Revenue Services Lesotho
Press Release

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RSL INTRODUCES ELECTRONIC SADC CERTIFICATES OF ORIGIN TO SIMPLIFY EXPORT PROCESSES

Maseru, Lesotho – 12 November 2026 - Revenue Services Lesotho (RSL) wishes to inform exporters, clearing agents and the trading public that, effective 16 November 2026, applications for Southern African Development Community (SADC) Certificates of Origin will be processed electronically, with approved certificates available for download in PDF format.

The introduction of the electronic Certificate of Origin (e-CoO) service is part of RSL's ongoing customs modernisation and digital transformation efforts, aimed at making trade processes more efficient, accessible and transparent.

The service will enable exporters of goods originating in Lesotho, as well as clearing agents acting on their behalf, to apply online for certificates required to access preferential tariff treatment under the SADC Protocol on Trade. Through the e-CoO portal, users will be able to submit applications, monitor their progress and download approved certificates without relying on the traditional paper-based process.

The electronic system is expected to simplify certificate applications, reduce paperwork, improve the traceability of certificates and enhance the overall efficiency of export processes.

How to Apply for an Electronic Certificate of Origin

Exporters and authorised clearing agents can access the service through the RSL website by following these steps:

Visit: www.rsl.org.ls and select E-Services and click on eCertificate of Origin.

First-time registration: Use your organisation's Taxpayer Identification Number (TIN) as the username and your electronic Tax Clearance Certificate (eTCC) password to access the system. Complete the registration process and submit your trader profile together with

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the required supporting documents. Once registered, users can log in using their registered company email address and password and set up authorised users, including clearing agents, freight forwarders and relevant company representatives.

Lodge an export declaration: Submit the export declaration through ASYCUDA for goods destined for a SADC Member State and take note of the declaration reference number. This reference number will be required when applying for the Certificate of Origin. The system automatically links the export declaration to the certificate application, eliminating the need to attach the declaration separately.

Submit the certificate application: Log in to the e-CoO portal, navigate to eServices and select New Certificate. Complete the application, enter the product details, attach the required supporting export documents and preview the application to verify that all information is accurate before submission.

Each export consignment requires a separate certificate, except where split-consignment arrangements apply.

Track and download the certificate: Applications can be monitored under Certificate List. Once approved, users can select the relevant certificate and click View under the Actions menu to access and download the approved certificate in PDF format for record-keeping or printing when required.

Effective Date and Transitional Arrangements

The electronic issuance of SADC Certificates of Origin will take effect on 16 November 2026.

During the transitional period, from 16 November 2026 to 31 March 2027, manual certificates will only be issued in cases where a system outage or technical fault prevents electronic issuance.

From 1 April 2028, only electronic SADC Certificates of Origin will be issued.

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RSL encourages all exporters, clearing agents and relevant stakeholders to familiarise themselves with the new system and complete the necessary registration processes ahead of its implementation to ensure a smooth transition.

For assistance during normal working hours, stakeholders may contact RSL Customs Advisory Services on +266 22 313 796 or +266 5221 5000.

Revenue Services Lesotho remains committed to leveraging technology to facilitate trade, improve service delivery and create a more efficient customs environment in support of Lesotho's economic development.

-Ends-

For clarification, please contact RSL's PR Desk: 62112502/ 58839868

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