

Customs and Foreign Policy

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Customs

Use of ICETABs for efficient examination and clearance process

[Circular No. 10/2024-Customs dated 20th August 2024](#)

- With the objective of trade facilitation, transparency and efficiency in customs processes, CBIC has decided to use ICETAB for speedy examination of import consignments.
- In brief, ICETAB is a mobile tablet device which facilitates quick upload of the examination report on the go in real time basis and making the examination process transparent and faster.
- ICETAB contains an exclusive Mobile Application to enable examining officers to, -
 - (a) View RMS Instructions, Examination Order and Bill of Entry details along with other supporting documents.
 - (b) Capture up to 4 images of cargo examination for integration with the Bill of Entry
 - (c) submit examination report immediately on completion of the cargo examination thus reducing the time taken in examination process and making the process seamless and paperless.

Implementation of automation in the Customs (Import of Goods at Concessional Rate of Duty or for Specified End Use) Rules, 2022 in respect of EOUs with effect from 01.09.2024

[Circular No. 11/2024-Customs dated 25th August, 2024](#)

- As per the above CBIC notification and further, in terms of [Notification No.52/2003-Customs dated 31.03.2003](#), as amended, EOUs shall follow the procedure prescribed under rule 5 of the Customs (Import of Goods at Concessional Rate of Duty) Rules, 2017, for import of goods.
- Accordingly, existing customs clearance processes for EOUs are replaced by IGCR procedures.
- All EOUs would be required to obtain IGCR Identification Number (IIN) at ICEGATE portal

and register their IGCR bond for filing a bill of entry with IGCR benefit.

- Accordingly, all EOUs may obtain IGCR Identification Number (IIN) at ICEGATE portal by registering immediately as the SEZ Unit becomes ICEGATE enabled.
- CBIC, on consideration of difficulties faced by EOUs in registration, generation of IIN details and utilizing continuity bonds which may lead to delay in the clearance of the goods, has decided to implement the aforesaid Circular in relation to EOUs with effect from 1.09.2024.

Amendment of Circular 07/2024-Customs to further ease the process of publication of automated exchange rate

[Circular No. 17/2024 – Customs dated 18th September 2024](#)

The exchange rate automated module came into effect from 4th July 2024. To further streamline the module and to ensure that appropriate action is taken in case of contingency, the following amendments have been made in the aforesaid Circular

- Where a due date, i.e. 1st or 3rd Thursday, falls on a holiday, the last/latest received rates from SBI would be published on ICEGATE website on the 1st or 3rd Thursday itself.
- Where a due date, i.e., 1st or 3rd Thursday, falls on a public holiday or due to any error in API integration or where an incomplete message is received at ICEGATE, since the exchange rates from SBI would not be available, the last/latest rates received from SBI would be published on the ICEGATE Website as well as integrated in the ICES system on that day and will be published by 6 PM on that day on the ICEGATE Website to be effective from 00:00 hrs. of the next day.

Foreign Trade Policy

Clarification to the Trade Notice No. 07/2024-25

[Trade Notice No. 08/2024-2025 dated 10th July 2024](#)

- This is in reference to the above notice vide which the Interest Equalization Scheme (IES) for Pre and Post shipment Rupee Export Credit was extended for 2 months beyond 30th June 2024.
- In this regard, it is noticed that the banks are facing difficulties on the applicability of the [Trade Notice No. 07/2024-2025](#).
- In view of the above, the issues raised are accordingly clarified as follows:
 - (a) Threshold Limit for the extended period:**

The Interest Equalization will be capped at Rs. 1.66 Cr per Importer Exporter Code for the period from 1st July 2024 to 31st August 2024.
 - (b) Inclusion of MSME Merchant Exporters:**

The scheme extended vide Trade Notice No. 07/2024-2025 dated 28.06.2024 is applicable only to MSME Manufacturer Exporters, who are eligible for IES benefit of 3%.
 - (c) Requirement of Revised UIN:**

Applicants would not be required to generate revised UIN for the extended period if the applicants have already generated UIN for the FY 2024-2025.

Launch of Revamped Non-Preferential Certificate of Origin (eCoO) 2.0 System

[Trade Notice No. 13/2024-25 dated 16th August 2024](#)

- As per the Trade Notice, it is hereby informed that enhanced version of the Non-Preferential Certificate of Origin (**eCoO**) system - eCoO 2.0 - is scheduled for launch.
- This upgraded system offers several new and user-friendly features aimed at streamlining the certification process for exporters.
- Some notable features of the revamped eCoO 2.0 system include:

- (a) Multi-User Access:** Exporters can now assign multiple users/applicants under a single Importer Exporter Code (IEC).
- (b) E-Signature Options:** In addition to the digital signature token, Aadhaar based e-signing would be available.
- (c) Integrated Dashboard:** A common platform will provide seamless access to eCoO and other related services such as Free Trade Agreement (FTA) information, trade events, and more.

Digitization of Customs Bonded Warehouse procedures relating to obtaining Warehouse License, Bond to Bond Movement of warehoused goods, and uploading of Monthly Returns

[Circular No. 19/2024-Customs Dated 30th September 2024](#)

- To facilitate ease of doing business in respect of the Customs Bonded Warehouses, CBIC has introduced a Warehouse Module on ICEGATE to enable –
 - (a) online filing of application for obtaining a Warehouse License;
 - (b) online submission and processing of requests for transfer of warehoused goods to another person and/or another warehouse; and
 - (c) uploading monthly returns for the Customs Bonded Warehouse.
- The users of the Warehouse Module can access the User Manuals issued in this regard to familiarize themselves with the necessary steps to be followed in the below-mentioned link.
<https://www.icegate.gov.in/guidelines/warehouse-licensing>
<https://www.icegate.gov.in/guidelines/warehouse-monthly-returns>

KEY TAKE AWAY

- Introduction of warehouse Module on ICEGATE by CBIC for ease of business in customs bonded warehouse.
- Existing customs clearance processes for EOUs are replaced by IGCR procedures, which is applicable with effect from 25th September 2024.
- Extension of Interest Equalization Scheme for MSME, Manufacturer Exporters and Merchant Exporters and Others.



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