



FACTSHEET

Information on the Swiss General System of Preferences (GSP) Scheme

In accordance with WTO Rules and the UNCTAD, the **Swiss Generalized System of Preferences (GSP)** grants preferential treatment in the form of exemptions from duties for industrial and agricultural products imported from developing countries. Imports into Switzerland from **least developed countries (LDCs)** enjoy duty free and quota free treatment.

The Swiss GSP scheme is maintained by the State Secretariat for Economic Affairs SECO. Its legal basis relies on the following documents:

- [Loi fédérale sur l'octroi de préférences tarifaires en faveur des pays en développement - RS 632.91](#) *General law on preferences*
- [Ordonnance fixant les droits de douane préférentiels en faveur des pays en développement - RS 632.911](#) *Ordinance on preferences, including the list of beneficiary countries (Annex I) and of products concerned and preferences (Annex II)*
- [Ordonnance relative aux règles d'origine régissant l'octroi de préférences tarifaires aux pays en développement - RS 946.39](#) *Ordinance on rules of origin.*

In order to qualify for GSP treatment, the imported products must comply with specific **rules of origin**: they must be wholly obtained or must have undergone specific processing in the beneficiary country. This has to be supported by documentary evidence (*certificate of origin*). For this purpose, the government of the exporting country has to **notify the Swiss authorities** the authorities of that country empowered to issue certificates of origin, and provide specimen **impressions of stamps** used by these authorities.

The Directorate General of Swiss Customs maintains a [List of official authorities empowered to issue certificates of origin](#). The Directorate General of Swiss Customs can also hand in copies of the **certificate of origin Form A** needed to document origin of GSP benefiting goods imported in Switzerland.

With the aim to concretely support economic operators willing to export products in Switzerland, the SECO has created the [Export Infodesk](#) presenting the conditions and regulations on the Swiss market as well as a series of useful links.

The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development UNCTAD has published a **Handbook on the GSP Scheme of Switzerland** of which an electronic version is found [here](#). Annex 5 depicts an example of a *certificate of origin Form A*.

For further information or hardcopies of the *Handbook*, please contact the [UNCTAD Technical Cooperation Project on market Access, Trade Laws and Preferences](#).