



WORLD TRADE
ORGANIZATION



The Commonwealth

REGIONAL VIRTUAL WORKSHOP ON RULES OF ORIGIN FOR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS FROM CARICOM MEMBERS

Programme

Structure: 4 days - 2.5 hours per day (online, Zoom link available on the virtual classroom)

Dates: 20-23 July 2026

Time: 10:00 am-12:30 pm (Guyana time); 4:00 pm-6:30 pm (Geneva time)

Trainers:

- Mr. Brian Benjamin, Advisor, CARICOM Secretariat
- Mr. Bernard Black, Regional Trade and Business Facilitation Specialist, CARICOM Secretariat
- Mr. Darlan F. Marti, Counsellor, Market Access Division, WTO Secretariat
- Ms. Tanvi Sinha, Adviser, Trade Negotiations and Facilitation Support (WTO), Commonwealth Small States Office in Geneva

Recommended reading before the workshop

- Browse the Rules of Origin page of the WTO website (introduction, current work, technical information, most recent news items):
https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/roi_e/roi_e.htm
- Watch this video (4 min.) for an introduction to rules of origin and its use in international trade: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FVht7zr-Spg>
- Watch the first presentation ("Introduction") of the webinar on "*What drives the utilization of trade preferences?*"
https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/roi_e/preference_utilization_190521_e.htm or minutes 5:37 to 34:45 at this [link](#)
- There are also three eLearning courses on Rules of Origin available at the WTO e-Learning platform:
 - "[Made in ... Understanding Rules of Origin v2 | WTO e-Learning Platform](#)": This first course introduces the fundamentals of rules of origin in international trade.
 - [WTO provisions and current work related to Rules of Origin](#): Building on the course "Made in... Understanding Rules of Origin," this second course deepens your understanding of how rules of origin affect international trade.
 - [Underutilization of trade preferences: blame it on the rules of origin?](#): This micro course explains why preferential rules of origin matter, how utilization rates are calculated, and why preferences are sometimes underused.

Programme

DAY 1 – MONDAY, 20 JULY 2026

RULES OF ORIGIN IN INTERNATIONAL TRADE

10:00 – 12:30 **What are rules of origin and why are rules of origin used in international trade?**

Facilitated by the WTO Secretariat

- What are rules of origin?
- How is origin determined? Concepts of "product-specific rule of origin" (origin criteria), "certification of origin" and "direct consignment"
- Differences between Preferential Origin and Non-Preferential Origin, including the WTO Agreement on Rules of Origin
- "Wholly obtained" and "substantially transformed" goods

Facilitated by the CARICOM Secretariat

- CARICOM Rules of Origin – Article 84

DAY 2 – TUESDAY, 21 JULY 2026

RULES OF ORIGIN AND THE UTILIZATION OF TRADE PREFERENCES

10:00 – 12:30 **The impact of preferential rules of origin on the utilization of trade preferences**

Facilitated by the WTO Secretariat

- How do rules of origin impact the utilization of trade preferences?
- How do rules of origin affect businesses?
- Possible good practices emerging from the work of the WTO Committee on Rules of Origin

Facilitated by the CARICOM Secretariat

- CARICOM Bi-laterals and Partial Scope Agreements

DAY 3 – WEDNESDAY, 22 JULY 2026

RULES OF ORIGIN IN THE CARIBBEAN REGION

10:00 – 12:30 **Preferential rules of origin in the Caribbean region**

Facilitated by the CARICOM Secretariat

- CARICOM Rules of Origin – Documentary Evidence
- Rules Regarding Community Origin

DAY 4 – THURSDAY, 23 JULY 2026

TRADE FACILITATION RELATED TO RULES OF ORIGIN & ORIGIN VERIFICATION

10:00 – 12:30 **Trade facilitation and rules of origin: trends**

Facilitated by the WTO Secretariat

- Trends related to proofs of origin: digitization of certificates of origin and self-certification
- Advance rulings
- Finding product-specific rules of origin: the WTO, ITC, [WCO Rules of Origin Facilitator](#)

Verification of origin in the Caribbean region

Facilitated by the CARICOM Secretariat

- Review of the effectiveness of the CARICOM Verification Process
- Trade Facilitation Trends through e-Certificates of Origin in CARICOM