(c) an authorised body or other certification bodies of the exporting Party shall maintain, for five years, in accordance with relevant laws, regulations or accreditation requirements of the exporting Party, all relevant documents pertaining to a Certificate of Origin.

2. The records to be kept in accordance with this Article may include electronic records.

Article 3.21
Origin Verification

1. In order to ensure the proper application of this Chapter, the Parties shall, subject to available resources, assist each other to carry out verification of the information related to Documentary Evidence of Origin, in accordance with this Agreement and their respective laws and regulations.

2. For the purposes of determining whether a good imported into one Party from the other Party qualifies as an originating good, the customs administration of the importing Party may conduct a verification action by means of:

(a) written requests for information from the importer;

(b) written requests to the authorised body or customs administration of the exporting Party to verify the validity of Documentary Evidence of Origin subject to available resources of the exporting Party;

(c) written requests for information from the exporter or producer referred to in subparagraph 1(a) of Article 3.20 in the exporting Party; or

(d) verification visits to the premises of the exporter or producer referred to in subparagraph 1(a) of Article 3.20 in the exporting Party in accordance with Article 3.22.

3. For the purposes of subparagraphs 2(b) and (c), the customs administration of the importing Party shall allow the exporter, producer, authorised body or customs administration of the exporting Party a period of 45 days from the date of receipt of the written request to respond or any other time period agreed upon by the Parties.

4. The customs administration of the importing Party shall endeavour to complete any action under paragraph 2 to verify eligibility for preferential tariff treatment within six months. Upon the completion of the action under paragraph 2, the customs administration of the importing Party shall provide written notification of its decision as well as the legal basis and findings of fact on which the decision was made to:

(a) where a written request for information under subparagraph 2(a), (b) or (c) was made, the importer, exporter, producer, authorised body or customs administration of the exporting Party who was requested to provide information; and

(b) where a verification visit under subparagraph 2(d) was undertaken, the exporting Party and the exporter and the producer whose premises were visited.

Article 3.22
Verification Visit

1. A verification visit referred to in subparagraph 2(d) of Article 3.21 shall be conducted under the conditions set out by the exporting Party.

2. Prior to the verification visit referred to in paragraph 1:

(a) the importing Party shall provide a request to the exporting Party in writing on the verification visit to the premises of the exporter or producer at least 40 days in advance of the proposed date of the visit; and