

**Section VII**

**Plastics and Articles Thereof; Rubber and Articles Thereof (Chapter 39-40)**

**Notes to Section VII:**

**Note 1**

Rules 1 through 5 of this Section confer origin to a good of any chapter or heading in this Section, except as otherwise specified in those rules.

**Note 2**

Notwithstanding Note 1, a good is originating if it meets the applicable change in tariff classification or satisfies the applicable regional value content specified in the rules of origin in this Section.

**Rule 1: Chemical Reaction**

A good of chapter 39 or 40 that results from a chemical reaction in the territory of one or more of the Parties shall be treated as originating.

For purposes of this Section, a “chemical reaction” is a process (including a biochemical process) that results in a molecule with a new structure by breaking intramolecular bonds and by forming new intramolecular bonds, or by altering the spatial arrangement of atoms in a molecule.

The following are not considered to be chemical reactions for the purposes of determining whether a good is originating:

- (a) dissolution in water or another solvent;
- (b) the elimination of solvents including solvent water; or
- (c) the addition or elimination of water of crystallization.

**Rule 2: Purification**

A good of chapter 39 shall be treated as originating provided that one of the following occurs in the territory of one or more of the Parties:

- (a) the purification of a good results in the elimination of 80 percent of existing impurities; or
- (b) the purification results in the reduction or elimination of impurities, rendering the good suitable:
  - (i) as a pharmaceutical, medicinal, cosmetic, veterinary, or food grade substance;
  - (ii) as a chemical good or reagent for analytical, diagnostic or laboratory use;
  - (iii) as an element or component for use in micro-elements;
  - (iv) for specialized optical use;
  - (v) for non toxic use for health and safety;
  - (vi) for biotechnical use;
  - (vii) as a carrier used in a separation process; or

(viii) for nuclear grade use.

**Rule 3: Mixtures and Blends**

A good of chapters 39 or 40 shall be treated as originating if the deliberate and proportionally controlled mixing or blending (including dispersing) of materials to conform to predetermined specifications which results in the production of a good having physical or chemical characteristics which are relevant to the purposes or uses of the good and are different from the input materials occurs in the territory of one or more of the Parties.

**Rule 4: Change in Particle Size**

A good of chapter 39 shall be treated as originating if the following occurs in the territory of one or more of the Parties:

(a) the deliberate and controlled reduction in particle size of a good, other than by merely crushing or pressing resulting in a good having a defined particle size, defined particle size distribution or defined surface area, which are relevant to the purposes of the resulting good and have different physical or chemical characteristics from the input materials is considered to be origin conferring; or

(b) the deliberate and controlled modification in particle size of a good, other than by merely pressing, resulting in a good having a defined particle size, defined particle size distribution or defined surface area, which are relevant to the purposes of the resulting good and have different physical or chemical characteristics from the input materials is considered to be origin conferring.

**Rule 5: Isomer Separation**

A good of chapter 39 is originating if the isolation or separation of isomers from mixtures of isomers occurs in the territory of one or more of the Parties.

Source:

[U.S.-Dominican Republic-Central America FTA  
Annex 4.1 Specific Rules of Origin, page 36-38](#)