

## How to Import using the EU-Japan Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA)

# CONTENTS

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Introduction</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Trade Statistics: EU and Japan Trade</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>The EU-Japan EPA in a Nutshell</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>4.0</b>	<b>What can SMEs Importers expect when importing goods from Japan using the EPA?</b>	<b>4</b>
4.1	Case Study Example: Automotive Parts	5
<b>5.0</b>	<b>How to check if EPA preferential tariffs apply to your product</b>	<b>6</b>
5.1	Option 1: Use one of the European Commission's Online Tools to access the EU Tariff	8
5.2	Option 2: Use the EU-Japan EPA Text, Annex 2-a	9
<b>6.0</b>	<b>Requirements for imports to benefit from preferential tariffs using the EPA</b>	<b>10</b>
6.1	Meeting the Rules of Origin (RoO)	11
6.2	Assessing whether your product meets the RoO	12
6.2.1	Case Study Example – RoO for apple juice from Japan	13
6.3	The Claim of Preferential Tariff Treatment	14
6.4	Transport from Japan to the EU	17
<b>7.0</b>	<b>Other Import Requirements</b>	<b>18</b>
7.1	General Requirements to import goods into the EU	18
7.1.1	Import duties, VAT and Taxes	19
7.1.2	Import Documentation for Customs Clearance	20
7.2	Specific Import Requirements	21
7.2.1	Case Study Example: Product requirements for vacuum cleaners from Japan	22
<b>8.0</b>	<b>Intellectual Property Rights</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>9.0</b>	<b>Information Sources</b>	<b>24</b>

# INTRODUCTION

This guide supports the requirement by the EU Japan Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) to provide Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs) with the necessary information to access and conduct trade overseas.

The aim of this guide is to provide a simple explanation of the EU Japan Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) in order to enable SMEs to be aware, understand and take advantage of the opportunities created by the EPA.

This guide will focus on the importation of Japanese goods by SMEs in the EU using the EPA. The guide will provide information on Customs duties, import requirements for goods including customs procedures and other rules governing imports from Japan to the EU.

# 2.0 TRADE STATISTICS: EU AND JAPAN TRADE



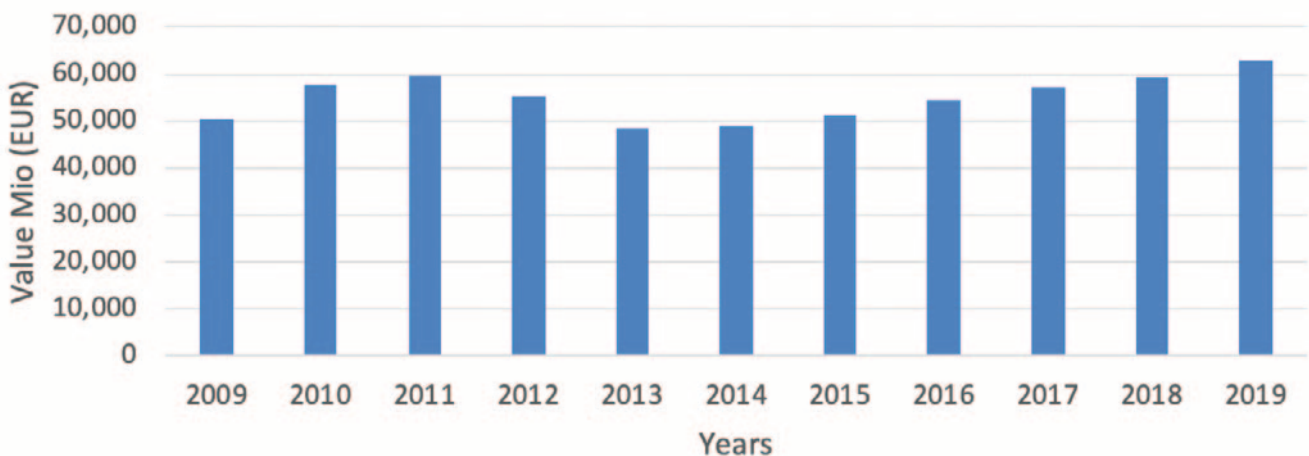
## Japan is:

- ▶ the EU's 2<sup>nd</sup> biggest trading partner in Asia after China
- ▶ the EU's 6<sup>th</sup> most important trading partner worldwide

## Europe is:

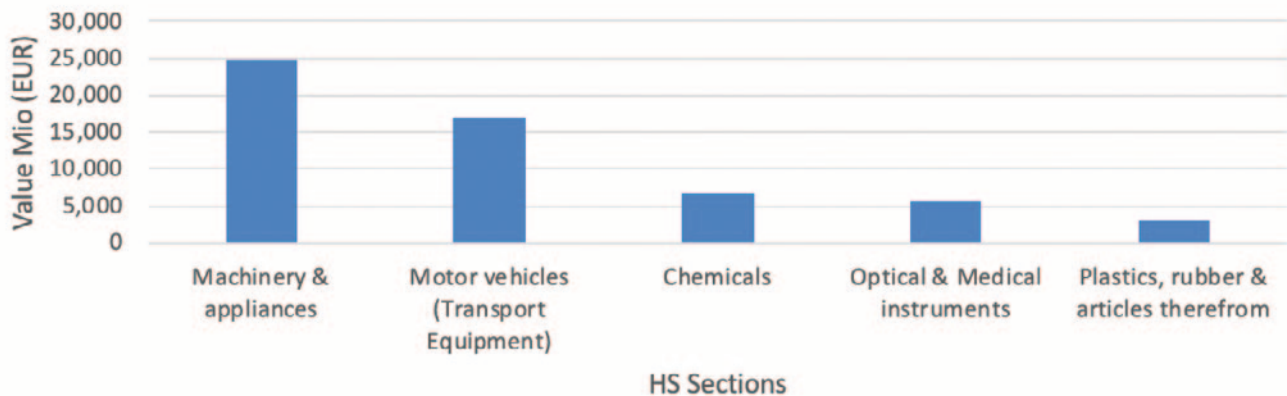
- ▶ Japan's 2<sup>nd</sup> biggest trading partner worldwide

### Total Goods: EU Imports from Japan



[https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/isdb\\_results/factsheets/country/details\\_japan\\_en.pdf](https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/isdb_results/factsheets/country/details_japan_en.pdf)

### Top 5 Imports from Japan to EU (2019)



[https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/isdb\\_results/factsheets/country/details\\_japan\\_en.pdf](https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/isdb_results/factsheets/country/details_japan_en.pdf)

# 3.0 THE EU-JAPAN EPA IN A NUTSHELL

The EU-Japan Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) is a trade agreement that was signed on July 17, 2018 and entered into force on February 1, 2019.

The EPA aims to reduce and remove barriers to trade and investments and improve economic relations between the EU and Japan.



### Market Access

- Trade in goods
- Trade in services
- Government procurement

### The EPA covers 3 pillars



### Regulatory Cooperation

- Regulatory
- Technical barriers to trade
- Food safety, animal health and plant health
- Other sectors



### Rules

- Sustainable development
- Trade and Customs facilitation
  - SMEs (transparency)
- Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) and Geographical Indications (GI)

The objectives of the EPA will be achieved through:

- ▶ Reduction and elimination of the EU Customs tariffs - 99% of tariff lines will be eliminated over time
- ▶ Elimination of non-tariff related obstacles to trade e.g. elimination of EU's import restriction on Japanese wine
- ▶ Simplified import procedures and requirements related to the imports and exports of goods
- ▶ Open trade in services in the areas such as telecommunications, transport, distribution and financial services
- ▶ Creating opportunities for both economies to invest in each other's market
- ▶ Cooperation of the two economies to address matters that affect SMEs such as electronic commerce and Intellectual Property Rights

## 4.0 What can SMEs Importers expect when importing goods from Japan using the EPA?



### Examples of sectors that will benefit from the reduction and elimination of Customs Tariffs

- Agriculture, forestry and fishery
- Electronics
- Motor vehicles
- Pharmaceuticals
- Medical devices

## 4.1

# Case Study Example: Automotive Parts

Customs tariffs were imposed on automotive parts imported from Japan, prior to the implementation of the EPA. However, the EPA provides tariff elimination immediately for some of these products and gradual tariff reductions or complete elimination of tariffs. See examples shown in the table below:

<b>Product</b>	<b>Customs Tariff prior to EPA</b>	<b>Immediate tariff elimination w.e.f February 1, 2019</b>	<b>Gradual Reduction, then zero tariff within 16 years</b>
Rear view mirrors	4%	0%	
Lead-acid batteries	3.7%	0%	
Spark plugs	3.2%	0%	
Windscreen wipers	2.7%	0%	
Seats for motor vehicles	3.7%	0%	
Speed indicators	2.6%		Reduced to 1.7% in 2020 and by 2024 tariff will be eliminated
Rubber transmission belts	6.5%	0%	
Instrument panel clocks	3.7%	0%	

### Non-tariff benefits for the Automotive Parts Sector

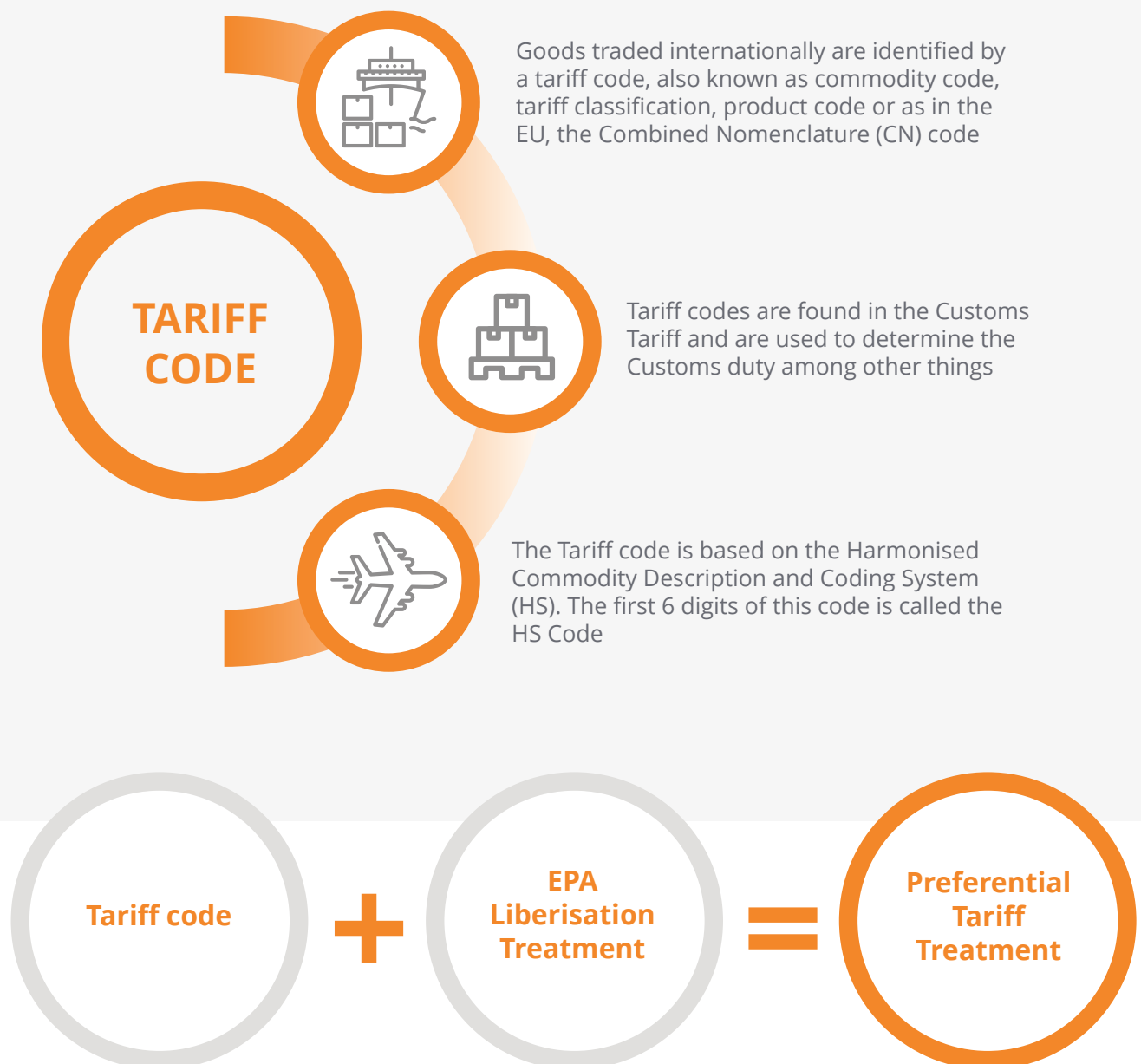
The EU and Japan shall accept products covered by a type approval certificate in the context of specified UN Regulations, as being compliant with its domestic technical regulations and conformity assessment procedures, without requiring any further testing, certification or marketing.

Examples of automotive parts and the related UN Regulations as per Appendix 2-C-1 of the EPA:

<b>UN Regulation #</b>	<b>Products</b>
25	Headrests whether or not incorporated in vehicle seats
98	Motor vehicle headlamps equipped with gas-discharging light sources
30	Pneumatic tyres for motor vehicles
43	Safety glazing materials and their installation on vehicles
27	Advance warning triangles

## 5.0 How to check if EPA preferential tariffs apply to your product

Preferential tariff treatment defines how and at what rate the Customs duty is to be reduced or eliminated. To check preferential tariffs, the tariff code is required. The tariff code determines the tariff liberalisation treatment which can either be zero tariff, elimination or reduction of tariffs over specified time periods.



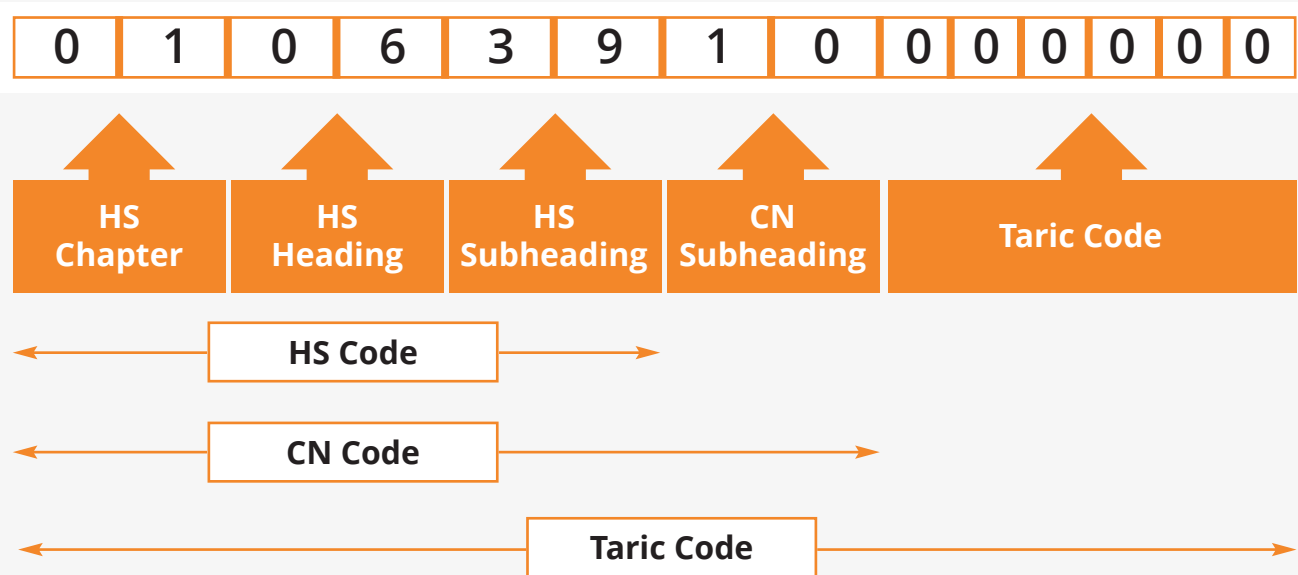


## Example of a Tariff Code



The tariff code in the EU consists of 6-14 digits

## Structure of the Tariff Code



<b>HS Chapter</b> – The first 2 digits of the code	01 represents Chapter 1 and concerns live animals
<b>HS Heading</b> – The first 4 digits of the code	0106 concerns other live animals
<b>HS Subheading/HS Code</b> – The first 6 digits of the code	0106 39 specifies other birds. The HS Code is identical in the EU and Japanese Customs Tariff
<b>CN Code</b> – 8-digit code specific to the EU used for tariff and statistical purposes	0106 39 10 specifies live pigeons
<b>Taric Code</b> – The 9 <sup>th</sup> and 10 <sup>th</sup> digits used with the CN code form the Taric code numbers. In exceptional circumstances, an additional Taric code of 4 digits may be used	Used to identify products that have special regulations when imported into the EU, such as duty suspensions and anti-dumping duties. If the digits beyond the CN Code number are zeros, as in 01063910000000, then no special regulations apply

# 5.1 Option 1: Use one of the European Commission's Online Tools to access the EU Tariff

European Commission's Access2Markets website: <https://trade.ec.europa.eu/access-to-markets/>

**Step 1:** Select My Trade Assistant and enter the country of origin, country of destination and the Tariff Code

The screenshot shows the 'My Trade Assistant' search interface on the Access2Markets website. It includes a search bar at the top right, a navigation menu with 'My Trade Assistant' highlighted, and a search form with three input fields: 'Product name or HS code', 'Country of origin', and 'Country of destination'. A 'Search' button is located to the right of these fields.

Source: <https://trade.ec.europa.eu/access-to-markets/en/content/>

**Step 2:** Search and view results

The screenshot shows the 'Import to EU' results page for product code 0902.10 from Japan to Germany. The page features a table of tariffs with columns for Origin/Measure type, Tariff, Conditions, Footnote, and EU law. The results show a 3.20% tariff for ERGA OMNES and a 0% tariff for Japan.

Origin/ Measure type	Tariff	Conditions	Footnote	EU law
ERGA OMNES Third country duty	3.20%			<a href="#">R2204/99</a>
Japan Tariff preference	0%			<a href="#">D1907/18</a>

Source: <https://trade.ec.europa.eu/access-to-markets/en/results?product=090210&origin=JP&destination=DE>

## 5.2 Option 2: Use the EU-Japan EPA Text, Annex 2-a

### Obtain the tariff code for your product

- It gives information on the Customs duty , taxes and other conditions applicable to your product
- You can consult the Customs Authority or a representative to get assistance to obtain this code and tariff rate
- If the Tariff rate is already zero, then no need to use the EPA; if more than zero, proceed to the next step



### Locate the tariff code in the EPA EU Liberalisation Schedule

- The EPA Liberalisation Schedule lists the tariff code and corresponding tariff treatment to be applied over a number of years
- See Annex 2-A, Part 2 of the EPA for the Liberalisation Schedule



### Note the liberalisation treatment and corresponding duty rate and the year in the EU Liberalisation Schedule

- Tariff treatment may be zero tariff, reduced tariffs or tariffs eliminated over a number of years
- If your tariff code is not stated in the schedule, your product attracts zero Customs tariff using the EPA

**Example: The Customs duty for footwear will be gradually reduced and then completely eliminated in 2029**

CN 2017	Description	Base rate	Category	Note	1st year	2nd year	3rd year	4th year	5th year	6th year	7th year	8th year	9th year	10th year	11th year	12th year	13th year	14th year	15th year	As from 16th year
XII	SECTION XII - FOOTWEAR, HEADGEAR, UMBRELLAS, SUN UMBRELLAS, WALKING STICKS, SEAT-STICKS, WHIPS, RIDING-CROPS AND PARTS THEREOF; PREPARED FEATHERS AND ARTICLES MADE THEREWITH; ARTIFICIAL FLOWERS; ARTICLES OF HUMAN HAIR																			
64	CHAPTER 64 - FOOTWEAR, GAITERS AND THE LIKE; PARTS OF SUCH ARTICLES																			
6402	Other footwear with outer soles and uppers of rubber or plastics																			
	- Other footwear																			
6402 99	-- Other																			
6402 99 05	--- Incorporating a protective metal toecap	17.0 %	B10		15.5 %	13.9 %	12.4 %	10.8 %	9.3 %	7.7 %	6.2 %	4.6 %	3.1 %	1.5 %	0.0 %	0.0 %	0.0 %	0.0 %	0.0 %	0.0 %
	--- Other																			
6402 99 10	---- With uppers of rubber	16.8 %	B10		15.3 %	13.7 %	12.2 %	10.7 %	9.2 %	7.6 %	6.1 %	4.6 %	3.1 %	1.5 %	0.0 %	0.0 %	0.0 %	0.0 %	0.0 %	0.0 %

Source: [http://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/docs/2018/august/tradoc\\_157229.pdf#page=49](http://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/docs/2018/august/tradoc_157229.pdf#page=49)

## 6.0 Requirements for imports to benefit from preferential tariffs using the EPA

### Imported product must originate in Japan

The EPA sets out rules which are known as "Rules of Origin" to determine whether a product "originates" in Japan.

A product that is shipped from Japan does not mean the product originates in Japan

### Product may not be altered during transport

Except for unloading, reloading, splitting of consignments or another specific operations while remaining under Customs control

If proof of non-alteration of the product is requested by EU Customs, this requirement may be given by any means including transport documents to EU Customs

### Proof of origin must be provided to EU Customs

In order to claim preferential tariff treatment, the EU importer must either have:

1. A Statement on Origin from the exporter or producer in Japan
2. EU Importer's knowledge that the product is originating

**€2.1**  
**BILLION EXPORT**



**AIRCRAFT AND ASSOCIATED EQUIPMENT**

# 6.1 Meeting the Rules of Origin (RoO)

## The Basic RoO



### Product wholly obtained or produced

- Mostly applies to agricultural products, fish, minerals, waste and scrap
- Products produced from wholly obtained products
- Japan must be the only country involved in the production or manufacture of the product



### Products produced exclusively from materials originating in Japan

- Materials are wholly obtained or have fulfilled product specific rules to be deemed originating



### Products produced using non-originating materials by satisfying Product Specific Rules (PSRs) based on:

- A production process
- A change in tariff classification
- Value added rule

## Common Product Specific Rules in the EPA

These rules are specific to a product or tariff line and are used to qualify the product as originating in Japan, when non-originating materials are used in manufacturing or production

Change in Tariff Classification	Value Added Rule	Production Process
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Manufacturing process results in change in tariff classification between the non-originating material and the final product</li> <li>• CC – change in the first 2 digits of the tariff code</li> <li>• CTH – change in the first 4 digits of the tariff code</li> <li>• CTSH – change in the first 6 digits of the tariff code</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The value of all non-originating materials used in the production of a product cannot exceed a certain amount, as a percentage of the price of the final product</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A specific production process is required</li> <li>• Examples:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mixing and blending</li> <li>• Distillation</li> <li>• Purification</li> <li>• Biotechnological processing</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

## Other RoO points to note

- When manufacturing/processing takes place, do not consider the following to determine origin:



**Neutral elements such as fuel, tools or machines used to produce your product**



**Accessories, spare parts, tools and information materials if they are delivered with your product**

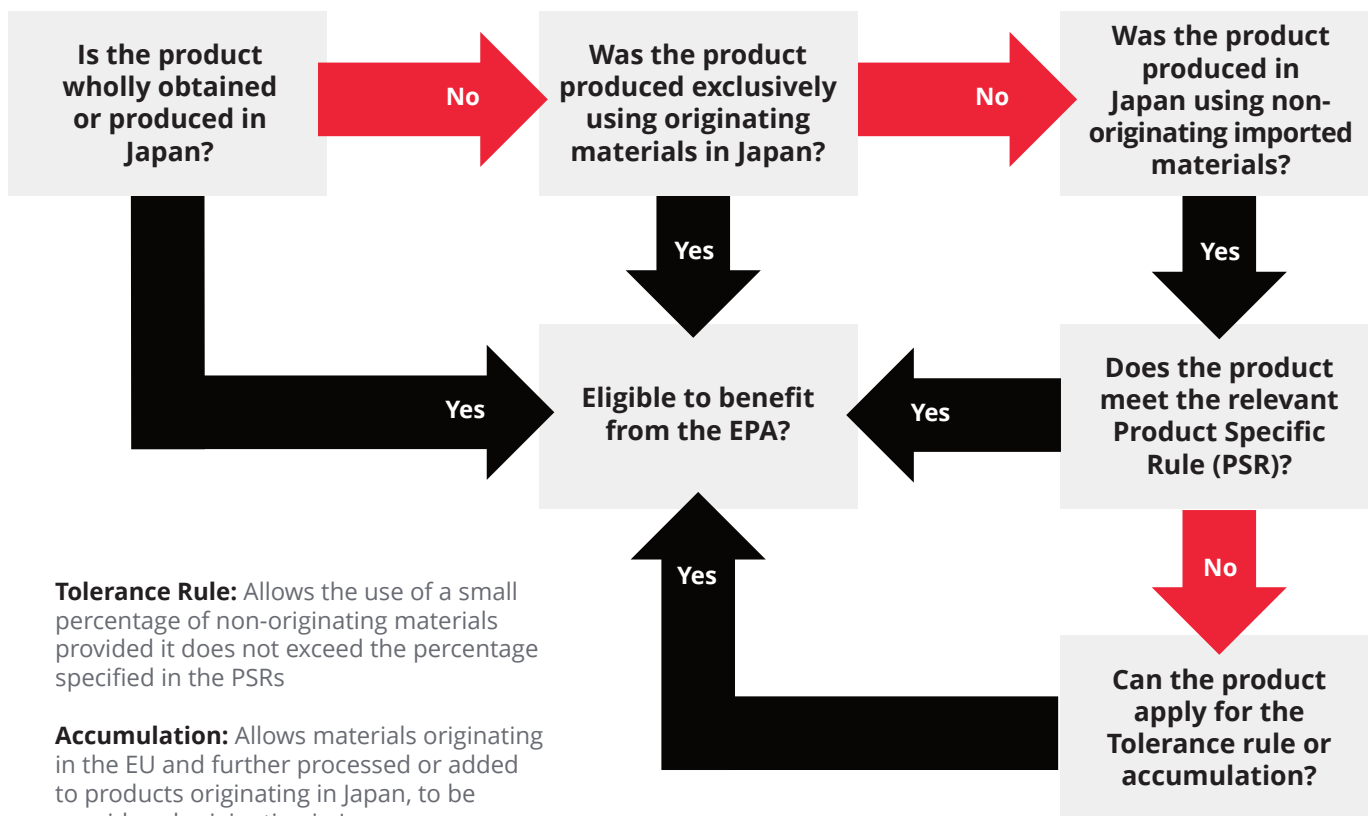


**Packaging materials used for retail sale**



**Packing materials and containers for the shipments**

## 6.2 Assessing whether your product meets the RoO



### Where to find the Rules of Origin



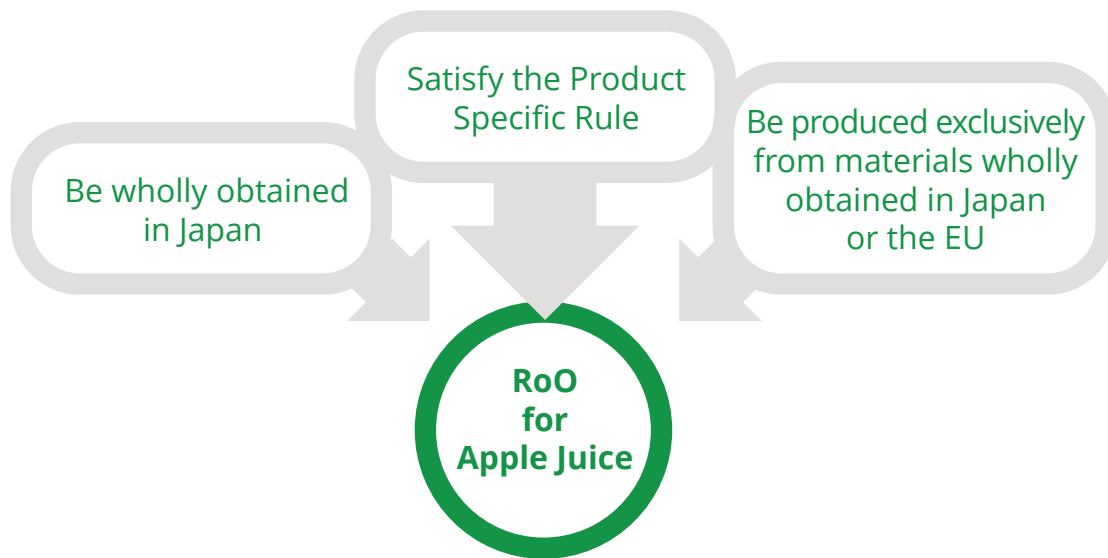
- ▶ The EU-Japan EPA Text - Annex 3-A and Annex 3-B  
or
- ▶ Use the Rules of Origin Self-Assessment Online Tool in Access2Markets, see <https://trade.ec.europa.eu/access-to-markets/en/content/presenting-rosa>

To locate the RoO applicable to your import, the tariff code is required

## 6.2.1 Case Study Example: RoO for apple juice from Japan

A Japanese exporter of apple juice (2009 71 20 90) uses non-originating sugar (HS Heading 17.02) imported into Japan from a third country. All the remaining materials used in the production of the apple juice originate in Japan.

To qualify as originating, the apple juice must fulfil one of the following:



### Product Specific Rule of Origin

Column 1 Harmonized System classification (2017) including specific description	Column 2 Product specific rule of origin
20.09	CTH, provided that pineapples, oranges, tomatoes, apples and grapes used are wholly obtained.

Source: EU-Japan EPA Text, Annex 3-B. [http://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/docs/2018/august/tradoc\\_157231.pdf#page=65](http://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/docs/2018/august/tradoc_157231.pdf#page=65)

### Applying the RoO

The PSR rule related to the HS Classification 20.09 applies since the apple juice is classified in 2009 71 20 90 and also because non-originating sugar was used to produce the product.

CTH means “Change in Tariff Heading”. The Tariff Heading is the first 4 digits of the tariff code, which in this case is 20.09.

The rule requires all non-originating materials used to produce the apple juice to be classified in another 4-digit code other than 20.09, provided the apples are wholly obtained. This rule is met because the sugar sourced overseas is classified in the 4-digit code 17.02

The apple juice made with sugar sourced from overseas qualifies as originating in Japan.

## 6.3 The Claim of Preferential Tariff Treatment

Preferential tariff treatment may be claimed in the EU based on the Japanese origin of a product, by using a Statement on Origin by the Japanese exporter or the (EU) importer's (own) knowledge that the product is originating in Japan.



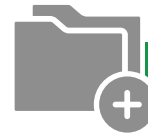
### Statement on Origin

- Text by which the exporter or producer states the origin status of a product
- The text is printed on an invoice or any commercial document (packing list, proforma invoice)
- Applies to single shipments of one or more products or multiple shipments of identical products



### Importer's Knowledge

- Knowledge is based on supporting documents or records to be obtained from the exporter that are in the importer's possession



### Record Keeping

#### Statement on Origin

- Exporter or producer to keep for 4 years
- Importer to keep for 3 years minimum

#### Importer's Knowledge

- Importer to keep records for a minimum period of 3 years from the time the preference is claimed



### Statement on Origin

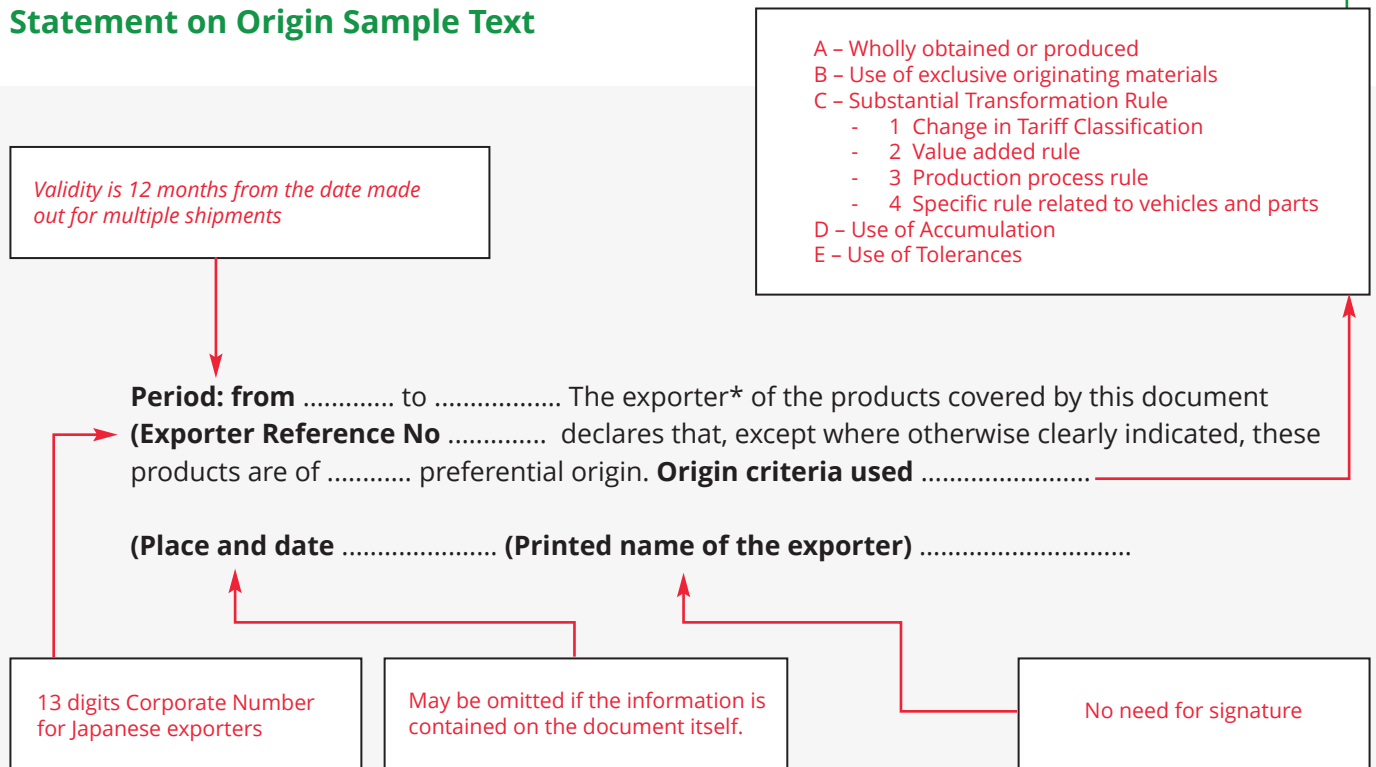
- ▶ The exporter may or may not decide to share information with the importer regarding the originating status of a product. However, this will not cause denial of preference by EU Customs, unless the importer is not able to provide a statement on origin for the products in question.

### Importer's Knowledge

- ▶ This option may be more suited for related parties, where the exporter has no issues disclosing sensitive commercial information to the importer.



## Statement on Origin Sample Text



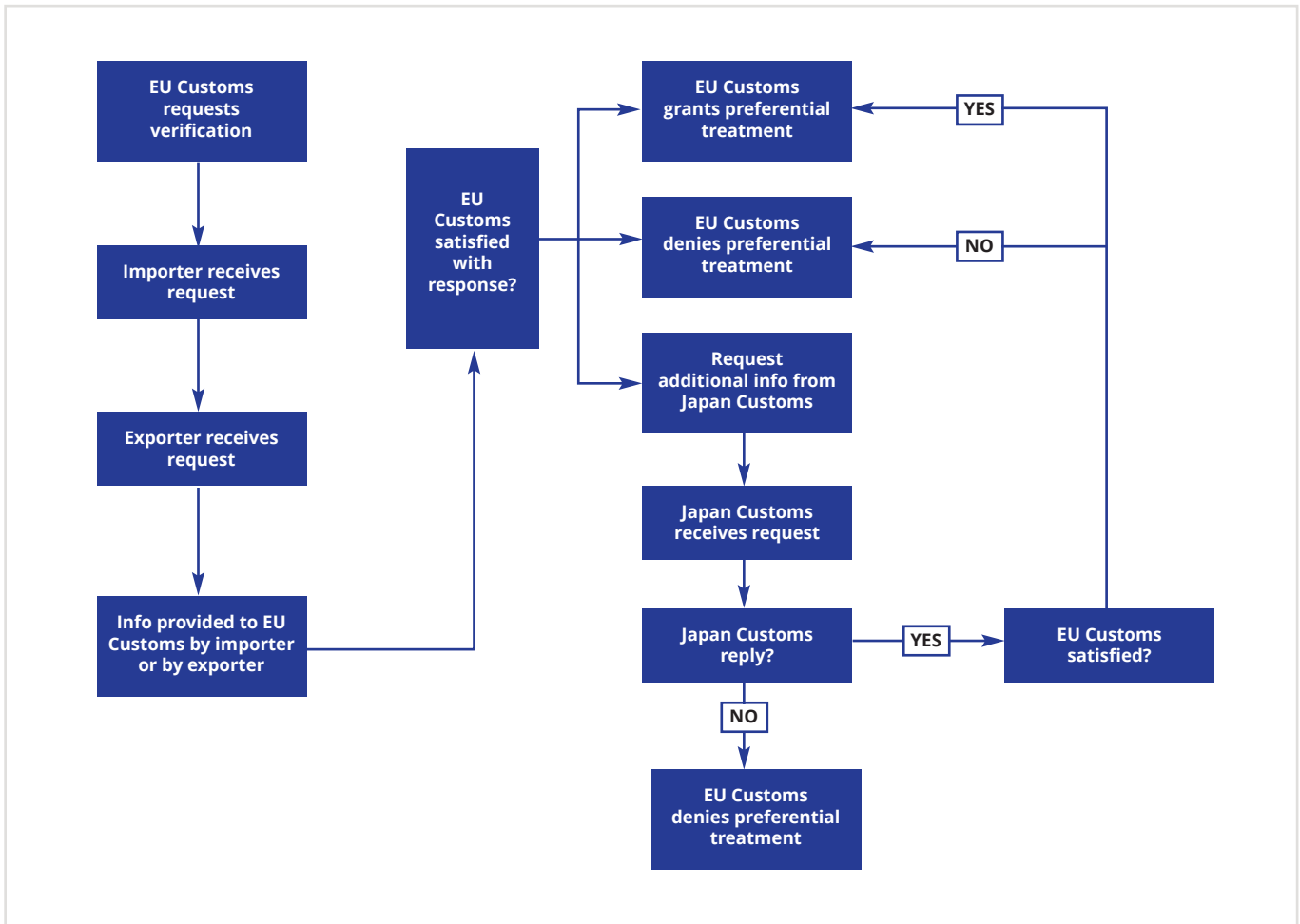
\*Exporter may also be the producer or trading company involved in the export of the product

## Verification of the Proof of Origin

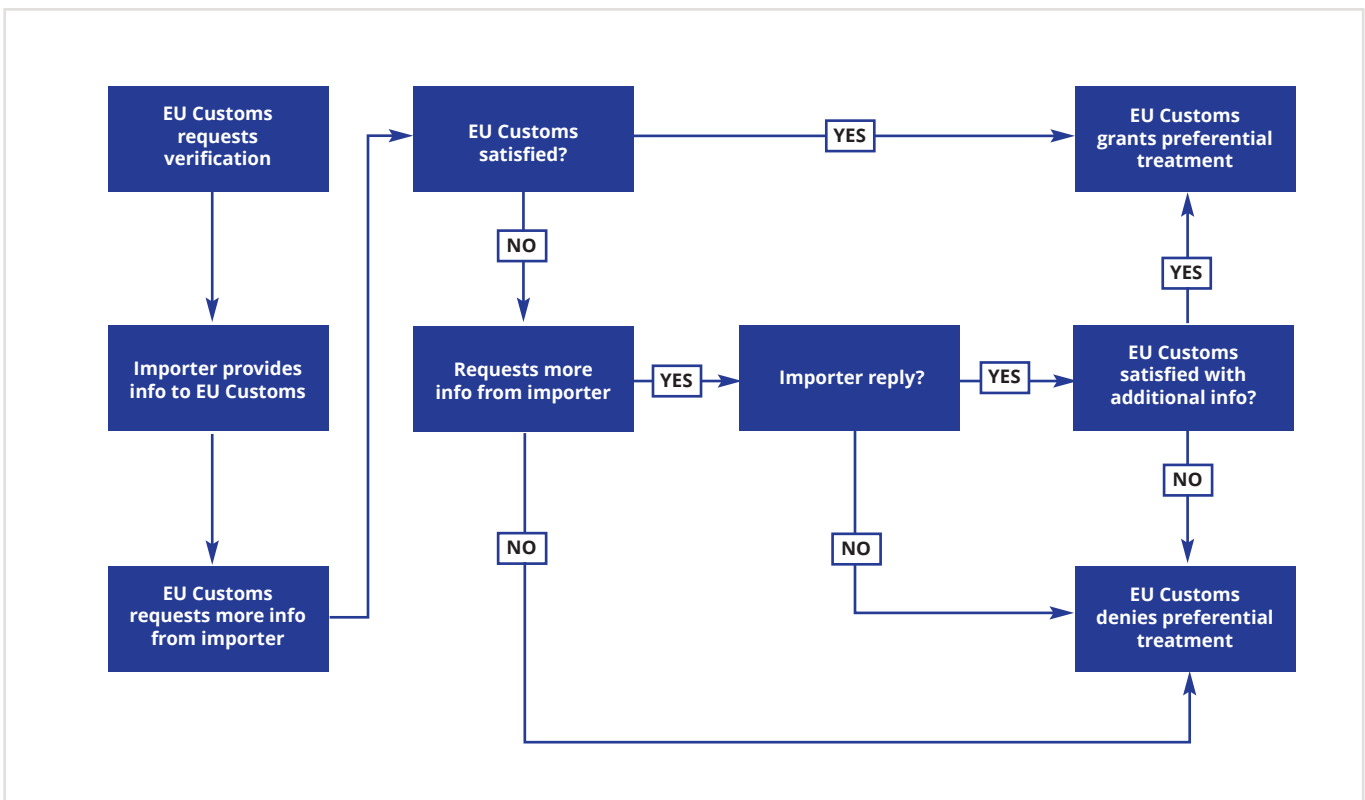
EU Customs may conduct verification of origin either at the time of the Customs declaration, before or after release of the shipment. The results may lead to denial or granting of the preferential treatment of the product.

The denial of preferential treatment is subject to specified time periods after the date of request and depends on the type of proof submitted to Customs.

## Verification based on Statement on Origin



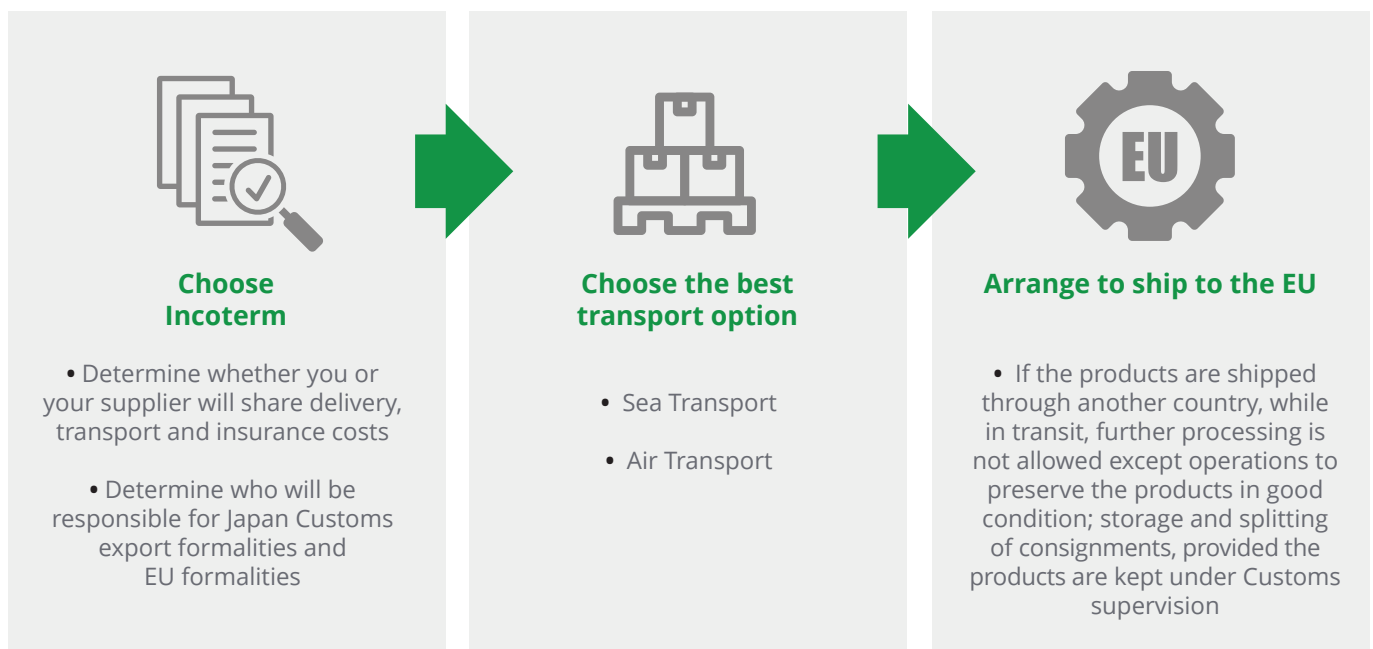
## Verification based on the Importer's Knowledge



## 6.4

# Transport from Japan to the EU

When transporting originating products from Japan to the EU, you will need to consider the incoterm, the best means of transport and the rules for transporting the products through third countries (if applicable).



You can check <https://trade.ec.europa.eu/access-to-markets/en/glossary/incoterms> for more information on incoterms

## Transport options from Japan to EU

**Pros**

- Ideal for urgent, small & high value goods = Faster than sea transportation

**Cons**

- Higher cost than sea transportation

**Pros**

- Ideal for large volumes
- Lower cost than air transportation

**Cons**

- Slower than air transportation

To get a quote and obtain further guidance on transport, you can employ the services of a Freight Forwarder

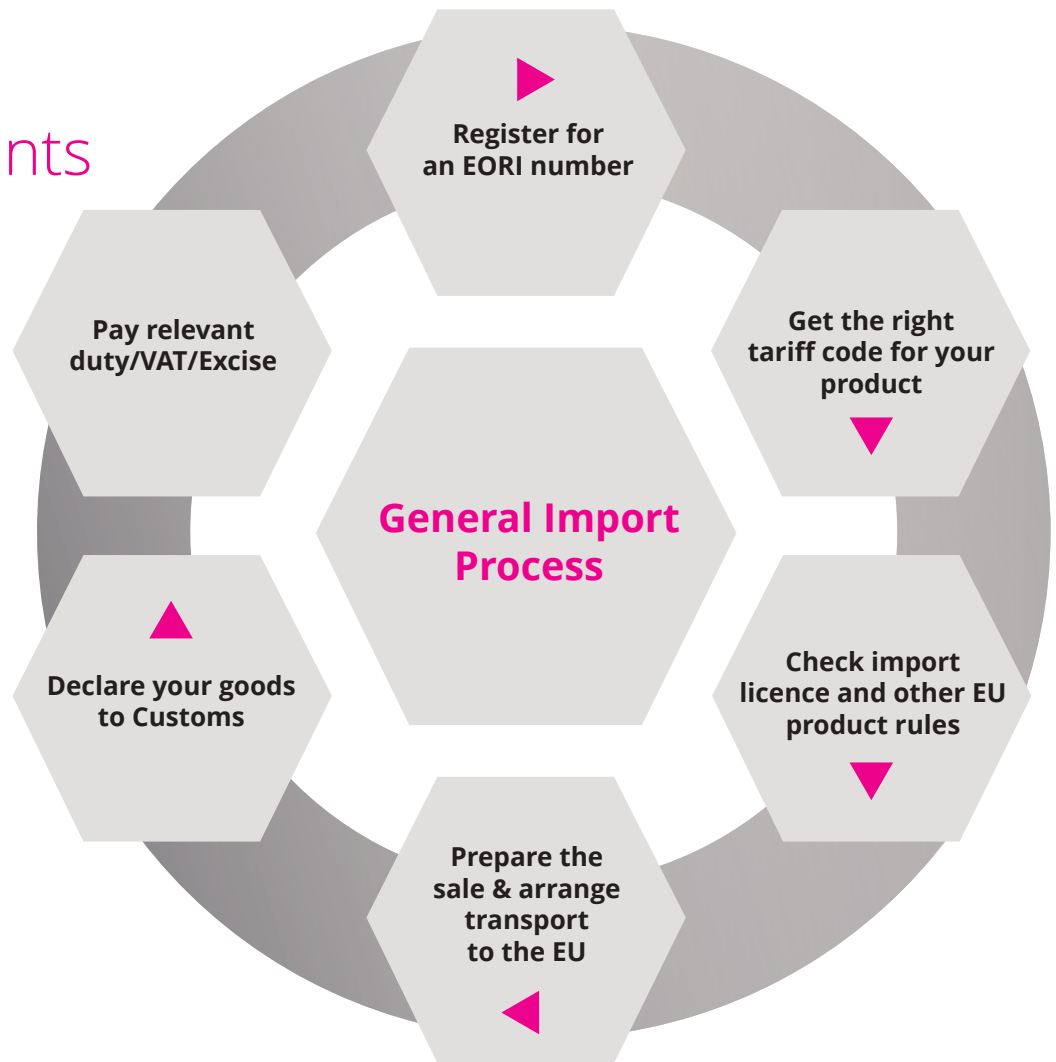
## 7.0

# Other Import Requirements

Your eligibility to benefit from the Preferential tariffs is subject to other import requirements.

## 7.1

### General Requirements to import goods into the EU



**EORI** – Economic Operator Registration Identification number required to conduct business with EU Customs. It can be obtained by applying through your EU Customs Authority

**Tariff Code** – You can ask your Customs Broker, Freight Forwarder or contact your Customs Authority for assistance; Consider obtaining a tariff ruling from Customs to ensure code will not be rejected upon entry of goods

**Import License and EU Product rules** (See Section 7.2)

**Transport** – Consider using a freight forwarder to organise logistics

**Declaring your goods to Customs** – You can use the services of a Customs broker or Freight Forwarder if you require assistance

**Paying for your shipment** – Calculation is based on the value of your goods, Customs tariff applied and origin of your goods

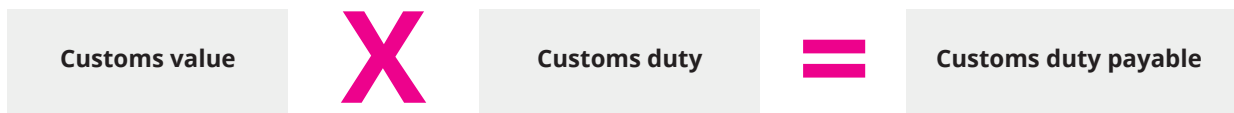
# 7.1.1

## Import duties, VAT and Taxes

The EPA provides for the reduction and elimination of Customs duty. Other taxes apply and vary based on the EU Member State.

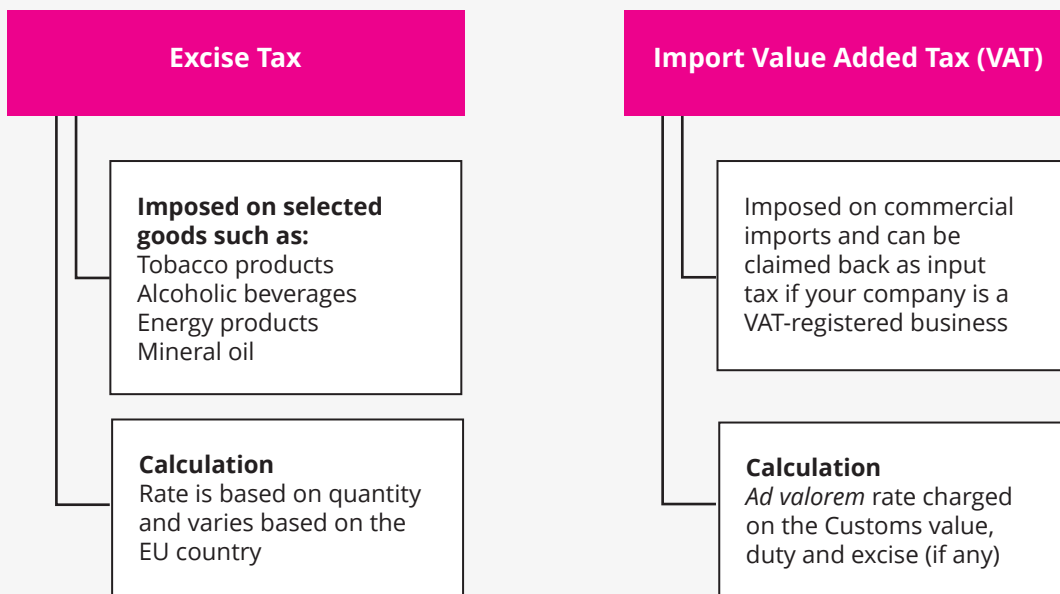
### Customs Duty for goods imported from Japan using the EPA

Calculation is dependent upon the Customs value, Customs tariff and origin of your goods



Customs value is the price paid for the goods, the shipping cost and the insurance cost

### Internal Taxes



### Total Customs duties, taxes and payable

► Customs duty payable + Excise duty payable + VAT Payable = Total duties and taxes payable

# 7.1.2 Import Documentation for Customs Clearance

## Documents

## Description/Requirements

<b>Commercial invoice</b>	Original along with at least one copy
<b>Customs Value Declaration</b>	Applies to commercial shipments where the value of the imported goods exceeds EUR 20 000
<b>Transport Documents</b>	Depends on the means of transport: Bill of Lading; FIATA Bill of Lading; Road Waybill (CMR); Air Waybill (AWB); Rail Waybill (CIM); ATA Carnet; TIR Carnet
<b>Freight Insurance</b>	The insurance invoice is required for Customs clearance only when the relevant data do not appear in the commercial invoice indicating the premium paid to insure the merchandise.
<b>Packing List</b>	Commercial document that provides information on the imported items and the packaging details of each shipment (weight, dimensions, handling issues, etc.)
<b>Single Administrative Document (SAD)</b>	Common Import Declaration to declare goods to Customs. The SAD should be submitted by the importer or his/her representative (Customs Broker/Freight Forwarder) by: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Using an approved computerised system linked to Customs authorities</li> <li>Or lodging it with the designated Customs Office premises</li> </ol>
<b>Proof of Origin for EPA Imports</b>	Importer Knowledge/Statement on origin to be included in the SAD
<b>Import Licence</b>	Varies according to the product

## Claiming Preferential Tariff using the Customs declaration (SAD)

31 Packages and description of goods	Marks and numbers Container No(s) - Number and kind 1 x BOX [BX] CONTAINING 10 BOXES CONTAINING ADULT MALE LEATHER FOOTWEAR IN PAIRS BOX MARKED "1 TO UK c/o BDFS" CONTAINER NO:	32 Item	33 Commodity Code		
		1 No	64035995	00	
44 Additional Information Documents produced/ Certificates and authorisations	Use the appropriate code if the claim for preference is based on: A 'statement on origin' for a single shipment – U110 A 'statement on origin' for multiple shipments of identical products to cover a 12-month – U111 Importers knowledge (this must be declared with status code JP) – U112	34 Country origin code		35 Gross mass (kg)	36 Preference
		a AU	b	8.000	300
		37 PROCEDURE		38 Net mass (kg)	39 Quota
		4000 000		8.000	
		40 Summary declaration/Previous document Z-380-664411/99			
		41 Supplementary units	42 Item price	43 V/M Code	
		10.000	5,480-00	1	
		A.I. Code		45 Adjustment	
				B0	
		46 Statistical value			
		£2,116-16			

SAD source: [http://ec.europa.eu/taxation\\_customs/sites/taxation/files/resources/documents/sad\\_text\\_en.xls](http://ec.europa.eu/taxation_customs/sites/taxation/files/resources/documents/sad_text_en.xls)

Preferential duty will be applied based on information given in boxes 36 and 44 on the SAD

## 7.2

# Specific Import Requirements

Certain products are restricted or prohibited from entering the EU. Measures have been implemented to protect human and animal health, the environment and consumer rights.

### Import Restrictions



Main products: agricultural products, medicinal products, chemicals, iron and steel products, cultural assets, textile products and clothing, weapons, counterfeit or pirated goods, indecent articles/publications /video recordings, endangered species, waste, some live animals and products containing animal substances, plants and products containing vegetable substances.

You will be required to obtain the requisite permits (see below), licences or official approved notifications by applying to the competent authority in the EU country of import before the arrival of such goods in the EU. Upon arrival in the EU, such products may also be subject to inspections at the Border Control Inspection Posts.

You can check the **EU TARIC Database** to see if your product requires an import licence as well as the relevant authority in the EU Member State.

### Technical, Health and Safety Rules

#### Technical Requirements

- Technical regulations, standards and conformity assessment procedures e.g design, labelling, packaging, functionality or performance requirements
- To obtain requirements for your product, you can use EC My Trade Assistant using the tariff code

#### Health, animal and plant health requirements

- Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) measures are to protect humans, animals and plants from diseases and pests
- Live animals and products of animal origin, certain food of non-animal origin and plants and plant products (e.g. fruits, vegetables) are subject to inspections in the EU and must be accompanied by certain official documents from Japan such as a phytosanitary or health certificates
- To obtain the SPS requirements for your product from Japan, please see [https://ec.europa.eu/taxation\\_customs/business/customs-controls/safety-health-environment-customs-controls/sanitary-phytosanitary-requirements\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/taxation_customs/business/customs-controls/safety-health-environment-customs-controls/sanitary-phytosanitary-requirements_en)

## 7.2.1 Case Study Example – Product requirements for vacuum cleaners from Japan

An SME in Finland is planning to import vacuum cleaners made in Japan. The vacuum cleaners have a self-contained electric motor of a power of 500 watts and a dust bag. The EU SME importer has noted that zero tariffs are applicable using the EPA and that the product meets the RoO but discovers that various import requirements need to be met in the EU. The tariff code for the product is 8508 11 0000.



**Import to EU**

### Results for product code 8508.11 from Japan to Finland

**Import requirements** latest update: 26 October 2020 [How to read the results](#)

This section presents:

- Import procedures and specific formalities and provisions applying to your imported products in the selected country of destination
- National competent authorities for areas such as health and hygiene measures for plants and animals.
- Customs procedures and specimens of the required documents.

**Product requirements**

Information on EU rules and requirements for your product.

**Import requirements** ^

- Overview
- General v
- Specific ^
  - Marketing requirements for electrical and electronic equipment
  - Technical standards for electromagnetic compatibility
  - Technical standards for low voltage electrical equipment
  - Technical standards for machinery and safety components
  - Energy efficiency requirements for vacuum cleaners

Source: <https://trade.ec.europa.eu/access-to-markets/en/results?product=850811&origin=JP&destination=FI>

### Technical requirements explained:

Importers should ensure the manufacturers in Japan comply with rules for entry in the EU such as:

- Technical documentation for the product which should conform with various requirements such as voltage etc
- EU Declaration of Conformity
- Affix CE Marking to product
- Provide traceability information to identify the manufacturer and product



## 8.0 Intellectual Property Rights

The EPA promotes the production and trade of innovative and creative products between the EU and Japan. To increase the benefits and trade of these products, the EU and Japan will ensure that the protection of IPR is adequate, effective and not discriminatory, as well as providing enforcement measures against infringements such as counterfeiting and piracy. EU SME importers can therefore have confidence that they will be importing high quality and genuine products from Japan.

### Examples of Types of IPR covered by the EPA



#### Patents

- The World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) states that "a patent is an exclusive right granted for an invention, which is a product or a process that provides, in general, a new way of doing something, or offers a new technical solution to a problem. To get a patent, technical information about the invention must be disclosed to the public in a patent application".
- The EPA provides common rules for patents, including an extension of the period of protection conferred by a patent on pharmaceutical products and agricultural chemical products.



#### Trademarks

- The WIPO states that "a trademark is a sign capable of distinguishing the goods or services of one enterprise from those of other enterprises. Trademarks are protected by intellectual property rights."
- The EPA provides common rules for trademarks, including prohibition of preparatory acts such as manufacturing or importing labels and packages indicating registered trademark without the consent of the trademark owner.

#### Geographical Indications (GI)

- A GI is a name that identifies that a product was made in a specific geographical location and possess the qualities and characteristics linked to that location.
- The EPA provides protection for 72 agricultural products and 11 seishu/wine/spirits from Japan.

## 9.0 Information Sources

### General information and support for EU-Japan trade



**EU-Japan trade overview:**  
<https://ec.europa.eu/trade/policy/countries-and-regions/countries/japan/>



**EU-Japan Centre for Industrial Cooperation:**  
<https://www.eu-japan.eu/summary-activities>



**Cooperation between the European Commission's DG GROW and METI of Japan:**  
[https://ec.europa.eu/growth/industry/international-aspects/cooperation-governments/eu-japan\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/growth/industry/international-aspects/cooperation-governments/eu-japan_en)



**"EU Business in Japan" portal for EU SMEs – wide range of resources on all aspects of business with Japan:**  
<https://www.eubusinessinjapan.eu/>



**List of Japan-related brokerage (business speed-dating) events, trade missions & conferences:**  
[https://een.ec.europa.eu/events?f%5B0%5D=field\\_eventstartdate%3Anext\\_year&f%5B1%5D=field\\_country%3A764](https://een.ec.europa.eu/events?f%5B0%5D=field_eventstartdate%3Anext_year&f%5B1%5D=field_country%3A764)

### EU-Japan EPA information and support



**Introduction to the EPA:**  
<https://ec.europa.eu/trade/policy/in-focus/eu-japan-economic-partnership-agreement/>



**Explanation of key EPA terminology:**  
<https://trade.ec.europa.eu/access-to-markets/en/content/eu-japan-economic-partnership-agreement>



**The EPA in detail:**  
<https://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/press/index.cfm?id=1684>



**SMEs & the EPA:**  
<https://ec.europa.eu/trade/policy/in-focus/eu-japan-economic-partnership-agreement/smes-and-eu-japan/>



**EU-Japan Centre EPA Helpdesk – webinars, factsheets & answers:**  
<https://www.eu-japan.eu/epa-helpdesk>



**Meetings & documents from the EPA committees:**  
<https://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/press/index.cfm?id=2042>



**EU tariff changes under the EPA:**  
[http://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/docs/2018/august/tradoc\\_157229.pdf#page=10](http://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/docs/2018/august/tradoc_157229.pdf#page=10)



**EPA Guidance – importer's knowledge:**  
[https://ec.europa.eu/taxation\\_customs/sites/taxation/files/eu\\_japan\\_epa\\_guidance\\_importers\\_knowledge\\_en.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/taxation_customs/sites/taxation/files/eu_japan_epa_guidance_importers_knowledge_en.pdf)



**EPA Guidance – statement on origin**  
[https://ec.europa.eu/taxation\\_customs/sites/taxation/files/eu-japan-epa-guidance-statements-on-origin.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/taxation_customs/sites/taxation/files/eu-japan-epa-guidance-statements-on-origin.pdf)



**EPA Guidance – statement on origin for multiple shipments of identical products:**  
[https://ec.europa.eu/taxation\\_customs/sites/taxation/files/eu\\_japan\\_epa\\_guidance\\_statement\\_on\\_origin\\_for\\_multiple\\_shipments\\_of\\_identical\\_products\\_en.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/taxation_customs/sites/taxation/files/eu_japan_epa_guidance_statement_on_origin_for_multiple_shipments_of_identical_products_en.pdf)



**EPA Guidance – claim, verification and denial of preference:**  
[https://ec.europa.eu/taxation\\_customs/sites/taxation/files/eu\\_japan\\_epa\\_guidance\\_claim\\_verification\\_denial\\_en.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/taxation_customs/sites/taxation/files/eu_japan_epa_guidance_claim_verification_denial_en.pdf)

# 9.0 Information Sources

## EU Access2Markets portal

Tariff, rules of origin, member-state taxes, import procedures & product requirement information



### For all products, countries of origin and destination:

<https://trade.ec.europa.eu/access-to-markets/en/content>



### For all products originating in Japan, and imported into Germany:

<https://trade.ec.europa.eu/access-to-markets/en/search?product=&origin=JP&destination=DE> *change last two letters of the link for another country*



### Rules of Origin Self-Assessment (ROSA):

<https://trade.ec.europa.eu/access-to-markets/en/content/presenting-rosa>

## Importing into the EU



### Tips for first time importers:

<https://trade.ec.europa.eu/access-to-markets/en/content/guide-import-goods>



### EU market and information by country:

<https://trade.ec.europa.eu/access-to-markets/en/content/eu-market-0>



### EU prohibitions and restrictions:

[https://ec.europa.eu/taxation\\_customs/sites/taxation/files/prohibition\\_restriction\\_list\\_customs\\_en.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/taxation_customs/sites/taxation/files/prohibition_restriction_list_customs_en.pdf)



### TARIC database of all measures relating to EU customs tariff, commercial & agricultural legislation:

[https://ec.europa.eu/taxation\\_customs/business/calculation-customs-duties/what-is-common-customs-tariff/taric\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/taxation_customs/business/calculation-customs-duties/what-is-common-customs-tariff/taric_en)

## EU-Japan customs relations



### EU-Japan customs relations & cooperation:

[https://ec.europa.eu/taxation\\_customs/business/international-affairs/international-customs-cooperation-mutual-administrative-assistance-agreements/japan\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/taxation_customs/business/international-affairs/international-customs-cooperation-mutual-administrative-assistance-agreements/japan_en)

## Other sources of information or support



### Enterprise Europe Network (EEN) – support network for SMEs with international ambitions:

<https://een.ec.europa.eu/>



### Database of trade fairs and exhibitions:

<https://www.auma.de/en/exhibit/find-your-exhibitions>



### Japanese database of trade fairs in Europe:

<https://www.jetro.go.jp/en/database/j-messe/country/europe/>

## Useful email addresses / webforms

[TAXUD-E5\\_EU\\_JAPAN\\_EPA@ec.europa.eu](mailto:TAXUD-E5_EU_JAPAN_EPA@ec.europa.eu)  
for customs-related questions

<https://www.eu-japan.eu/eu-japan-epa-helpdesk-information>  
for EPA-related questions and issue-specific webinars and factsheets

Weblinks and QR codes were operational as of December 2020. Please notify any problems to [office@eu-japan.eu](mailto:office@eu-japan.eu)

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