

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

Extension of Filing of Annual RoDTEP Returns

Exporters with RoDTEP claim of Rs. 1 Cr or more for FY 2023-24 are required to file Annual RoDTEP Returns. The last date of the return was 30.11.2026.

Now, DGFT has extended the return filing period till 31.03.2026 with payment of composition fee of Rs. 15,000/- (copy reproduced below)

Copy of Public Notice No. 46/2025-2026 - DGFT | Dated: 5th February 2026

Subject: - Extension of filing Annual RoDTEP Returns-reg.

- DGFT Trade Notice no. 19/2025-23 Dated 31.12.2025

In exercise of the powers conferred under paragraph 1.03 & 2.04 of the Foreign Trade Policy, 2023, as amended from time to time, the period for filing Annual RoDTEP Returns for Financial Year 2023-24 is further extended till 31.03.2026 with payment of a composition fee of Rs 15,000/-, effective from the date of publication of this Public Notice.

2. In case of non-filing of ARR by the extended date, measures will be taken in accordance with para 4.94 of the Handbook of Procedures (HBP), 2023, including denial of RoDTEP benefits and scroll-out of scrips.

Effect of this Public Notice: The period for filing of Annual RoDTEP Return (ARR) for FY 2023-24 has been extended from 30.11.2025 to 31.03.2026 with composition fee of Rs 15,000/- in the interest of ease of doing business and export promotion.

Impex # 2

Implementation of NPCI based Workflow for Bank Account Validation in IEC

DGFT has integrated with NPCI for bank account validation for IEC Application including Modifications.

Real-time validation of bank account details furnished at the time of IEC issuance as well as IEC modification ensuring authenticity of IEC-linked bank accounts and enabling a fully digital, automatic and trusted trade facilitation framework.

Exporters are now required to declare all the Bank Accounts linked with their PAN in the IEC Application.

System will validate the data and provide the necessary status in the IEC for further processing.

Thus, Exporters & Importers are advised to verify correctness of bank details, PAN linkage and name matching with bank records prior to submission of IEC applications or modification requests.

Copy of Trade Notice No. 23/2025-26-DGFT | Dated: February 06, 2026

Subject: Implementation of NPCI-based Workflow for Bank Account Validation in IEC Applications and Modifications - regarding.

Reference is made to the earlier DGFT Public Notice No. 32/2025-26 dated 20.11.2025, where this Directorate enabled for online, API-based validation of IEC-related details through integration with Government and authenticated databases.

2. To further facilitate the above and strengthen the IEC ecosystem; DGFT has implemented integration with the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) effective from February 2026 for real-time validation of bank account

details furnished at the time of IEC issuance as well as IEC modification ensuring authenticity of IEC-linked bank accounts and enabling a fully digital, automatic and trusted trade facilitation framework.

3. As per the revised workflow, applicants are required to:

- i. Declare all active bank accounts linked with their PAN; and
- ii. Ensure that PAN, name and bank account details are correctly matched as per bank records.

4. Processing of IEC Applications / Modifications based on NPCI Validation Status

i. Bank account details submitted by the applicant shall be transmitted to NPCI for validation, and the system shall receive validation status as "Success", "In Progress" or "Failed". Based on the application type and validation status received from NPCI, the following events will be executed:

Application Type	NPCI Validation Status	System Action
Apply for IEC / Success Modify IEC	bank accounts)	(for all Application proceeds as per normal workflow
Apply for IEC /	In Progress (none of the validations Fail)	Application submitted will be placed under Automatic Review; Application is auto approved upon successful validation. Application is marked Rejected in case of failed validation.
Modify IEC	In Progress (none of the validations Fail)	Application submitted will be placed under Automatic Review; Application is auto approved upon receiving successful validation. Application is marked 'Deficient' in case of failed validation in first instance of any bank account. Exporter /Importer to modify the bank account with correct details and respond to deficiency. On further failed validation, application will be rejected.
Apply for IEC	Failed (for any bank account)	Application cannot be submitted until correct bank details are provided.
Modify IEC	Failed (for any bank account)	Application cannot be submitted until correct bank details are provided.

ii. In cases where validation status is "In Progress", the system shall periodically fetch updated status from NPCI.

5. Accordingly, Stakeholders are advised to verify correctness of bank details, PAN linkage and name matching with bank records prior to submission of IEC applications or modification requests. Any difficulties in submission/update may be reported through the DGFT Helpdesk.

This is issued with the approval of competent authority.

Impex # 3**Launch of Logistics Interventions for Freight & Transport (LIFT)
under Export Promotion Mission (EPM)**

The Scheme aims to address geographical disadvantages and logistics gaps affecting MSMEs in low export intensity areas. Under LIFT, the proposed support focuses on lowering freight and logistics costs stemming from the locational challenges faced by MSMEs in these regions.

There are total of 6 Annexure to refer to along with the Trade Notice.

Annexure V confirms the list of Eligible Districts and Annexure VI covers the list of Products eligible for the benefit.

Agarbatti / Incense Sticks, Shawls, Wooden Handicrafts and Handmade Carpets are listed in the Annexure for the benefit.

Eligible MSME can claim upto 30% of the freight cost as reimbursement under the scheme. The maximum annual limit for the benefit is 20 Lakhs per IEC.

Exporter is required to file the Intent-to-Claim (IC) application and Reimbursement Claim (RC) application on DGFT website for the same.

Impex # 4**Launch of Facilitating Logistics, Overseas Warehousing & Fulfilment (FLOW) Under
Export Promotion Mission (EPM)**

The objective of this initiative is to mitigate logistics-related constraints faced by MSMEs in accessing overseas markets, including limitations relating to overseas storage, distribution, fulfilment and customer service infrastructure.

Assistance under this initiative will be available for eligible activities relating to overseas logistics, warehousing, fulfilment and market-facing infrastructure that facilitate delivery and distribution in foreign markets.

Only entities incorporated in India under applicable Indian law shall be eligible for assistance. Entities like EPCs, Industry Associations and recognized export clusters, State and Central Government Organisations, State and District Export Promotion Committee and similar.

Expenditure eligible for support shall be restricted to lease or rental charges, common facility costs, and operational expenses directly attributable to the approved project excluding capital expenditure

Impex # 5**Launch of Support for Integrated Support for Trade Intelligence & Facilitation
(INSIGHT) Under Export Promotion Mission (EPM)**

The objective of this intervention is to strengthen exporter preparedness and export support ecosystems by addressing information asymmetries, procedural frictions, and institutional capacity gaps faced by exporters and export-support entities, with particular emphasis on Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs)

Implementation of the intervention shall promote convergence with Central, State, and District-level export promotion initiatives, including coordination with District Export Promotion Committees (DEPCs) and State Export Promotion Committees (SEPCs)

Assistance under this intervention shall be available for eligible activities that enhance export preparedness, improve export facilitation systems, or generate and disseminate actionable trade intelligence for exporters

Impex # 6

Trade Regulations, Accreditation & Compliance Enablement (TRACE) under Export Promotion Mission (EPM)

The intervention seeks to strengthen India's quality and technical compliance ecosystem and to facilitate MSMEs (involved in international value chains) in meeting importing-country regulatory requirements.

Assistance under this initiative shall be directed towards enhancing the capacity of eligible MSME to demonstrate conformity with applicable standards, upgrade product quality, and comply with legitimate regulatory requirements of importing countries, without conferring any entitlement linked to export performance.

The Initiative will provide partial reimbursement of eligible expenditure incurred by MSMEs involved in international value chains towards testing, inspection, certification, audits, traceability systems, and other conformity-assessment requirements that are mandated vide regulations required for market access, or necessary to demonstrate compliance with internationally recognized standards

All MSMEs involved in international value chains holding an active Importer-Exporter Code (IEC) (not listed in the Denied Entity List), and a valid MSME Udyam Registration Number shall be eligible for support under TRACE.

Country wise Certifications and Testing as per Annexure VI and HSN Code as per Annexure VII are eligible under the scheme.

Impex # 7

Support for Alternative Trade Instruments under Export Promotion Mission (EPM)

The objective is to facilitate improved access to alternative trade finance instruments for MSMEs.

The initiative seeks to provide a transparent, rules-based support mechanism for eligible alternative trade instruments- currently limited to export factoring

Only export factoring extended by entities recognised by Reserve Bank of India (RBI)/International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA) shall qualify for support under this intervention.