MYEASOKO

Guide

The Simplified Trade Regime (STR) for small-scale cross-border traders

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The EAC Simplified Trade Regime (STR) eases small-scale cross-border trade, using a simplified accompanying document for goods on an agreed common list.

Why this regime exists

A significant share of cross-border trade in East Africa is carried out by small-scale traders, often informal, who cross borders with limited quantities of goods. The EAC Simplified Trade Regime (STR) aims to ease this trade by replacing standard customs formalities with a simplified document for goods on an agreed common product list, below a given value threshold.

How it generally works

The trader uses a simplified declaration document and, depending on the country, may be assisted by trade facilitation officers at high-traffic border posts. Value thresholds, the list of eligible products and precise arrangements vary by bilateral agreement between partner states and are not reproduced here.

Check on site

- The list of eligible products and the value threshold applicable at the relevant border post.
- Whether a trade information desk or trade facilitation officers are available at that post.
- The simplified rules of origin applicable under the STR.

Sources

1. EAC Customs Union, East African Community (eac.int) , consulted on 11 October 2026
   https://www.eac.int/customs

> Information document based on the sources cited. Only official texts and decisions of the competent administrations are authoritative. Check the current version with the QR code.