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Product Regulation and Metrology Bill – CPTPP

During the Committee Stage of the Product Reform and Metrology (PRAM) Bill on 11 December, you raised the issue of rules of origin in CPTPP, ahead of the entry into force of the Agreement on 15 December. You specifically mentioned the verification of the origin of goods in supply chains that are seeking preferential tariff treatment.

I want to assure you that in line with our existing UK Free Trade Agreements, CPTPP includes Rules of Origin provisions that place stringent obligations on the trader to maintain and provide the necessary evidence to demonstrate that the good(s) are originating, and the trader has met the requirements for qualifying for preferential tariff treatment. These provisions do not cut across UK product safety regulations.

Further to this, HMRC has robust verification procedures in place to verify claims for preferential tariff treatment under CPTPP. HMRC has legal powers to investigate UK importers, verify claims with exporters, producers and suppliers, and to liaise and seek assistance from the customs authorities in the countries of export, to determine whether the trader is eligible to use the FTA and that the good qualifies for preference.

I hope my letter has provided additional clarity and reassurance regarding the important issues that were raised in the debate.

I am copying this letter to all Noble Lords who spoke in the debate. I am also depositing a copy of this letter in the Library of the House.

Lord Leong CBE
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