

Introduction of Fully Digital Certificates of Origin (CoO) – Enhanced Security & Verification

To whom it may concern,

We are pleased to inform you that the German Chambers of Commerce and Industry have transitioned from paper-based Certificates of Origin (CoO) to a fully digital version. This transition brings significant advantages, particularly in terms of security, efficiency, and verifiability.

1. Similar Format to Annex K, Revised Kyoto Convention

The fully digital CoOs have a format similar to the specimen set out in the Specific Annex K, Appendix I of the Revised Kyoto Convention.

2. Legally Secure and Fully Compliant

The digital CoO meets and exceeds all current legal and regulatory requirements. It has been developed in accordance with the highest standards of data protection and compliance, ensuring that all documents remain legally binding, secure, and tamper-proof.

Plus, the fully digital issued CoOs bear a unique serial number.

3. Higher Security Standards than Paper-Based CoO

Unlike traditional paper-based certificates, the digital CoO is protected by advanced encryption and authentication mechanisms. This ensures a higher level of security and prevents forgery, manipulation, or loss. The digital format enhances document integrity, making it more reliable than its paper counterpart.

4. Instant and Reliable Verification

To further enhance transparency and trust, every digital CoO can be verified instantly at any time via the following official verification platform: <https://cert.ihk.de/#/home>.

To verify a Certificate of Origin, please enter the required fields:

- Certificate Number
- Verification Code (both provided on each CoO)
- Country of request

This process ensures that every document's authenticity can be confirmed swiftly and efficiently, providing you with absolute confidence in the validity of the certificate.

Should you have any questions or require further assistance regarding this transition, our support team is readily available to assist you (international@ihk-nordwestfalen.de).



Industrie- und Handelskammer Nord Westfalen



(Gerhard Laudwein, Abteilungsleiter International)