

3. Developing countries for which the Norwegian GSP-system is valid (implemented)

Developing countries (GSP-countries) are, in respect of Norway, those countries (areas) which at any time are recognized as being developing countries by Norwegian authorities. The Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs has decided that the OECD DAC-list in force (which is a list of countries being approved receivers of public development aid) shall be the basis for which countries to be included in the Norwegian GSP-system.

Annex 1 - “List of GSP-countries”

The developing countries are divided in a list representing “least developed GSP-countries (LDCs)”, a list representing low income countries and another list representing the “ordinary GSP-countries”. The so-called LDCs are the poorest countries in the world, and are given a more favourable preferential treatment than the “ordinary” developing countries. The particular arrangement of the GSP-system concerning tariff and quota-free market access to the Norwegian market is extended to apply for all “low income countries” according to the DAC-list in force. A condition is that the countries included have a population of less than 75

million. This means that Pakistan, Vietnam and Nigeria do not benefit from the same market access as the LDCs.

Entry into force

To obtain preferential tariff treatment for goods originating in a developing country, it is a precondition that the Norwegian GSP-scheme has been implemented for the country concerned. Before such implementation can formally take place, it is required that the country has fulfilled the necessary formalities regarding notification of competent authorities and impressions of stamps etc. The date of implementation (entry into force) is officially published by the Directorate of Customs and Excise according to domestic procedures.

Upon importation into Norway, the customs authorities of a relevant GSP-country will always be recognized as competent authority for the issue of certificates of origin Form A, even if this is not explicitly mentioned in the list in appendix 2.

GSP preferential tariff treatment may only be obtained for products covered by a certificate of origin Form A, which is endorsed and stamped by a competent authority properly notified in advance by the GSP-country concerned, or an origin declaration.

Original prints of stamps and signatures used by the relevant authorities are deposited with the Directorate of Customs and Excise. When in doubt, the GSP certificate of origin can be sent to the directorate (Tariff and Origin Section) for control.