

WHAT IS AGOA?

AGOA is an acronym of the African Growth and Opportunity Act, which is a component of the Trade and Development Act 2000 passed by the United States Congress in May 2000.

Under AGOA, beneficiary African countries enjoy unprecedented access to the US\$ 10 trillion market.

Who benefits under AGOA?

Under AGOA the designated sub-Saharan African Countries can benefit as long as they apply and meet the eligibility criteria set by the US Government.

Kenya being one of such countries satisfied the eligibility criteria and was designated as beneficiary country in November 2000. With effect from 18th January 2001, Kenya was accredited to resume her duty free and quota free export of textiles/apparel items and over 1800 GSP products to the US Market. The Act requires an eligible country to put in place an effective textile Visa system, which Kenya has done and gazetted vide Legal Gazette Notice 136 of Oct 2000.

What does AGOA portend to producers and exporters?

- AGOA is an opening to export over 1900 products duty and quota free.

Examples are: -

1. Leather and Leather Products
 2. Animal based Products
 3. Wood and Wood Products
 4. Honey
 5. Fruit Concentrates
 6. Horticultural products
 7. Handicrafts and many others
- Under AGOA textiles and apparels can be exported duty and quota free.
 - AGOA is an opportunity to export non-traditional products.
 - Opportunity to increase export of hand loomed, handmade and folklore apparels to the US. On 6th August 2002, Kenya was accredited to export hand loomed fabric and handmade apparel made from such hand loomed fabric.

HOW DO YOU EXPORT?

Manufacturers who are exporters are expected to adhere to the following documentation procedures: -

- Have physical address.
- Register with the Registrar of Industries as Manufacturers (*for Textile and Apparel only*). The Registrar verifies technical details

regarding production capacity of the manufacturer and issues them with Industrial registration number and a certificate.

- The manufacturers apply for a certificate of origin with every export order. The Department of External Trade, Ministry of Trade and Industry verifies the details of the consignment including the local value addition and issues a certificate of origin and a letter of no objection to the Customs Department recommending the issue of visa after which if the documents are in order, the Official Visa Stamp is affixed on the Original invoice by the Customs Department.
- Non manufacturing exporters are required to register with Department of External Trade, Ministry of Trade and Industry as exporters

HOW DO YOU ACCESS THE AMERICAN MARKET?

- ◆ Through the Ministry of Trade & Industry
- ◆ Individual initiative.
- ◆ Participation in Fairs and Exhibitions in US.
- ◆ Liaison with Kenya Commercial Office in US.

- ◆ Through the Export Promotion Council -Center for Business Information in Kenya
- ◆ Website/ Internet

Nairobi.

Tel: 502211-9

- v) Trade fairs/exhibition & market Access
Export Promotion Council
Anniversary Towers 1st Floor
Tel. 228534/ 5
Nairobi.

For other details contact,

- i) Director of Industries' Office
Teleposta Towers
23rd Floor
P.O. Box 30418
Tel. 331030/ 315001
Nairobi
- ii) Information-AGOA OFFICE
Department of Industry,
Ministry of Trade and Industry,
Telposta Towers,
23rd Floor, Room 2315
P.O. Box 30418,
Tel. No. 331030 or 315001
Nairobi.
- iii) Registration (Textile/Apparel)
Registrar of Industries
Telposta Towers 22nd Floor
Tel: 331030/315001
Ministry of Trade & Industry
- iv) Certificate of origin
Customs Department Trade
KRA
Times Towers 10th Floor
Tel. 310900

WEBSITE

<http://www.ustr.gov>
<http://www.agoa.gov>

For certification and standardization contact the following:

**Farm produce
Kenya Plant Health Inspectorate
Services-KEPHIS
Tel: 4440087**

**Animal based products
Veterinary department-Ministry of
Agriculture and Rural Development
Tel: 631273**

**All forms of processing/Quality
Standards
Kenya Bureau of Standards**

**MINISTRY OF TRADE &
INDUSTRY**



THE AFRICAN GROWTH

AND

OPPORTUNITY ACT

AGOA