CNK & Associates LLP

Chartered Accountants

Quarterly Insights

October 2025

Customs and Foreign Trade Policy (FTP) Notifications and Circulars

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Customs

Customs Duty Exemption on Cotton Imports Extended

[Notification No.36/2025 - Customs dated 28th August 2025](#)

The Central Government, in the public interest, has issued Notification No. 35/2025-Customs dated 18th August 2025, exempting cotton (classified under heading 5201) from customs duty and the Agriculture Infrastructure and Development Cess when imported into India. This exemption falls under the powers granted by section 25(1) of the Customs Act, 1962, read with section 124 of the Finance Act, 2021. The exemption was initially set to be effective from 19th August 2025 and valid up to and including 30th September 2025.

Subsequently, the aforesaid notification amended the validity period of the above exemption. As per the amendment, the end date for the exemption has been extended from "30th September 2025" to "31st December 2025". This extension ensures continued relief for importers and aims to support the textile sector and manage domestic cotton prices effectively.

Implementation of Customs (Provisional Assessment) Regulations, 2025

Circular No.22/2025 - Customs dated 12th September 2025

The Finance Act, 2025 has introduced major amendments to the Customs (Provisional Assessment) Regulations, 2025 under section 18 of the Customs Act, 1962. These reforms aim to make provisional assessments more transparent, predictable, and efficient. A key change is the introduction of a **Single Unified Multi-Purpose Electronic Bond**, which allows importers and exporters to furnish one all-India bond instead of multiple transaction-wise bonds at different ports. This measure is expected to simplify compliance and reduce paperwork for trade stakeholders.

The new framework also prescribes stricter timelines. Provisional assessments must generally be finalised within **2 years** from the date of order, extendable by senior Customs officers only on sufficient cause. For pending cases, the 2-year limit will be calculated from **29th March 2025**, the date of enactment. In certain cases, the timeline begins when the reasons for provisional assessment cease to exist. To strengthen monitoring, assessments pending beyond **17 months** will be reported to the Commissioner of Customs, who will personally review such cases. Unpaid dues such as duty, interest, or penalties outstanding for more than 90 days will be adjusted against security or recovered under Section 142 of the Act.

In addition, importers and exporters are required to submit all necessary documents within **14 months** for finalisation. If documents are not provided, the Proper Officer may finalise the case based on available records while following principles of natural justice. Officers must conclude assessments within 3 months of receiving the documents, with limited scope for extension. These measures provide greater certainty for businesses, reduce procedural delays, and enhance accountability within the Customs system, marking a significant step towards a more efficient and business-friendly trade environment.

Amendment to Sea Cargo Manifest and Transshipment Regulations, 2018

Notification No.61 - Customs dated 30th September 2025

The Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) has notified the Sea Cargo Manifest and Transshipment (4th Amendment) Regulations, 2025 dated 30th September 2025. This amendment has been made under the powers conferred by section 157 of the Customs Act, 1962, along with relevant related provisions. These revised regulations shall come into force on the date of their publication in the Official Gazette.

As per the amendment, in the Sea Cargo Manifest and Transshipment Regulations, 2018, an update has been made in the table after FORM-XII. Specifically, against Sr. No. 6 in column (3), the existing entry has been replaced with "31.12.2025". This change ensures regulatory alignment and may impact deadlines or compliance timelines for relevant stakeholders. The principal regulations were originally notified in May 2018 and were last amended in May 2025.

Foreign Trade Policy (FTP)

Reiteration of Guidelines for Online Deemed Export Applications

Notification No.10/2025 - dated 28th July 2025

The Directorate General of Foreign Trade **(DGFT)** has reiterated that all applications for availing benefits under Deemed Exports must be submitted exclusively through the online application module introduced via Notice No. 12/2021-22 dated 28th July 2021. Members of trade are reminded that manual applications will not be accepted at any Regional Authority (RA) or Special Economic Zone **(SEZ)**. Exporters are advised to strictly follow the prescribed online filing procedures as outlined in the said notice.

Extension of RoDTEP Scheme for DTA Units beyond 30th September 2025 and Applicability to DTA/AA/SEZ/EOU Exports till 31st March 2026

Notification No.35/2025 - dated 30th September 2025

The Government has announced the extension of the Remission of Duties and Taxes on Exported Products (RoDTEP) Scheme beyond its earlier validity of 30.09.2025. The scheme will now remain in force until **31st March 2026**, covering exports made from the Domestic Tariff Area **(DTA)**, Advance Authorisation **(AA)** holders, SEZ units, and Export Oriented Units **(EOUs)**. The RoDTEP scheme provides relief to exporters by reimbursing embedded duties and taxes, thereby supporting competitiveness in global markets. The notified rates under the scheme shall continue to apply, with operations subject to the annual budgetary framework laid out under Para 4.54 of the FTP 2023.

Exporters are advised to note that the detailed list of eligible export items, along with the applicable rates and per-unit value caps, is available on the DGFT website under the section *"Regulations > RoDTEP"*. Relevant details can be accessed in Appendix 4R (for DTA units) and Appendix 4RE (for AA/SEZ/EOU units). With this extension, exporters can plan their shipments with continued support under RoDTEP until the end of the financial year 2025-26.

Electronic Issuance of Certificates of Origin under India - EFTA TEPA (European Free Trade Association - Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement)

Notification No.13/2025 - dated 30th September 2025

The DGFT has announced that with effect from 1st October 2025, all Preferential Certificates of Origin (CoO) under the India-EFTA TEPA Agreement will be issued through the Trade Connect ePlatform (www.trade.gov.in). This will apply to exports destined for Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, and Switzerland, ensuring a streamlined and transparent system for Indian exporters.

Exporters can obtain Electronic Certificate of Origin **(eCOOs)** either through self-declaration or via authorised agencies. For self-declaration, a valid Digital Signature Certificate **(DSC)** linked with IEC (Importer-Exporter Code) and a scanned signature are mandatory, and applications may be submitted online using DSC or Aadhaar authentication without any fee. The system will generate 2 copies—an electronic copy with QR code and a physical copy for manual signing, if required by the importing country. In addition, applicants will be able to select their branch details, which will automatically map to the jurisdictional DGFT Regional Authority or SEZ for verification, if required by partner countries. Under the agency route, exporters may choose from the list of notified agencies, and upon approval, the system will generate an eCOOs bearing the officer's signature and agency stamp, ready for submission to importing authorities.

The authenticity of eCOOs can be verified by scanning the embedded QR code or through the "Verify Certificate" option on Trade Connect. To support exporters, DGFT has set up a dedicated CoO Helpdesk, accessible via the Trade Connect ticketing system, toll-free numbers (011-23061495 / 011-23061499), and email at coo-dgft@gov.in. This digital initiative is expected to enhance efficiency, reduce paperwork, and improve ease of doing business under the India-EFTA TEPA.

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