

Chambers role in issuing the Certificate of Origin

In 5 August 1967, the law No. 36/67 was issued and limited the mission of issuing the Certificate of Origin in Lebanon by Chambers and bears these chambers the responsibility of issue. In this issue, it consecrates two things:

- First: International Historic Tradition: the issue of the Certificate of Origin of different goods is the essential mission of the Trade Chamber in the world. And it is an essential cause of the establishment of these corporations since five hundred years.
- Second: the Lebanese Chambers issue the Certificate of Origin in the Four Lebanese Cities for more than one hundred years.

The Certificate of Origin is an important document in the commercial exchange; the Chamber issues it, and bears the responsibility regarding its contents.

This document confirms the property of the exported goods; as well confirming the usage of these goods and the name of the manufacturer country and its origin.

In case the goods are fabricated in Lebanon and enjoy the Lebanese origin conditions, the Chamber issues for it a Lebanese Certificate of Origin.

In case the goods are fabricated in a country other than Lebanon, the Chamber issues for it a Foreign Certificate of Origin. The Foreign goods will be shipped from the country of origin to the destination country without traversing the Lebanese territories, this is the subject of the triangular trade which Lebanon enjoys solely besides a few number of other countries. Further, it is the sample of the Lebanese Trading Capabilities developed and progressed over years.

To issue a Lebanese Certificate of Origin, two essential conditions should be available. First, registration of the Corporation upon the Chamber. Also a Legal workplace, and registration upon the Commercial Register. In addition, the Chamber should be confirmed of the Lebanese Origin of the goods. The confirmation will be made on two stages:

The First Stage is based on rules decided by the State, called Origin Rules. Concerning the industrial goods, the Ministry of Industry decides the Origin Rules. The most important Current Origin Rules is determining the

rate of National Valued Added amounting for forty per cent; it is the rule that currently determines the Lebanese origin of the exported goods.

The Second Stage is based on the confirmation that the Origin Rules are available in a specific product. This thing requires the calculation of the Value Added of this product. This calculation and the confirmation that the product contains more than 40% of the National Value Added are of the responsibility of the Chamber that issues the Certificate of Origin.

Thus, in the last analysis, the issue of the Certificate of Origin is a complicated process depends on a common project between the Ministry of Industry and the Chamber. The Origin Rules determined by the Ministry which issues the industrial attestation, and this is an essential condition not only to issue the Lebanese Certificate of Origin but also to register the corporation at the Chamber as Industrial Corporation.

The confirmation of the corporate and legal existence of the Corporation, the calculation of the National Value Added to any product and the issue of the Certificate of Origin with their contents and responsibilities is fallen under the responsibility of the Chamber.

In other hand, we should note that the Corporation which asks the Chamber to issue a Certificate of Origin to a product performs such an action in the case that one of the operations conditions is trading. Therefore, contrary to the spread, half of the Lebanese exportations do not have a Certificate of Origin.

Such a fact constitutes an essential reason for the problems of the Lebanese Exportations because the absence of Certificate of Origin as important condition for exportation opens the door to industrial corporation that do not enjoy the Chamber membership characteristics, neither the characteristics to get an industrial attestation from the Ministry of Industry nor the quality to export its products via arrogating the name of Big Corporations; as a result, they hurt the reputation of the Lebanese exportations as well their reputation and qualities. The absence of the Lebanese Certificate of Origin devaluates the industrial or other Lebanese exportations in connection with appreciation.

Submit the exported goods to the Certificate of Origin, before export, constitute a grant to the quality level of Lebanese exportations, to survey these exportations, know their values and purposes; thus, allow the State and the Private Sector to adopt exportation policies in connection with the interest of the Lebanese Economy.