

African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) Implementation FAQs

1.	<p>Q: When will the approved Agreement be available?</p> <p>A: The Agreement is not complete, as the Agreement on Tariffs and Annex on Rules of Origin are not yet concluded (approved). However, the Draft AfCFTA rules can be accessed on the SARS website: https://www.sars.gov.za/ClientSegments/Customs-Excise/AboutCustoms/Pages/African-Continental-Free-Trade-Agreement.aspx</p>
2.	<p>Q: Where can the latest information on the AfCFTA be accessed?</p> <p>A: https://www.sars.gov.za/ClientSegments/Customs-Excise/AboutCustoms/Pages/African-Continental-Free-Trade-Agreement.aspx</p>
3.	<p>Q: How will this agreement affect companies in South Africa who trade with businesses in Africa?</p> <p>A: Once the Agreement is approved, The companies can begin to trade on a preferential basis.</p>
4.	<p>Q: When is the Agreement going to be finalised?</p> <p>A: The implementation date of this agreement is 01 January 2020. Therefore, the approval is planned for December 2020.</p>
5.	<p>Q: what is the AfCFTA implementation plan and what are the timelines?</p> <p>A:</p> <p>The implementation plan timeline is as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mar/Apr 2020: Business Requirements Specifications (BRS) April 2020: ECP Apr-Jul 2020: Solution Development Dec 2020: Training, Publish Gazette Jan 2021: Implementation

6.	<p>Q: How many countries have ratified the Agreement?</p> <p>A: 34 ratifications were approved by the Summit held on the 5 December and 41 tariff offers submitted. The countries that can trade under the agreement need to have both ratified the agreement and deposited their instrument with the AFCFTA secretariat. The countries with submitted offers are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Benin 2. Botswana 3. Burkina Faso 4. Burundi 5. Cabo Verde 6. Cameroon 7. Central African Republic 8. Chad 9. Congo Republic 10. Democratic Republic of Congo 11. Egypt 12. Equatorial Guinea 13. Eswatini 14. Gabon 15. Ghana 16. Guinea 17. Guinea Bissau 18. Ivory Coast (Cote d'Ivoire) 19. Kenya 20. Lesotho 21. Liberia 22. Madagascar

	23. Malawi 24. Mali 25. Mauritania 26. Mauritius 27. Namibia 28. Niger 29. Nigeria 30. Rwanda 31. São Tomé and Príncipe 32. Senegal 33. Seychelles 34. Sierra Leone 35. South Africa 36. South Sudan 37. The Gambia 38. Togo 39. Uganda 40. United Republic of Tanzania 41. Zambia
7.	Q: Are the Rules of Origin (ROO) finalised? A: No, countries have until end of June 2021 to finalise the rules of Origin however only 19% is outstanding.
8.	Q: What is the operational implication of the ROO not yet finalised by the 01 January 2021 implementation date? A: The lines affected cannot be the subject of an offer, until finalization.
9.	Q: Can you please provide documents for registering as an exporter in terms of the AfCFTA as well as the necessary documents for Certificates of Origin in this regard. A: We await the publication of the agreement and the general notes, which is expected to be finalised prior to the implementation date of 01 January 2021.
10.	Q: Can you please advise if a company that is already registered with Customs and Excise needs to register again for participation in the AfCFTA. A: Yes. AfCFTA registration is a separate registration type.

