

This column is compiled by Consultant [EXIM Policy] of EPCH. It contains recent Public Notices, Notifications and Circulars of DGFT, CBIC and Department of Revenue. If a handicraft exporter has question[s] to ask on Foreign Trade Policy, he/she may please write / e-mail to EPCH at policy@epch.com

Impex # 1

Revision of SIONs for Chemical & Allied Products

DGFT has amended certain SIONs for Chemical and Allied Products.

Perfumed Agarbatti under SION Sr. No. A1766 has been amended.

A1766	Perfumed Agarbatti of Relevant Sizes (8" or 9")	1 Nos.	1	Unperfumed Raw Agarbatti of Relevant Size (8" or 9")	1.02 Nos.
-------	---	--------	---	--	-----------

Also, Annexure B of the Notification has amended certain general conditions and some of it applies to Perfumery Compounds as well.

Impex # 2

Addition of SBER Bank as authorised bank for Import of GOLD

DGFT has amended the Part B under Appendix 4B of Handbook of Procedure, 2023 to add

SBER Bank as authorised bank by RBI for Import of GOLD for FY 2025-26 from 01.04.2025 and valid upto 31.03.2026 (copy reproduced below)

Copy of Public Notice No. 40/2025-26-DGFT | Dated: 19 December, 2025

Subject: Amendment in Appendix 4B of Handbook of Procedures, 2023-reg.

In exercise of the powers conferred under paragraphs 1.03 & 2.04 of the Foreign Trade Policy (FTP), 2023, as amended from time to time, the Director General of Foreign Trade hereby makes the following amendments in Part B under Appendix 4B of Handbook of Procedure, 2023:

1. LIST OF BANKS AUTHORISED BY RESERVE BANK OF INDIA TO IMPORT ONLY GOLD FOR FY 2025-26 WITH EFFECT FROM 01.04.2025 AND VALID UPTO 31.03.2026.

Sr. No.	Name of Bank
1	Indian Overseas Bank
2	Union Bank of India
3	SBER Bank*

(*Import allowed for domestic consumption only, and the authorisation is w.e.f. 25.06.2025 till 31.03.2026)

Effect of this Public Notice: The name of SBER Bank has been included in the list of banks authorized to import only gold applicable w.e.f. 25.06.2025 till 31.03.2026 under Part B of Appendix 4B of Handbook of Procedures, 2023.

Impex # 3

Launch of SWIFT 2.0 and onboarding of AQCS, PQMS and FSSAI

In its continuous efforts toward trade facilitation and enhancement of ease of doing business, Single Window Interface for Facilitating Trade (SWIFT 2.0) upgraded, unified, and fully digital Single Window platform to provide a single touch point for importers, exporters, other stakeholders and all Partner Government Agencies in relation to all EXIM processes. SWIFT 2.0 brings enhanced automation, seamless data exchange, and end-to-end digital processing for EXIM clearances involving Partner Government Agencies (PGAs).

SWIFT 2.0 is proposed to onboard over 60 PGAs in a phased manner, incorporating various new features. Under the first phase of the SWIFT 2.0 rollout AQCS, PQMS and FSSAI as being on boarded. (copy reproduced below):

Copy of Circular No. 29/2025-Customs | Dated: 21th November, 2025

Subject: Launch of SWIFT 2.0 and onboarding of AQCS, PQMS and FSSAI on SWIFT 2.0 as Single Touch Point for Trade for NOC Processing - reg.

Madam/Sir, CBIC, in its continuous efforts toward trade facilitation and enhancement of ease of doing business, is developing Single Window Interface for Facilitating Trade (SWIFT 2.0), an upgraded, unified, and fully digital Single Window platform designed to provide a single touch point for importers, exporters, other stakeholders and all Partner Government Agencies in relation to all EXIM processes. SWIFT 2.0 brings enhanced automation, seamless data exchange, and end-to-end digital processing for EXIM clearances involving Partner Government Agencies (PGAs). The earlier version of SWIFT functioned as a document-repository-based NOC clearance system, whereas SWIFT 2.0 is an advanced, fully digital, data-driven platform designed to serve a wide range of trade stakeholders.

The following features will be available to importers, exporters, and other trade stakeholders under SWIFT 2.0- CBIC-510450/5/2021-SINGLE WINDOW SECTION-CBEC-Part(1) I/131859/2025

- Importers and exporters can submit additional data fields and documents which are necessary to obtain No Objection Certificates (NOC) from the PGAs directly in SWIFT 2.0 thereby reducing physical touch point of interaction with PGAs.
 - Users can view all their details in a unified dashboard and track responses to queries, as well as review their previous transaction history with any PGA. Trade members will receive real-time SMS and email alerts on the status of their NOC applications, ensuring they are promptly informed about any required action.
 - Users can make online payments for PGA fees through the system and can obtain digital receipts for their records.
 - Trade Stakeholders will be notified of the scheduled date and time of visual inspections by PGAs and can track confirmations directly through the SWIFT 2.0 platform.
 - Importers and exporters can digitally view and download the approved NOCs issued by PGAs.
 - The trading community will benefit from a seamless experience as all NOC-issuing PGAs are gradually integrated into a single platform, eliminating the need to navigate multiple PGA systems
3. As a background, reference is invited to Board Circulars No. 09/2015 dated 31.03.2015, Circular No. 03/2016 dated 03.02.2016, and Circular 10/2016-Cus dated 15.03.2016 regarding the earlier version of SWIFT. These Circulars, in the earlier version of SWIFT, provided integration for NOC/ test report for six PGAs viz. Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI), Plant Quarantine (PQ), Animal Quarantine and Certification Services (AQCS), Central Drugs Standards Control Organization (CDSCO), Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB), and a lab module for the Textile Committee (TC) to provide test related NOC, for live consignments. This SWIFT platform enabled importers to lodge their clearance documents online through ICEGATE at a single point, facilitated risk- based inspection and an Online NOC from the PGAs. However, importers were still required to upload additional documents on respective PGA portals if so desired by PGAs for processing NOCs.
4. SWIFT 2.0 is proposed to onboard over 60 PGAs in a phased manner, incorporating the above features as indicated at para 2. Under the first phase of the SWIFT 2.0 rollout, consolidated lists of data fields/values and mandatory documents required by the following PGAs have been finalised for implementation:
- a) Animal Quarantine and Certification Services (AQCS);
 - b) Plant Quarantine Management System (PQMS);
 - c) Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)

The detailed list of data elements and document codes for AQCS, PQMS, and FSSAI is annexed as Annexure A, B, and C, respectively, for reference.

5. These data fields/values and mandatory documents have been formulated after inter-ministerial consultations involving the Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying, Directorate of Plant Protection, Quarantine and Storage (DPPQS), Food Safety and Standards Authority of India, and the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC), with the objective of ensuring a single touch point for EXIM clearances for trade. Tax consultation service
6. The finalized data elements and document codes will be effectively implemented through the Integrated Declaration in the Bill of Entry. These data elements and documents are required to be declared/uploaded by the trade at the time of filing the Bill of Entry or by filing the additional details and documents in the unified application dashboard under SWIFT 2.0, wherever import consignments are subjected to clearance by PGAs.
7. In view of above, all field formations are requested to issue suitable Public Notices/Trade Notices to sensitize stakeholders and ensure accurate filing of the required data/documents. These measures will and enhance ease in doing business experience to stakeholders.
8. DG Systems is advised to issue a detailed advisory in this regard. Mandatory filing for all three PGAs shall be effective from 01.12.2025.

Impex # 4

India-Oman CEPA: A New Chapter of Cooperation, Growth and Opportunity

India and Oman have entered a new phase of strategic economic partnership with the signing of the India-Oman Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA).

This CEPA marks a major milestone in India's engagement with the Gulf region and positions Oman as a key gateway for Indian goods and services to the Middle East and Africa.

Zero-duty access on 98.08% of Oman's tariff lines, covering 99.38% of India's exports by value.

Press Release - India and Oman Sign Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA)

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2205889®=3&lang=1>