

INDIA'S FREE TRADE AGREEMENTS



Free Trade Agreement

Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) are arrangements between two or more countries or trading blocs that primarily agree to reduce or eliminate customs tariff and non-tariff barriers on substantial trade between them. Free Trade Agreements (FTAs), normally cover trade in goods such as agricultural or industrial products or trade in services such as banking, construction, trading etc. Free Trade

India's Free Trade
Agreements
(FTAs)

Agreements can also cover other areas such as Intellectual Property Rights (IPRs), investment, government procurement etc.

In Free Trade Agreements (FTAs), tariffs on items covering substantial bilateral trade are eliminated between the partner countries; however each maintains individual tariff structure for non-members.

Free Trade Agreements (FTAs), are generally more ambitious in coverage of tariff lines (products) on which duty is to be reduced. In an FTA there is a negative list on which duty is not reduced or eliminated.

The tariff concessions in an FTA are implemented at the ground level through customs notifications. In the case of phased implementation of concessions, the notifications are issued on a yearly basis.

Major Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) of India are as shown in the following table:

S No.	Acronym	Groupings	Member Countries	
			No.	Names
1	India ASEAN TIG	India ASEAN Trade in Goods Agreement	11	1. Brunei 2. Cambodia 3. Indonesia 4. Laos 5. Malaysia 6. Myanmar 7. Philippines 8. Singapore 9. Thailand 10. Vietnam 11 India

S No.	Acronym	Groupings	Member Countries	
			No.	Names
2	SAFTA	South Asia Free Trade Agreement	7	1. India 2. Pakistan 3. Nepal 4. Sri Lanka 5. Bangladesh 6. Bhutan 7. Maldives
3	ISLFTA	Indo Sri Lanka FTA	2	1. India 2. Sri Lanka
4	IMCECA	Indo Malaysia CECA	2	1. India 2. Malaysia
5	ISCECA	India Singapore CECA	2	1. India 2. Singapore
6	JICEPA	Japan India CEPA	2	1. India 2. Japan
7	IKCEPA	India Korea CEPA	2	1. India 2. South Korea

Rules of Origin (RoO)

The Rules of Origin, therefore, become important in the context of making an assessment on the application of preferential tariff under an FTA. Hence, without the rules of origin, the preferential tariffs under an FTA cannot be implemented.

Rules of Origin
(ROO)

Rules of origin (ROO) are the criteria needed to determine the country of origin of a product for purposes of international trade. Their importance

is derived from the fact that duties and restrictions in several cases depend upon the source of imports.