



# The Ceylon Chamber of Commerce

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e-CO is a web-based Certificate of Origin (CO) application system. It provides a single interface for exporters to apply for CO conveniently.

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## FAQ on electronic Certificate of Origin (e-CO)

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**What is e-CO?**

e-CO is a web-based Certificate of Origin (CO) application system. It provides a single interface for exporters to apply for CO conveniently.

With e-CO, exporters can submit applications for CO from any computer. The integrated, electronic application process liberates the exporters from the manual tasks of submitting numerous supporting documents; the entire process is reduced from weeks to minutes, resulting in significant time and cost savings.

**What services are available in e-CO?**

Through e-CO, users can:

In the 1<sup>st</sup> phase

Submit an application for CO

Receive confirmation of receipt of e-Co by the Chamber

In the 2<sup>nd</sup> phase

- Submit the application and receive confirmation
- Track the status of the CO application
- Receive the certified CO electronically
- Transmit the certified CO electronically to specified recipient
- Print the certified CO from anywhere

**What is the difference between the manual and new e-CO system?**

In the current CO system, exporters are required to physically collect their Application form, complete and bring it to the Chamber for endorsement. They will then have to forward the CO to relevant third parties such as the banks and buyers.

With e-CO, in the 1st phase exporters could download the CO application forms, complete and forward to the Chamber using their PCs via Internet. The e-Co will be ready for collection, at the collection point in 10 minutes.

In the 2nd phase exporters can enjoy the convenience of foolproof electronic transactions that will result in substantial time and cost savings. Exporters could print CO conveniently from their desktop or they can also forward the document to a designated party electronically.

In addition, new security measures have been introduced to secure information exchange through the Internet. The new security technology will help to ensure user authentication, confidentiality, data integrity, and user accountability through digital signature services.

### **What are the benefits of e-CO?**

The benefits of e-CO are:

For Exporters and Agents

Single interface to apply for a CO anytime, anywhere “Immediate transmission of CO in a secure electronic environment, resulting in faster goods turnaround.

For Trading partners anytime anywhere access and download of CO, resulting in improved response time.

With e-CO, exporters can apply for a CO in the comfort of their office. This saves them the time and money required to physically send the CO application and supporting documents required for the CO authentication.

In the 2nd phase the e-CO also allows the exporter to electronically transmit the original CO and/or copies of CO to multiple trading partners. This not only results in cost savings in terms of document dispatch fee, the turnaround time to the trading partners and to the end customers is also improved.

### **What are the charges involved to use the services in e-CO?**

#### ***Document Registration Fee (Per Set of Document)***

Members of the Chamber - Rs. 270/-

Non members of the Chamber - Rs. 410/-

#### ***ECOs –***

Five sets of each document consisting of a maximum of three pages per set will be issued at the normal cost of Rs. 270/- per set for members & Rs. 410/- per set for non members. Any document above the stipulated five sets of a maximum of three pages per set will be charged at Rs. 15/- per page. Laser printouts will be issued only on payment of cash. Please note that credit facility will not be available for laser printouts.

### **Where can I get more information on e-CO?**

For more information, please contact

Ms. Pasantha Dissanayake

Tel: 5588808, Email: [pasantha@chamber.lk](mailto:pasantha@chamber.lk)

**How can I register for e-CO?**

All exporters (members and non-members) need to register themselves with the Chamber using the Registration form. The Chamber must approve the registration before exporters can apply for a e-CO. Please contact the Chamber for registration.

All applicants must have an existing email account registered with VeriSign Inc. as verification of the documents will be verified through this service.

**How do I access e-CO?**

e-CO is accessible using any browser with an Internet connection at [www.Chamber.lk/eCO](http://www.Chamber.lk/eCO)

**What hardware and software are required?**

To use e-CO, users need to equip their computer system with:

- " Internet Explorer 5.5
- " Internet connection
- " Adobe acrobat reader 7.0 & above

**What security measures are being used in e-CO?**

To ensure secure data transactions of certified CO through e-CO, the following security measures have been put in place:

e-CO uses email verification technology to ensure user authentication, data confidentiality, data integrity, and user accountability through digital signature services. To enable this service users are required to register their email ids with VeriSign Inc.

End.