



Chinese and Australian Free Trade Agreement

The Chinese Australia Free Trade Agreement (ChAFTA) officially came into effect on the 20th December, 2015 eliminating tariffs on most Chinese origin goods imported into Australia.



Key information you need to know:

Shipments need to be lodged on or after 20/12/15 to gain any preference.

Not all products are duty free immediately - certain products are phasing to 0% over 3 or 5 years based on customs classification.

Preferential rates are only applicable to import duty – dumping duty, excise etc. will remain at full rate.

A Certificate of Origin (COO) must be issued for each shipment.

There are two authorities in China that can approve a COO for imports, they are:

- [China Council for the Promotion of International Trade \(CCPIT\)](#)
- [General Administration of Quality Supervision Inspection and Quarantine \(AQSIQ\)](#)

Suppliers have to register with these authorities and provide manufacturing details to gain a COO (cost rmb 500-600 = approx. AUD\$130)

A COO can only cover 20 items, if there are more than 20 items a separate COO will be required. Once a COO is granted it can be used for 12 months for identical imported goods.

If suppliers have any difficulty in obtaining a COO from Chinese authorities, an Advanced Ruling can be obtained by the Australian border force.

Once the Advanced Ruling has been approved the supplier will need to provide a Declaration of origin (DOO) which does not need to be authorised by the Chinese Government Authority. In order to apply for an Advanced Ruling the Chinese suppliers needs to provide:

1. A detailed description of the manufacturing process
2. A description of all materials, tariff classifications and the country of origin of all materials that make up the final product

Application and approval can take between 50 to 70 days to complete. Mainfreight can assist in applications for Advanced Rulings (fees will be applicable).

Hong Kong

ChAFTA rates will apply for shipments ex China transiting via Hong Kong.

However, please note: shipments must not undergo any operation i.e. repacking or relabelling for Australian requirements, otherwise ChAFTA will not be applicable.

Costs will apply for the following:

1. For Mainfreight to chase shippers/suppliers for COO \$20+GST.
2. Refunds performed by Mainfreight for COO received after lodgement a \$90+GST.
3. Lodgement of Advanced Ruling Applications.

If you have further queries or require clarification please contact your local customs brokers, export representative or customer service representative.

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