

CPTPP READINESS CHECKLIST

for Philippine apparel importers

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Why this checklist exists

The Philippines is not yet a CPTPP member. As of 26 June 2026, the 12 current Parties agreed to begin preparatory discussions on accession with the Philippines, Indonesia, and the UAE. This does not change what you can quote against today - and PHShirt quotes against the framework that gives the lowest landed cost for each specific HTS line and destination.

Use this checklist before contracting any PH-origin apparel shipment into a CPTPP-member or CPTPP-applicant country.

Section 1: Know your destination's current status

- ☐ Identify the destination country and its CPTPP status (member or applicant)
- ☐ List the preferential frameworks currently in force for PH (PJEPA, AJCEP, RCEP, ATIGA, AANZFTA, AHKFTA, AKFTA, ACFTA, PH-Korea FTA, PH-EFTA, AIFTA)
- ☐ Identify the HTS classification of the garment (knit vs woven, fibre content)
- ☐ Check yarn and fabric origin against the framework's rules of origin
- ☐ Confirm the applicable tariff line under each framework

Section 2: Get the framework that wins

- ☐ Compare landed cost under each applicable framework (PJEPA vs AJCEP, RCEP vs ATIGA, etc.)
- ☐ Confirm the rules of origin compliance with the chosen framework
- ☐ Verify the certificate of origin form required (Form PJ, Form D, Form E, Form AK, Form AI, etc.)
- ☐ Confirm issuing entity (self-issued vs authority-issued)

Section 3: Document the shipment correctly

- ☐ Commercial invoice with country of origin clearly stated
- ☐ Packing list specifying weight and quantity
- ☐ Certificate of origin in the form required by the chosen framework
- ☐ HTS classification code on all customs paperwork
- ☐ Engagement letter with a licensed customs broker in the destination market

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Section 4: Beyond CPTPP - safeguards and remedies

- ☐ Check if a CPTPP textile safeguard (Article 4.3) is in force for the HTS line in the destination market
- ☐ Confirm the Philippine customs regime (RA 10863 - Customs Modernization and Tariff Act)
- ☐ Check anti-dumping and countervailing duty status for inputs
- ☐ Confirm any textile-specific safeguard under DTI-administered trade remedies

Section 5: For locators (sourcing office / brand)

- ☐ Confirm eligibility for BOI or PEZA registration
- ☐ Map the fiscal incentive package (ITH 4-7 years, SCIT 5%, VAT zero-rating)
- ☐ Check CREATE MORE Act power/labor deductions for registered garment firms
- ☐ Confirm IP protection: register trademarks (10 yrs renewable) and industrial designs with IPOPHL
- ☐ Map port logistics (seaports, cargo airports)
- ☐ Engage an investment adviser for capex, tax structuring, and entity setup
- ☐ Clarify whether CPTPP accession is a basis for the decision or upside

Section 6: When the deal changes - CPTPP accession complete

- ☐ Re-quote existing framework commitments against CPTPP tariff schedule
- ☐ Re-verify the yarn-forward rules for the specific HTS line
- ☐ Check the short-supply list (Annex 4-A Appendix 1) for inputs you currently source outside the CPTPP bloc
- ☐ Update certificate of origin to use CPTPP-specific form
- ☐ Notify the buyer's nominated broker of the framework switch

Three scenarios by accession date (illustrative):

- 2028 (fast track): 24-month working group, accession protocol, ratification by all 12 Parties. Use the current framework today, plan to switch on day-1-of-entry-into-force. Buyer contracting window shifts if your PH supply is the lead time bottleneck.
- 2030 (mid case): 48-month working group, accession protocol, staggered ratification. Same playbook - continue using PJEPA / AJCEP / RCEP / ATIGA / AANZFTA / AHKFTA / AKFTA / ACFTA / PH-Korea FTA / PH-EFTA / AIFTA today, retest against CPTPP once Annex 4-A is finalised.
- 2032 (slow track): 60+ months, possible accession-pause events. Treat CPTPP as upside, not basis. Use whichever preferential framework gives lowest landed cost.

Resources

- CPTPP Portal: cptpp.ca (status, accession updates)
- PH FTA Portal: philippineftas.dti.gov.ph (active frameworks)
- DTI-BOI: boi.gov.ph (investment incentives)
- PEZA: peza.gov.ph (ecozone registration)
- IPOPHL: ipophil.gov.ph (IP registration)
- PHShirt CPTPP status page: phshirt.com/philippines-cptpp-status/

Disclaimer: This checklist is a working tool, not legal or tax advice. Confirm all frameworks and incentives with a licensed customs broker and investment adviser before contracting. Status verified as of 9 August 2026.