

## Rules of Origin: A Comparative Analysis

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In an environment of multiple bilateral and multilateral trade agreements, applying rules of origin correctly has become an essential element for business success. This special issue of the *Global Trade & Customs Journal* focuses on providing a world-wide overview of rules of origin, preferential and non-preferential. The fifteen articles provide a general outlook of the regulations in more than forty countries under multiple treaties, including the European Union (EU), the Pan-Euro-Mediterranean Convention (PEM), the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA), *Mercado Común del Sur* (MERCOSUR), *Asociación Latinoamericana de Integración* (ALADI), and the Andean Community.

Given the complexity and diversity of rules of origin around the world, academic literature on the subject is very limited. Since the publication in 1994 of the comparative study edited by Edwin Vermulst, Paul Waer and Jaques Bourgeois,<sup>1</sup> there have been few initiatives that aim at providing a comparative review on the subject.<sup>2</sup>

The work presented in this issue follows up on the special number edited by Yves Melin in 2019.

In this special edition, authors identify and describe how rules of origin are applied in their jurisdictions. Some authors highlight the main issues regarding the application and suggest potential solutions. Others approach the issue through the lens of cases of the judiciary. Finally, some authors discuss the potential impact that rules of origin could have in economic development. The fifteen articles are very valuable as stand-alone reads and become priceless when read together.

While jurisdictions are quite diverse, rules of origin present several similarities. Through the multiple views from the authors, this work presents creative alternatives to solve problems regarding the application of the regulation of rules of origin. Even though most of these problems take place in local jurisdictions, a comparative approach is useful, as it provides alternatives to negotiators, producers, exporters, importers and customs authorities.

Finally, I would like to thank all the contributors and the General Editor Jeffrey Snyder.

### Notes

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<sup>1</sup> *Rules of Origin in International Trade: A Comparative Study (Studies in International Economics)* (University of Michigan Press 1994).

<sup>2</sup> Other publications in the subject are *Rules of Origin in International Trade* by Professor Stefano Inama (2009). He also analysed the Rules of Origin in ASEAN in 2015 with Edmund Sim (*Rules of Origin in ASEAN: A Way Forward (Integration through Law: The Role of Law and the Rule of Law in ASEAN Integration)*). In Latin America, Gustavo Guzman published in Colombia *Las reglas de origen del comercio Internacional* in 2012 and German Pardo edited the compiled book *Incidencia del Origen de la Mercancia en materia tributaria* in 2015 and recently in Argentina professor Ricardo Basaldua with Ana Lidia Sumcheski published, *El regimen de origen de las mercaderías* (2018).