



USMCA uniform regulations at a glance

The North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) is now retired, and the U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) is in effect. As of July 1, 2020, a USMCA certificate is required on all new imports into the region. Although there is no set format for the certificate of origin, certain data elements must be present on any document supporting a USMCA claim.

Make sure to review the rules of origin and [uniform regulations](#). Because of numerous rule changes, many companies may qualify for USMCA, even if they did not qualify under NAFTA. At the same time, companies that qualified under NAFTA should not assume that the same products qualify under USMCA.

General changes

- Less restrictive requirements for accumulation
 - Easier to use accumulation
 - Will assist in qualifying goods with higher RVC or goods that previously did not qualify
 - The ability to count a portion of non-originating material in the qualification process
- Averaging for more than automotive goods, which will allow more goods to qualify when grouped together for qualification
- Increased RVC percentages for some goods
- Some rules of origin are less restrictive, while others are more restrictive
- Automotive has gone through a full overhaul, and tracing is gone
- Labor value content requirement for some goods
- NAFTA marking rules no longer exist, so the normal marking requirements will be followed for imports to and from Mexico, Canada, and the U.S.

Next steps

- Make sure you review the uniform regulations
- Ask questions when clarification is needed from the customs agencies
- Review rules of origin to ensure that your goods will still qualify under USMCA
- Review rules of origin to see if goods that did not qualify under NAFTA may qualify under USMCA
- Solicit suppliers based on imports and materials used to qualify goods
- Ensure your goods will qualify before issuing a certificate
- U.S. Customs and Border Protection has stated that they will be very lenient for the first 6 months while their team and the industries adjust to the new agreement
- Review your current process to ensure it follows the regulatory requirements of USMCA

The most impacted industries are automotive, chemicals, steel, and textiles.

Leveraging a software tool like [ONESOURCE™ Free Trade Agreement \(FTA\) Management](#) will help you streamline the solicitation and qualification of goods under USMCA, so that you can decrease overall duty spend across your supply chain.

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