

Turkey reduced duties for EC imports by 10 per cent on January 1, 1973, and another 10 per cent on January 1, 1976. The latest reduction was made on May 24, 1989. In April 1987, Turkey applied for full membership status; the process of evaluating that application is expected to take 10 to 15 years.

Documentation

The following documentation is required for goods imported into Turkey:

- A commercial invoice, in triplicate, with the original certified and signed by the exporter as follows:
"We hereby certify that this is the first and original copy of our invoice, the only one issued by our firm for the goods herein mentioned."
- A certificate of origin, in duplicate, issued by a Chamber of Commerce or similar body in cases where the standard rate of duty is subject to a contractual or other reduction. This must be certified by a Turkish consular officer. The certificate must identify the name and address of the consignor and consignee, the nature of the goods, the type of packing and number of packages, marks, numbers, gross and net weights in kg, f.o.b. and c.i.f. values, and shipping route.
- Four copies (two originals) of the bill of lading and a packing list in triplicate.
- Sanitary certificates for plants, livestock and certain animal products.

All merchandise, especially processed goods, is subject to verification by Turkish customs authorities, who are very rigid in their interpretation of the regulations; they make no provision for the slightest error in description, weight, value or other data. No erasures or corrections are permitted on any shipping document. Heavy fines are imposed if the description does not conform with the product, with most such fines representing more than the value of the goods. The description of goods must therefore be absolutely accurate and the description on the invoice, certificate of origin and bill of lading identical. In case of doubt, shippers should request specific written instructions from the buyer.