 and Article 93 of that regulation.