

Part Three
BUYING FROM TAJIKISTAN

I. EXPORT POLICY, REGULATIONS AND PROCEDURES

A. General

Tajikistan has carried out a series of economic reforms and has been gradually removing trade barriers by following the practices of global trade liberalization and facilitation. To promote economic growth, Tajikistan adopted an export-oriented policy, with the adoption of the resolution on foreign trade liberalization in the Republic of Tajikistan of 27 June 1995 and the resolution on liberalization of currency and export operation of 24 February 1996. In addition, the Government provides exporters with trade information services and implements programmes to promote exports. With the exception of some strategic goods, approval is not required to export goods from Tajikistan.

B. Licensing, quotas and prohibitions

The quota and licensing system in Tajikistan was eliminated effective 1 February 1996. However, some strategic export products, including cotton, aluminium, rare metals and dual-use products, still require Government licensing.

C. Other requirements

Apart from the general requirements that export goods must meet, exporters of some goods are required to meet technical standards, provide certification or obtain special permission. The Ministry of Economic Development and Trade determines which export products are subject to special requirements.

II. EXPORT CHARGES

There is no formal export tariff in Tajikistan. Since 1 March 1996, all export activities have been exempted from customs duties. As a result of a Government decree, all hard-currency profits earned by exporters are tax-free, except for those related to cotton and aluminium, which are subject to sales taxes of 5 per cent and 25 per cent respectively.

According to the World Bank's Doing Business data, normally it takes about 82 days for a standard 20-foot container to complete export procedures in Tajikistan. The costs associated with export procedures, including the costs for documents, administrative fees for customs clearance and technical control, terminal handling charges and inland transport, amount to \$3,150.

III. SETTLEMENT OF BILLS

The financial transactions involved in export activities in Tajikistan are not subject to any specific requirements. All types of settlement, including letters of credit,

can be arranged internationally. Most payments are made by bank transfer. The procedures and regulations regarding the use of cheques are strict.

IV. TRADE DOCUMENTS

The documents required for declaring at the customs authorities when exporting goods are listed in table 5.

Table 5. Documents for export clearance

<i>Document</i>	<i>No. of copies</i>	<i>Body concerned</i>
Bill of landing/air waybill	1	Shipping company/airline company
Cargo release order	1	Custom authorities
Certificate of origin	1	Tajikistan Chamber of Commerce
Commercial invoice	1	Traders
Custom export declaration	1	Customs inspectorate
Confirmation on payment of the sales tax of cotton and aluminium		Tax authorities
Export license		Ministry of Economic Development and Trade
Foreign exchange authorization	1	National Bank of Tajikistan
Packing list	1	Exporters
Insurance declaration	1	Tajiksarmoyaguzor (State company for investment insurance)
Technical standard/health certificate		Tajikstandart.
Terminal handing receipts	1	Exporters

According to article 65 of the Customs Code, documents for customs clearance can be presented in a foreign language known and understood by customs officials, if approved by the authorized body on customs affairs.

V. STATE MONOPOLY ON EXPORT ITEMS

The mandatory sale of certain goods through the State-owned Tajik Universal Commodity Exchange represents a kind of export restriction. The types of goods subject to this requirement, which include all major export products, such as cotton, aluminium, precious and semi-precious stones, ores and metals, are mandated and subsidised by Government of Tajikistan agencies.

VI. EXPORT INCENTIVE SCHEMES

The Government of Tajikistan considers the export of goods and services to be important to the country's economic development; therefore, it implements incentive programmes in the production sector to stimulate the growth of exports. For example, the new Export Directory: Tajikistan website (www.exportdir.tj/eng/) has been developed to provide trade information to exporters.