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# Trade Beat

J A M A I C A C U S T O M S A G E N C Y

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**CARIFORUM-EU & CARIFORUM-UK ECONOMIC  
PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENTS (EPAs)  
YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED**



**Did you know?**

**On January 1, 2023, Jamaica implemented a 0% import duty rate on motor vehicles from the European Union and the United Kingdom under the phased liberalization schedule to the CARIFORUM-EU and UK Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs)**

The CARIFORUM-European Union (EU) and the CARIFORUM-United Kingdom (UK) Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs) are bilateral free trade agreements between the countries of CARIFORUM (CARICOM and the Dominican Republic) and the European Union (EU) and CARIFORUM and the United Kingdom, and includes liberalization of duties on goods traded between the parties, except for arms and ammunition, when traded under these Agreements.



**CARIFORUM COUNTRIES**

Antigua & Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, St. Christopher & Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent & the Grenadines, Suriname, and Trinidad & Tobago.

**EUROPEAN UNION (EU) PARTY**

Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Spain, and Sweden.

**UNITED KINGDOM (UK) PARTY**

England, Northern Ireland, Wales and Scotland.

**When did they come into effect?**

The CARIFORUM-EU Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) was signed on the 15th of October 2008, while the CARIFORUM-UK EPA came into effect on January 1, 2021, and was negotiated after the UK's exit from the EU, also known as BREXIT.

**What do the EPAs cover?**

The CARIFORUM-EU and the CARIFORUM-UK EPAs are preferential trade arrangements for goods, services, investment, innovation and intellectual property rights. They allow the progressive removal of barriers to trade and should enhance cooperation between the parties.

**What are the benefits of trading under the EPAs?**

Goods originating in CARIFORUM get duty-free and quota free access to the EU and UK markets for all goods, except arms and ammunition, when traded under the Agreement. Goods deemed originating in the EU and UK may receive one of three treatments; duty-free access, phased reduction of duties, or exclusion from preferential access. This phased liberalization of duties would take place over a period of 25 years, which will be completed by 2033, at which point all eligible goods will be at 0% import duty.

**What do I have to do to benefit from the EPAs?**

To benefit under the EPAs, the importer is required to submit a valid, original Movement Certificate EUR.1 along with their import declaration, invoice and other supporting documents. The goods must also have been directly transported from one of the EU Member States if the goods are being traded under the EU EPA, or directly transported from the UK if being traded under the UK EPA. The goods must also satisfy the Product Specific Rules of Origin criteria found in Annex II to Protocol I to the EPAs.

**What is a Movement Certificate EUR.1?**

The Movement Certificate EUR.1 is a proof of origin under the EPAs. This serves to certify that the goods originate in either the EU or UK, depending on the Agreement being utilized.



**What is CARIFORUM?**

**CARIFORUM** is an abbreviation of Caribbean Forum, the Caribbean Group of States which are the Members of the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) Group of States. These countries include the independent States of the Caribbean Community, Cuba and the Dominican Republic. In the EPA negotiation, Cuba, though an ACP member from the Caribbean Group, did not participate in the EPA negotiations

**Example of the Motor Vehicle phased Liberalization Schedule**

HS 2022	Description	2009	2017	2020	2022	2023	2028	2033
87032290	Motor vehicle	40%	40%	20%	10%	0%	0%	0%

**Where can I get a Movement Certificate EUR.1?**

A Movement Certificate EUR.1 may be obtained from the Customs Authority of the exporting country. The certificate and the application must be completed by the exporter and or an authorised representative and returned to the Customs Authority for endorsement. The exporter applying for the Movement Certificate EUR.1 must submit all documents proving the originating status of the products to be exported.

In Jamaica, the Movement Certificate EUR.1 can be obtained at the Trade Board Limited and endorsed by the Jamaica Customs Agency for qualifying products of Jamaican origin.

**Why do I need a Movement Certificate EUR.1 to import my products?**

The Movement Certificate EUR.1 is used to support claims for preferential access to reduced rates of duty in the country of importation. To qualify, the goods must originate in CARIFORUM, the European Union or the United Kingdom and must be supported by a correctly completed and endorsed Movement Certificate EUR.1.



**How long is the Movement Certificate EUR.1 valid for?**

According to Article 23 of Protocol I, a proof of origin, Movement Certificate EUR.1 shall be valid for ten (10) months from the date of issue in the exporting country and must be submitted within the said period to the Customs Authorities of the importing country. The documents proving the originating status must be kept for at least 3 years by the exporter and the importer.

**What is direct transport?**

Under Article 14 of Protocol I, the motor vehicle must be transported directly from one of the EU Member States or the UK Party (depending on the Agreement) to Jamaica. However, if it is one single consignment it may be transported through other territories with, should the occasion arise, transshipment or temporary warehousing in such territories, provided that they remain under the surveillance of the customs authorities in the country of transit or warehousing and do not undergo operations other than loading, reloading or any operation designed to preserve them in good condition.

**Are all duty types waived under the EPAs?**

No. The Import Duty and Additional Stamp Duty are waived under the EPAs. In the case of the import duty, it may be at a reduced rate or 0%, while for Additional Stamp Duty it will be 0%. All other tax types and fees remain payable, such as General Consumption Tax (GCT), Special Consumption Tax Ad valorem (SCTA), Special Consumption Tax Specific (SCTS), Environmental Levy (EnvL.), Standard Compliance Fee (SCF) and Customs Administrative Fee (CAF).



**What is Direct Transport?**

Under Article 14 of Protocol I, the motor vehicle must be transported directly from one of the EU Member States or the UK Party (depending on the Agreement) to Jamaica

## Example of Motor Vehicle Duty Relief under the EPAs

Tariff Heading	Description.	Duties Payable	Under EPAs
8703.22.90.10	Motor vehicles exceeding 1000CC but not exceeding 1500cc imported by individuals (gas)	Import Duty - 20% GCT - 15% SCTA - 20% ENVL -0.5%	Import Duty -0% GCT - 15% SCTA - 20% ENVL -0.5%



**What is meant by the motor vehicle must “originate” in the EU or UK?**

For the CARIFORUM EU and UK EPAs, originating products meet the general and specific rules of origin, which may vary in its application across Agreements.

In the case of motor vehicles, “originate” means that inputs imported from countries outside of the Agreement (third countries) should not exceed more than 40% of the ex-works price of the vehicle.

PRODUCT SPECIFIC RULE – 8703 & 8704

Annex II - The list sets out the conditions required for all products to be considered as sufficiently worked or processed within the meaning of Article 7 Protocol I

HS heading No (1)	Description of product (2)	Working or processing carried out on non-originating materials that confers originating status (3) or (4)
ex Chapter 87	Vehicles other than railway or tramway rolling-stock, and parts and accessories thereof; except for:	Manufacture in which the value of all the materials used does not exceed 40 % of the ex-works price of the product



**What would cause a motor vehicle to be deemed not “originating” under the EPAs?**

Failure to meet any one of the qualifying criteria specified in the Agreement.

**How can I show proof that my vehicle was shipped directly from the EU or the UK?**

Where your vehicle has been directly transported, it should be evidenced on your shipping documents such as the bill of lading or Airway bill.

**Can a motor vehicle manufactured in the EU be shipped from the UK and benefit under the CARIFORUM-UK EPA?**

No. Motor vehicles deemed originating in the EU must be directly transported to Jamaica and traded under the CARIFORUM-EU EPA. Likewise, motor vehicles deemed originating in the UK must be directly transported to Jamaica and traded under CARIFORUM-UK EPA. Notwithstanding the requirement for direct transport, by reason of transport logistics and the shipment constituting a single consignment, such good may transit or transship either the EU or UK (third countries) under the conditions specified in Article 14 of the respective Agreements.

**If I buy a European made vehicle from Japan from a Japanese agent, would it qualify as being duty-free?**

No, the vehicle would not qualify for duty-free treatment. For the vehicle to qualify for duty-free treatment it must satisfy the product specific rule of origin, a valid, original Movement Certificate EUR.1 must be presented, and the vehicle must be directly transported from the EU to Jamaica.

**Does it matter if the motor vehicles are new or used?**

It does not matter if the motor vehicle is used or new, however, as it pertains to importing older vehicles, the Trade Board Limited should be contacted regarding the age limit for motor vehicles.

**What do you mean by verification of origin and how long does that process take?**

Verifications of proof of origin shall be carried out at random or based on risk analysis or whenever the customs authorities of the importing country have reasonable doubts as to the authenticity of such documents, the originating status of the products concerned or the fulfilment of the other requirements of Protocol I (Article 34). The process for verification may take up to ten (10) months to be completed.

**I am a returning resident who wishes to import my five (5) year old motor vehicle from the UK, will I be able to benefit under the EPAs?**

Yes. The vehicle may benefit from the 0% import duty rate once all the requirements are met. It must meet the origin criteria specified in the Agreement, including, the submission of a valid, original Movement Certificate EUR.1, satisfy the product specific rule of origin and the vehicle must be manufactured in and transported directly from the UK.

**Is there a list of vehicles that can be imported under the EU/UK EPAs?**

No. The EPAs are not specific to any brand or model of motor vehicle.

**Do you know know the Agreements that Jamaica is party to?**

Jamaica is party to the CARICOM - Cuba Trade and Economic Cooperation Agreement (TECA), CARICOM - Costa Rica Free Trade Agreement, CARICOM - Venezuela Free Trade Agreement, CARICOM - Colombia Free Trade Agreement, CARICOM - Dominican Republic Free Trade Agreement, The Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas (CARICOM), The CARIFORUM - EU EPA and The CARIFORUM - UK EPA.

Find out more at:  
<https://www.jacustoms.gov.jm/service/trade-agreements>



# Example of Movement Certificate EUR. 1

## MOVEMENT CERTIFICATE

(1) If the goods are not packed, indicate number of articles or state "in bulk" as appropriate

(2) Complete only where the regulations of the exporting country or territory require.

1. Exporter (Name, full address, country)		<b>EUR. 1 No. A1110646</b>	
		See notes overleaf before completing this form	
3. Consignee (Name, full address, country) (Optional)		2. Certificate used in preferential trade between ..... and ..... insert appropriate countries, groups of countries or territories	
		4. Country, group of countries or territory in which the products are considered as originating	5. Country, group of countries or territory of destination
6. Transport details (Optional)		7. Remarks	
8. Item number; Marks and numbers; Number and kind of packages (1) description of goods		9. Gross mass (Kg) or other measure (litre, m <sup>3</sup> , etc.)	10. Invoices (Optional)
<b>11. CUSTOMS ENDORSEMENT</b> Declaration certified Export document (2) Form ..... No. .... Customs office ..... Issuing country or territory: ..... ..... Date ..... ..... (Signature)		<b>12. DECLARATION BY THE EXPORTER</b> I, the undersigned, declare that the goods described above meet the conditions required for the issue of this certificate.  Place and date ..... ..... (Signature)	

Manufactured by: Informative Data Systems Ltd. 659-1923



**Resource material**

Caribbean Regional Negotiating Machinery (getting to know the EPA) December 3, 2008

**Signed Text of the Agreement**

<https://www.jacustoms.gov.jm/sites/default/files/docs/TradeAgreements/Signed%20text%20of%20the%20Agreement.pdf>

**Protocol I to the CARIFORUM EPA**

<https://www.jacustoms.gov.jm/sites/default/files/docs/TradeAgreements/Protocol%20I%20Cariforum%20-%20EU%20EPA%20-%20Copy.pdf>

The International & Industry Liaison Branch (IILB) is committed to raising awareness on topics relating to the International Trade, as well as issues concerning the Caribbean Community which may affect our internal and external stakeholders.

Our quarterly Newsletter seeks to highlight global trade topics and their importance to Customs Administration worldwide, specifically as it relates to the Jamaica Customs Agency.

As we realize our vision to becoming a modern customs administration delivering excellent service, we recognize the importance of knowledge transfer in delivering our objectives and use this forum as one way of contributing the vision of Jamaica Customs Agency (JCA). The IILB is located at JCA's Head Office, and our officers are available to respond to your trade-related queries. Contact us at: [iilu@jca.gov.jm](mailto:iilu@jca.gov.jm)



Jamaica Customs Agency Head Office located in Kingston, Jamaica

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