

Coronavirus crisis highlights importance of Australian Trusted Trader (ATT) benefits

By the Department of Home Affairs

Global health emergencies, such as the recent novel coronavirus crisis can significantly impact travel and trade with origin countries, with restrictions placed on travel and trade in attempts to reduce the spread of disease. The novel coronavirus outbreak has resulted in restrictions on the movement of people between Australia and China, but air and sea cargo movements have also been impacted.

Even where traders are able to secure a transport route for their goods, another challenge has emerged relating to obtaining the certificates of origin required for *China-Australia Free Trade Agreement (ChAFTA)* preferential tariff treatment. Due to the virus threat, Chinese Government offices have closed temporarily, making it difficult to obtain the certificates required to claim ChAFTA preference at the time of import. Importers have up to twelve months to provide the certificate of origin and seek a refund, however this can greatly impact the cash flow of your business and there is currently no certainty on when Chinese offices will reopen.

Trusted Traders already have access to the ATT Origin Advance Ruling benefit, which makes it much easier to claim preferential tariff treatment under ChAFTA. All current ATT members should ensure that they are taking full advantage of the available benefits to reduce the burden of the current crisis situation as far as possible.

The ATT Origin Advance ruling benefit:

- Makes it easier to claim preferential tariff treatment under the ChAFTA. For most Chinese originating goods, this reduces import duties to zero.
- Is available to Trusted Traders who import goods that comply with the rules and regulations under ChAFTA.
- The ATT Origin Advance Ruling is valid for five years from the date it is issued.



- The one ruling covers all Chinese originating goods from multiple manufacturers, for multiple tariff classifications and multiple origin criteria the importer will bring in over the five-year period. Meaning new goods and product lines can easily be added to the ruling without the need to apply for new rulings. Without this benefit, one advance ruling is required per tariff classification or origin criteria.

- Removes the need for a ChAFTA Certificate of Origin, as ChAFTA preference can be claimed using a Declaration of Origin signed by the producer or exporter in China. A Declaration of Origin can only be used after the ATT Origin Advance Ruling has been issued.
- Saves time and money associated with the administrative burden of obtaining origin certificates or multiple rulings applications not prioritised under ATT. It will significantly reduce the number of

Advance Rulings required, which reduces red tape and helps to minimise barriers to trade.

- The ATT Origin Advance Ruling is valid from the date it is issued. It cannot be used to claim a refund of goods imported before this date.

The disruption caused by the novel coronavirus outbreak highlights the importance of traders having business continuity strategies in place to mitigate the effect of global trade disruptions, including becoming a Trusted Trader. Trusted Trader status ensures that traders can access and leverage the available trade facilitation benefits to the full extent. This is particularly important in times of global trade disruption, where Australian Trusted Trader Authorised Economic Operator (AEO) membership can result in even more significant trade facilitation advantages.



Australian Government



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Shaping the future of trade

Australian Trusted Trader (ATT) reduces red tape at the border and expedites the flow of cargo in and out of Australia, saving you and your clients time and money.

ATT is free to join with no ongoing fees. It is the future of international trade. Help your clients. Enhance your business.

Join and get your clients to talk to us today.

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Can you or your clients afford to not join?

“Being a Trusted Trader demonstrates our commitment to customer service and excellence in international supply chain security. All Australian businesses involved in importing or exporting goods should apply and benefit”

Björn Johansson
Managing Director of Kuehne + Nagel Australia