

Electronic CO (eCO)

Many chambers of commerce already provide online CO services to speed up the application and issuance process as well as provide a more secure documentation environment.

This is possible as eCO systems are able to include security features such as online verification of the authenticity of COs issued electronically and optical watermarking technology to distinguish between original and copies of COs issued.

eCO systems provide electronic applications as well as issuance, complete with digital rubber stamps of the chamber and signatures of authorized officials.

The issuance of eCOs is on the rise as it allows exporters to apply and receive their approval electronically. In addition, electronic COs save on courier charges by eliminating the need to dispatch documents to and from chambers and save time by eliminating the need to travel and wait in a queue.

eCO also provides the convenience of having a direct link to banks, which speeds up clearance for letters of credit.

Issuing fees

Issuing fees vary from one country to another and are usually left to the discretion of each authorized issuing chamber.

WCF trade services

WCF also offers chambers and their member business communities a broad range of business and trade promotion services. Please contact us at wcf-co@iccwbo.org to learn more about the various packages available.



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ICC
World Chambers Federation

Certificates of Origin

Helping international
business do
business better.



What is a Certificate of Origin?

A Certificate of Origin (CO) is an important international trade document attesting that goods in a particular export shipment have been wholly obtained, produced, manufactured or processed in a particular country. It is also a declaration by the exporter.

There are two major types of COs:

- Non-preferential COs, issued for goods which will not enjoy any preferential treatment.
- Preferential COs, issued in the context of preferential trade agreements which will enable exporters to benefit from tariff exemption or reduction for eligible exports.

COs may be requested by Customs administrations, importers, freight forwarders, or banks for clearance of letters of credit.

ICC WCF is proud to offer business a Certificate of Origin recognized worldwide.



A new standard in global trade



Chambers authority

Millions of COs are issued every year, facilitating trade around the world. The first CO was issued in 1898.

According to the 2009 ICC World Chambers Federation (WCF) World CO survey, more than 2,000 chambers from over 100 countries issue CO.

The issuance of CO is an important function for chambers in international trade. The majority of governments and governing agencies rely on the network of chambers due to their expertise and credible track record.

Following the signing of the 1923 Geneva Convention, governments began delegating the issuance of CO to chambers. Chambers are deemed to be competent organizations and regarded as a credible and trusted third-party in the issuance of COs.

ICC WCF role

Established by ICC -*The World Business Organization*- the World Chambers Federation (WCF) promotes the role of chambers of commerce as trade facilitators.

To reach this objective in the field of COs, ICC WCF have identified the following main areas of work and cooperation for chambers and customs authorities:

- Creation of an international accreditation and certification chain to which chambers will adhere on a voluntary basis. By joining the chain, chambers will agree to follow internationally applicable and widely accepted standards based on the ICC WCF International CO Guidelines.
- Creation of an international database of accredited chambers accessible to both chambers and customs.
- Development of a series of international training programmes to enhance and raise the level of chambers' professionalism and competency in CO issuance.
- Reinforce the role of chambers as competent authorities in the delivery of COs, the issuance of preferential COs and the acceptance of electronic COs.

International standards

ICC WCF has set up international standards for the issuance of CO to:

- Support transparent issuance standard procedures.
- Provide an important yet independent tier of check in the supply chain.
- Provide assurance for independent, responsible, and accountable issuance.
- Give credibility to CO issued by chambers of commerce.
- Raise the level of acceptance by customs administrations and the business community.

The ICC WCF International Certificate of Origin Guidelines provide a set of rules for the application, certification, management, administration and issuance of CO. The Guidelines are available in Arabic, Chinese, English, Russian and Spanish.