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## Is there any information that Malawian exporters or importers need to know?

The COMESA region is very wider and this offers you an opportunity to choose any country to export or import goods from.

When you follow all the necessary procedures and requirement, you stand to benefit a lot from your business because you do not pay taxes or you enjoy preferential rates of duty that makes your export or imports more competitive on the COMESA trade bloc.



Legumes, Cereals and Curios can be exported to COMESA



### Produced by Malawi Revenue Authority

Malawi Revenue Authority  
Msonkho House  
Independence Drive  
Private Bag 247  
Blantyre

Tel: +265 - 1 822 588  
Fax: +265 - 1 822 302  
E-mail: mrahq@mra.mw  
Web: www.mra.mw

*Develop Malawi, Pay Taxes*

HOW TO BENEFIT FROM THE

# COMESA TRADE AGREEMENT



JULY 2013- JUNE 2014



## Steps a Malawi trader should follow to benefit from COMESA Trade Agreement

Any Malawi trader who wants to export under the COMESA Trade Agreement is required to follow the rules of origin under COMESA in order to benefit from the agreement.

If you want to export goods like Soya beans, tea, rice, curios, or cane chairs, to a member state under this trade agreement, you are required to use the COMESA certificate of origin to enjoy preferential rates of duty in the importing member state.

The certificate can be obtained from the Malawi Confederation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (MCCCI) at a fee of K1, 500 per copy. The exporter is then required to complete the certificate and submit it to MRA together with export documents for processing.

It is also important to know that goods that qualify under this agreement should be goods of Malawi origin.

If a Malawian trader wants to import goods into Malawi from any of the COMESA member state, he should have a common certificate of origin certified by a competent authority of an exporting member state.



## What are the benefits of COMESA Trade Agreement?



Cane Furniture

### The benefits include the following:-

- More than 85% of the Harmonized System (HS) tariff lines are now at zero.
- Reduced waiting time for commercial traffic by reducing the number of documents required for imports and exports, creating a one-stop border post so that shipments do not have to pass through two inspections at the same location.
- Simplified and harmonized transit documents, in order to reduce the paperwork burden on regional shippers.
- Reduced paperwork burden through simplified and harmonized documents.
- Promotion of international trade through reduced import tariffs.
- Elimination of Non Tariff Barriers (NTBs) i.e. imports quotas, exchange controls, customs delays, etc.
- National treatment of goods. The same conditions apply to both imported and domestic goods. There is no arbitrary discrimination.

Agricultural commodities can be exported to COMESA member counties

## What is COMESA?

COMESA is a regional trading bloc within Eastern and Southern Africa. It stands for Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa. The organization was formed in 1994. The main objective of COMESA is to promote trade among the member countries.

The organization also works towards removing tariffs and non-tariff barriers among member states with a view to enable them attain sustainable development individually and collectively as a regional bloc.

## Members of COMESA

COMESA has currently 20 member states namely Burundi, Comoros, Democratic Republic of Congo, Djibouti, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Rwanda, Seychelles, Sudan, South Sudan, Swaziland, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe.