

# Exporting Liberian made textiles and clothing to the US?

Follow these easy steps to hassle free export

From 8 February 2011, qualifying Liberian-made textiles and clothing being exported into the US market are eligible for duty free treatment under the African Growth and Opportunities Act (AGOA). To take advantage of this special rule, a manufacturer/exporter has to apply to the Government of Liberia for an AGOA VISA.

## What type of textile/clothing is eligible for duty free treatment under AGOA?

To be eligible for duty free treatment under the AGOA, the textile/clothing must meet 3 general criteria:\*

**Product of Liberia.** Substantial transformation of the material used in the textile/clothing must occur in Liberia.

**35% of value rule.** 35% of the value of the textile/clothing must be attributable to cost of production in Liberia (eg. wages, overhead, cost of importing material) and cost of sub-Saharan African material used (eg. fabric, buttons).

**Exported directly.** The textile/clothing must be imported into the US directly from Liberia.

\* Additional, specific rules apply under the AGOA. See left for further sources of information.

## What do I need to know if I am importing raw materials for manufacturing in Liberia?

**Materials that are imported into Liberia to be used in manufacturing must follow the usual import procedures.**

**Check that you have all pre-import clearances for your shipment.** This includes an import permit/declaration (IPD) issued by the Ministry of Commerce & Industry (if relevant – see [www.moci.gov.lr](http://www.moci.gov.lr) for a list of goods IPDs apply to). A pre-shipment inspection (PSI) also applies to a shipment with a FOB equal to or above US\$3,500. A clean report of finding is issued by BIVAC after a PSI.

**Raw materials used directly in manufacturing can be imported into Liberia free of GST.** To benefit, manufacturers have to be registered with the Ministry of Finance prior to the import of those goods.

**Duty paid on imported materials may be refunded if those materials were used to make goods that are either exported or deposited in a bonded warehouse or free zone.** Check with the Ministry of Finance if a drawback scheme applies to your import.

## What do I need to know if I am exporting under the AGOA?

**All export of goods under the AGOA must follow the usual export procedures. An application for an AGOA VISA is separate to and in addition to the usual procedures.**

**Check that you have all pre-export clearances for your shipment.** This includes an export permit/declaration (EPD) issued by the Ministry of Commerce & Industry. A pre-shipment inspection (PSI) also applies to a shipment with a FOB equal to or above US\$3,500. A clean report of finding is issued by BIVAC after a PSI.

**Manufacturers have to be registered with the Ministry of Commerce and Industry** before their manufactured articles are eligible for the AGOA VISA.

**Submit a customs declaration for your shipment at the port of exit.**

# Guidelines to exporting under AGOA

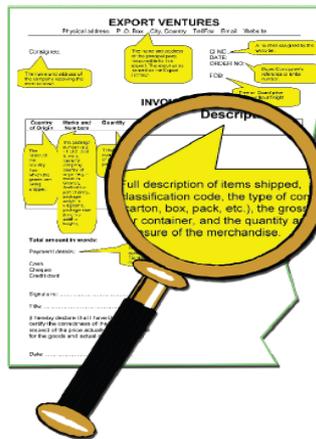
Getting it right with the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoCI) and the Trade Hub's guide to export documentation.



U.S. Customs will clear goods only if the accompanying forms are properly completed. The Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoCI) and Trade Hub's guide to customs and export procedures walks you through all the steps with helpful notes at each stage.

## Step 1

The manufacturer registers with the Liberian Ministry of Commerce and Industry (Foreign Trade Division). The exporter prepares a **Commercial Invoice** which includes a description and declaration of the value of the goods.



## Step 2

The exporter obtains the Export Permit Declaration (EPD), a blank **AGOA Certificate of Origin** from the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoCI). Exporter submits completed EPD, certificate of origin, commercial invoice, and transport documents to MoCI. MoCI carries out documentary check for compliance. Once approved, endorses certificate of origin.



Don't forget your BIVAC inspection



## Step 3

At the port of exit, the exporter makes an export declaration with Liberian Customs, and submits the EPD, the Commercial Invoice and the Certificate of Origin with MoCI's endorsement to Liberian Customs. Liberian Customs stamps the AGOA VISA on the lower right corner of commercial invoice, in blue ink.



## Step 4

Liberian Customs gives clearance for shipment. Make sure there are three sets of the documentation, one for the exporter, the buyer and the U.S. broker. In addition, each box, pallet or container must have a full set of documentation attached.

### Other things you need to know about the AGOA VISA

**Request for information/site visits.** Officials of the Liberian or the United States Government can ask manufacturers/exporters for information and carry out site visits in order to verify the application for an AGOA VISA.

**Record keeping.** Manufacturers/exporters claiming preferences under the AGOA or GST free treatment from the Government of Liberia must keep 5 year of records.

**Offences/penalties.** It is an offence under the laws of Liberia to provide false information, falsify documents or to engage in fraud or illegal trans-shipment. Failure to comply may result in fines, forfeiture of goods or denial of AGOA VISA/preferential treatment.

### List of Fees

Process	Fee
PSI fee (import)	1.2% of FOB
PSI fee (export)	1.4% of FOB
Customs declaration fee	US\$100
Manufacturer registration	Free
IPD, EPD, textile certificate of origin	Free