



Un-complicating Country of Origin

The information provided in this pdf is for general informational purposes only.

Chit Chats does not provide any kind of professional advice for how to determine the Country of Origin for your goods crossing the U.S border. Before taking any actions based upon this information, we encourage you to consult with the appropriate professionals. Any reliance you place on the information provided by Chit Chats is strictly at your own risk.

Country of Origin (COO) refers to where a product was manufactured or produced. It is important for determining tariffs—different countries have different tariff rates.

According to the U.S. International Trade Administration (ITA):

“When a good does NOT come entirely from a single country, the internationally recognized legal principle of substantial transformation is used to determine the origin of the good.”

Substantial Transformation may be in the form of:

- Physical Features and/or
- The Value of the Goods

See [ITA's article on Rules of Origin](#), which includes examples.

According to the U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP):

“Every article of foreign origin entering the United States must be legibly marked with the English name of the country of origin unless an exception from marking is provided for in the law.”

See [CBP's article on correctly Marking of Country of Origin](#).

Correctly determining and marking the COO of your goods crossing the U.S is critical. Incorrectly declaring COO can lead to potential:

1. Fines of up to \$50,000 USD by U.S. Customs and Border Protection and/or
2. Bans from shipping across the U.S. border.

We recommend that clients:

- Review where/how your product were made against information provided by **ITA and CBP** (links above).
- Ensure the COO is correctly declared for **each item** in every shipment.
- Be prepared to provide **proof** of COO if requested (via commercial invoices self-certifications and pro formas).
- [Contact CBP directly](#) if you aren't sure or seek professional or legal advice.

For more information: [Chit Chats article on Country of Origin](#).