

Trading Under the AfCFTA – a Guide for Egypt



Egypt's trade with **GAFTA** and **COMESA** member states will continue under existing regimes...

Greater Arab Free Trade Area (GAFTA)



Algeria, Egypt, Tunisia, Libya, Morocco and Sudan (as well as a number of other states outside of Africa)

Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA)



FTA members: Burundi, Comoros, Djibouti, Egypt, Eswatini, Kenya, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Rwanda, Seychelles, Sudan, Tunisia, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe
Non-FTA members: DRC, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Somalia

Egypt is a member of the **GAFTA**, a free trade area that consists of 14 members spanning North Africa and the Middle East. While it is not an African regional economic community, Egypt's GAFTA membership means that it is already trading under a free trade agreement with Algeria, Tunisia, Libya, Morocco and Sudan.

17 of the 21 existing COMESA members are party to the **COMESA Free Trade Agreement (FTA)**, and will continue to trade under these rules with the implementation of the AfCFTA.

New preferential trading opportunities for Egypt under the AfCFTA will include non-GAFTA and non-COMESA-FTA member states. This is a substantial improvement in continental market access, with **new preferential access to 34 African markets**



Guided Trade Initiative (GTI)



Algeria, Cameroon, Egypt, Ghana, Kenya, Rwanda, South Africa and Tunisia

The Guided Trade Initiative

Under the Guided Trade Initiative (GTI) Algeria is able to trade certain goods duty free with Cameroon, Egypt, Ghana, Kenya, Rwanda, South Africa and Tunisia, since these countries have implemented Provisional Schedules of Tariff Concessions. The GTI – a pilot program designed to test the operational, institutional, legal, and trade policy aspects of the AfCFTA – was launched in Accra, Ghana, on October 7, 2022. Eight State Parties took part: Cameroon, Egypt, Ghana, Mauritius, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania, and Tunisia. Others with their Provisional Schedules of Tariff Concessions authenticated by the AfCFTA Secretariat could also join. Goods eligible to be traded under the GTI include ceramic tiles, batteries, horticultural products and flowers, avocados, palm oil, tea, rubber, and air conditioner components.

AfCFTA Operational Instruments



The **AfCFTA e-tariffbook** is a digital platform containing the tariff schedules with applicable tariff rates for all AfCFTA State Parties based on the WCO 6-digit Harmonized System (HS). Goods are classified in three Categories: i) Category A – non sensitive products, ii) Category B – sensitive products, and iii) Category C – products that are excluded from liberalization. <http://etariff.au-afcfta.org/>



The **AfCFTA Rules of Origin Manual** provides detailed information on how to determine the national origin of goods so that they can be traded between State Parties under the AfCFTA preferential tariff rates.

<https://au-afcfta.org/rules-of-origin/>



The **AfCFTA Online Mechanism for Reporting, Monitoring and Elimination of NTBs** is a portal for online reporting of identified non-tariff barriers (NTBs), including for reporting via SMS. Reported NTBs and the status of their resolution can be tracked. www.tradebarriers.africa



The **Pan-African Payment and Settlement System (PAPSS)**, developed by the African Export-Import Bank (Afreximbank) in collaboration with the African Union and AfCFTA Secretariat, is a cross-border payment and settlement infrastructure for transactions across Africa. PAPSS allows for payment and settlement using local currencies. <https://papss.com/>

