

## **EPA - Rules of origin**

To benefit from Japan-EU Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) preferential tariff rates, your product needs to be originating in Japan or the EU. To be deemed originating, your product needs to comply with the provisions of Chapter 3 Section A ("*Rules of origin*") and the Product Specific Rules (Annexes 3-A, 3-B, Appendix 3-B-1). The Chapter 3 Section A includes provisions allowing more flexibility to comply with these Product Specific rules (tolerance, bilateral full cumulation, absorption rule etc..). Transport via a third country (distribution hubs) is allowed under certain conditions.

Chapter 3 Section B ("*Origin procedures*") of the EPA sets out the procedures to claim preferential treatment. The EPA is based on the self-certification system, therefore the EU or Japanese exporters self-certify that the product is originating by making a statement on origin in line with Chapter 3, Section A including its Annex 3-D ("*Text of the statement on origin*"). In the EU, exporters need to be registered in the REX system (Registered Exporter system). There is no need to be registered when the value of consignments is below EUR 6000. Moreover, the EPA gives for the first time a possibility for the importers to claim preferential tariff treatment on the basis of 'importer's knowledge', which contributes to facilitation of trade for the related companies.

Statement of origin – see EPA Annex 3-D:

[http://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/docs/2018/august/tradoc\\_157231.pdf#page=149](http://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/docs/2018/august/tradoc_157231.pdf#page=149)