

Supporting Statement
African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) Textile Certificate of
Origin
1651-0082

A. Justification

- 1. Explain the circumstances that make the collection of information necessary. Identify any legal or administrative requirements that necessitate the collection. Attach a copy of the appropriate section of each statute and regulation mandating or authorizing the collection of information.**

The African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) was adopted by the U.S. with the enactment of the Trade and Development Act of 2000 (PL.106-200). The objectives of AGOA are (1) to provide for extension of duty-free treatment under the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) to import sensitive articles normally excluded from GSP duty treatment, and (2) to provide for the entry of specific textile and apparel articles free of duty and free of any quantitative limits from the countries of sub-Saharan Africa.

For preferential treatment under AGOA, the exporter is required to prepare a certificate of origin and provide it to the importer. The certificate of origin includes information such as contact information for the importer, exporter and producer; the basis for which preferential treatment is claimed; and a description of the imported merchandise. The importers are required to have the certificate in their possession at the time of the claim, and to provide it to Customs and Border Protection (CBP) upon request. The collection of this information is provided for in 19 CFR 10.214, 10.215, and 10.216.

Instructions for complying with this regulation are posted on CBP.gov website at: <https://www.cbp.gov/trade/priority-issues>.

This collection of information applies to the importing and trade community who are familiar with import procedures and with the CBP regulations.

- 2. Indicate how, by whom, and for what purpose the information is to be used. Except for a new collection, indicate the actual use the agency has made of the information received from the current collection.**

This information is reviewed by CBP officers in order to determine whether it is sufficient for duty-free treatment.

- 3. Describe whether, and to what extent, the collection of information involves the use of automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information**

technology, e.g. permitting electronic submission of responses, and the basis for the decision for adopting this means of collection. Also describe any consideration of using information technology to reduce burden.

This is a requirement that involves exporters providing information, and exporters located in AGOA countries generally do not have the level of technology that would allow electronic submission. In addition, in 2015, CBP requested submission of this information only 12 times, so it would not be cost effective to develop an automated system for this small number of submissions.

- 4. Describe efforts to identify duplication. Show specifically why any similar information already available cannot be used or modified for use for the purposes described in Item 2 above.**

This information is not duplicated in any other place or any other form.

- 5. If the collection of information impacts small businesses or other small entities, describe any methods used to minimize burden.**

This information collection does not have an impact on small businesses or other small entities.

- 6. Describe consequences to Federal program or policy activities if the collection is not conducted or is conducted less frequently.**

If this information was not collected, CBP would not be able to ensure that duty-free or reduced-duty treatment is provided on imported goods under the Act.

- 7. Explain any special circumstances that would cause an information collection to be conducted in a manner:**

This information is collected in a manner consistent with the guidelines of 5 CFR 1320.5(d)(2).

- 8. If applicable, provide a copy and identify the date and page number of publication in the Federal Register of the agency's notice, required by 5 CFR 1320.8(d), soliciting comments on the information collection prior to submission to OMB. Summarize public comments received in response to that notice and describe actions taken by the agency in response to these comments. Specifically address comments received on cost and hour burden.**

Public comments were solicited through two Federal Register notices published on May 9, 2016 (Volume 81, Page 28096) and on September 16, 2016 (Volume 81, Page 63781). No comments were received.

- 9. Explain any decision to provide any payment or gift to respondents, other than remuneration of contractors or grantees.**

There is no offer of a monetary or material value for this information collection.

10. Describe any assurance of confidentiality provided to respondents and the basis for the assurance in statute, regulation, or agency policy.

A PIA for the Automated Commercial Environment (ACE) dated July 31, 2015, and a SORN for the Import Information System, dated August 17, 2015 (80 FR 49256) will be included in this ICR. No assurances of confidentiality are provided to respondents.

11. Provide additional justification for any questions of a sensitive nature, such as sexual behavior and attitudes, religious beliefs, and other matters that are commonly considered private. This justification should include the reasons why the agency considers the questions necessary, the specific uses to be made of the information, the explanation to be given to persons from whom the information is requested, and any steps to be taken to obtain their consent.

There are no questions of a sensitive nature.

12. Provide estimates of the hour burden of the collection of information.

INFORMATION COLLECTION	TOTAL ANNUAL BURDEN HOURS	NO. OF RESPONDENTS	NO. OF RESPONSES PER RESPONDENT	TOTAL RESPONSES	TIME PER RESPONSE
AGOA CERTIFICATE OF ORIGIN	8.16	12	2	24	20 minutes (.34 hours)

Public Cost

The estimated cost to the respondents is \$245.53. This is based on the estimated burden hours (8.16) multiplied by (x) the average loaded hourly wage rate for importers (\$30.09). CBP calculated this loaded wage rate by first multiplying the Bureau of Labor Statistics' (BLS) 2015 median hourly wage rate for Cargo and Freight Agents (\$20.13), which CBP assumes best represents the wage for importers, by the ratio of BLS' average 2015 total compensation to wages and salaries for Office and Administrative Support occupations (1.4799), the assumed occupational group for importers, to account for non-salary employee benefits.^{1,2} CBP then adjusted this figure, which was in 2015 U.S.

¹ Source of median wage rate: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Occupational Employment Statistics, "May 2015 National Occupational Employment and Wage Estimates, United States- Median Hourly Wage by Occupation Code: 43-5011." Updated March 30, 2016. Available at <http://www.bls.gov/oes/2015/may/oes435011.htm>. Accessed June 1, 2016.

² The total compensation to wages and salaries ratio is equal to the calculated average of the 2015 quarterly

dollars, to 2016 U.S. dollars by applying a 1.0 percent annual growth rate to the figure, as recommended by the U.S. Department of Transportation's value of travel time guidance.³

13. Provide an estimate of the total annual cost burden to respondents or record keepers resulting from the collection of information.

There are no record keeping, capital, start-up or maintenance costs associated with this information collection.

14. Provide estimates of annualized cost to the Federal Government. Also provide a description of the method used to estimate cost, which should include quantification of hours, operational expenses (such as equipment overhead, printing, and support staff), and any other expense that would not have been incurred without this collection of information.

The estimated annual cost to the Federal Government associated with the review of these records is \$133.74. This is based on the number of responses that must be reviewed (12) multiplied by (x) the time burden to review and process each response (.17 hours) = 2.04 hours multiplied by (x) the average hourly loaded rate for other CBP employees (\$65.56)⁴ = \$133.74.

15. Explain the reasons for any program changes or adjustments reported in Items 12 or 13.

The burden hours were decreased from 7,640 to 8.16 for this clearance as a result of the decrease in respondents and responses per respondent based on information provided by the program office for 2015. There is no change to information being collected.

16. For collections of information whose results will be published, outline plans for tabulation, and publication.

estimates (shown under Mar., June, Sep., Dec.) of the total compensation cost per hour worked for Office and Administrative Support occupations (\$24.9475) divided by the calculated average of the 2015 quarterly estimates (shown under Mar., June, Sep., Dec.) of wages and salaries cost per hour worked for the same occupation category (\$16.8575). Source of total compensation to wages and salaries ratio data: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Employer Costs for Employee Compensation. *Employer Costs for Employee Compensation Historical Listing March 2004 – March 2016*, "Table 3. Civilian workers, by occupational group: employer costs per hours worked for employee compensation and costs as a percentage of total compensation, 2004-2016 by Respondent Type: Office and administrative support occupations." June 9, 2016. Available at <http://www.bls.gov/ncs/ect/sp/ececcqrtn.pdf>. Accessed June 14, 2016.

³ Source: U.S. Department of Transportation, Office of Transportation Policy. *The Value of Travel Time Savings: Departmental Guidance for Conducting Economic Evaluations Revision 2 (2015 Update)*, "Table 4 (Revision 2-corrected): Recommended Hourly Values of Travel Time Savings." April 29, 2015.

<http://www.transportation.gov/sites/dot.gov/files/docs/Revised%20Departmental%20Guidance%20on%20Valuation%20of%20Travel%20Time%20in%20Economic%20Analysis.pdf>. Accessed June 1, 2016.

⁴ CBP bases this wage on the FY 2016 salary and benefits of the national average of other CBP positions, which is equal to a GS-13, Step 5. Source: Email correspondence with CBP's Office of Administration on June 27, 2016.

This information collection will not be published for statistical purposes.

17. If seeking approval to not display the expiration date, explain the reasons that displaying the expiration date would be inappropriate.

This collection of information does not involve a form, so it would not be appropriate to display the expiration date.

18. "Certification for Paperwork Reduction Act Submissions."

CBP does not request an exception to the certification of this information collection.