

# Trading Under the AfCFTA – a Guide for Mauritania



**Mauritania, not a member state of any free trade area on the continent, stands to benefit greatly from the AfCFTA. Mauritania's Association Agreement with the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) means that its trade with ECOWAS states under the ETLS will continue under the AfCFTA...**

## Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)



CET members: Benin, Ivory Coast, Ghana, Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Togo  
Non-CET members: Cape Verde  
Withdrawing Members: Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger

## Bilateral Agreements



Mauritania has bilateral agreements with Algeria, The Gambia, Morocco, Tunisia and Sudan

Mauritania is a member of the Community of Sahel-Saharan States (CEN-SAD) and the Arab Maghreb Union (AMU), neither of which has a free trade arrangement.

In 2017 Mauritania signed an Association Agreement with ECOWAS to re-implement the community's **liberalisation scheme, the ETLS**. Mauritania uses the ECOWAS Common External Tariff (CET), and allows certain qualifying goods from ECOWAS states to be imported duty free. Mauritania submitted its schedule of tariff concessions for the AfCFTA together with ECOWAS.

Mauritania also has bilateral trade agreements with 5 states at present.

Mauritania stands to benefit greatly from new preferential trading opportunities under the AfCFTA - including all non-ECOWAS member states. This could mean preferential market access in 43 African states currently subject to WTO (World Trade Organization) MFN (Most Favoured Nation) rates.



## Operational Instruments of the AfCFTA



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/>



### RULES OF ORIGIN MANUAL

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](http://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/](http://https://papss.com/)

