



AUSTRALIAN CUSTOMS NOTICE NO. 2003/70

State of origin for exports

Purpose

The purpose of this Australian Customs Notice (ACN) is to assist exporters and their agents in reporting state of origin information as accurately as possible by providing advice on how the state of origin should be determined. This ACN replaces ACN 2000/49.

Background

It is recognised that state of origin cannot be accurately reported in all cases, and these guidelines can be used to determine the best possible response in these circumstances. They are intended to be used as a guide to what is expected in gathering details for reporting state of origin. If these guidelines are followed, and data reported in accordance with them is accurate, the origin data element will be considered to be accurate by Customs.

Definition of state of origin

State of origin is the Australian state in which the final stage of production or manufacture occurs. The final stage of production or manufacture does NOT include processes which essentially leave the good intact, such as repair, blending, packaging, bottling, cleaning, sorting, husking, and shelling. The state of origin is NOT simply the state where:

- the head office of the exporter is located;
- the Customs entry/declaration is lodged;
- the goods were loaded on the international carrier.

Determining state of origin

The different situations an exporter can encounter, and the proposed methods of reporting as a result, are summarised in the attached flow chart. The flowchart is intended to assist exporters to determine the most appropriate method of reporting for state of origin, based on their particular circumstances and the information available to them. The exporter does not need to establish systems to gather additional information, but may need to provide some information to the person completing the export documentation.

The flowchart presents decision points based on the ability to separate goods by state of production or state of supply, or, in cases of multiple sources, to identify a predominant source. Where predominance is to be determined, this should be done in terms of the value of the goods involved.

The flowchart decision points start with those which produce the most accurate state of origin (based on state of production) and work down through less accurate mechanisms based on the state of the suppliers of the goods. If state of origin cannot be set using information about the state of production or the state of the supplier then, as a last resort, the state of export is used.

When considering goods sourced partially or fully from outside Australia, the same rules should be applied, with the goods reported with an origin of 'goods of foreign origin, re-exported'.

To assist in interpreting the flow chart, the following selected examples are provided:

an exporter manufactures and / or assembles products in one state from components obtained from various states. The state of origin is the state in which the exporter undertakes the manufacture / assembly.

an exporter exports products purchased directly from a manufacturer located in one state. The state of origin will be the state where the manufacturer is located.

a Customs agent servicing a business headquartered in Victoria lodges export records on behalf of the business, for zinc produced in and exported from Queensland. The state of origin is Queensland, not Victoria.

wool produced in Tasmania is shipped to Melbourne and then exported. The state of origin is Tasmania, not Victoria. On the other hand, if the wool from Tasmania is shipped to Melbourne for sale, and then exported along with wool from other states in a single consignment, then a reported state of origin of Victoria would be acceptable.

an exporter packages products sourced from a number of states and knows the approximate proportions by value from each state. Packaging is not considered as manufacturing. The exporter should consider submitting export entries proportioning the value of the goods by state.

an exporter packages products sourced from a number of states, but cannot determine or estimate the state proportions. However it is known that the Western Australian sourced products have the highest value. The state of origin should be reported as Western Australia.

an exporter packages products purchased indirectly from manufacturers, through an intermediary, and it is not known where the intermediary sources their product. The state of origin should be set to the state the goods are shipped from by the intermediary.

an exporter packages motor vehicle parts from different suppliers producing the goods in South Australia, New South Wales and Victoria, and then exports all the goods from Victoria. The flowchart should be used to determine if information is available to the exporter which allows more accurate reporting of state of origin than simply Victoria, the state of export. However, as a last resort, when other options are exhausted, state of export can be used.

Contact details

These guidelines attempt to cover the most common situations likely to be experienced by exporters or their agents when reporting state of origin. If you have any queries in relation to determining the state of origin of an export commodity or you require assistance with Customs export documentation, please contact the Customs Information & Support Centre on telephone number 1300 363 263 or email information@customs.gov.au.

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FLOWCHART FOR DETERMINING ORIGIN OF GOODS TO BE EXPORTED

