

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

Introduction of Consultation with stakeholders such as exporters / importers/ industry experts

In order to improve and as a trade facilitation measures, DGFT has amended Para 1.07A & 107B to seek views, suggestions, comments or feedback from relevant stakeholders including exporters/ importers / industry experts regarding formulation, incorporation of the specific provisions or amendments of FTP.

The Notification also provided to allow extension to extend 30 days' time period for such stakeholder submissions. Necessary Procedure is also provided in HBP Para 1.04 (k) (copy reproduced below)

Copy of Notification No.47/2024-2025 -DGFT | Dated:02nd January, 2025

Subject: Amendment in Foreign Trade Policy 2023 to include Para 1.07A and 1.07B for consultation with stakeholders to seek views, suggestions, comments or feedback from relevant stakeholders, including importers/exporters/industry experts concerning the formulation or amendment of the Foreign Trade Policy.

In the exercise of powers conferred by Section 5 of the Foreign Trade (Development & Regulation) Act, 1992, as amended from time to time, read with Para 1.02 of the Foreign Trade Policy 2023, the Central Government hereby makes the following amendments by inserting Para 1.07A and Para 1.07B with immediate effect in Chapter 1 of FTP 2023:

2. 1.07A Consultation with Stakeholders

The Central Government, in the course of formulation of Foreign Trade Policy, as and when it deems reasonable to do so, may seek views, suggestions, comments or feedback from relevant stakeholders, including importers/exporters/ industry experts with regard to formulation, incorporation of specific provision(s) or amendments in the Foreign Trade Policy, and to the extent possible, 30 days' time-period may be provided to such relevant stakeholders for submission of their views, suggestions, comments or feedback.

Notwithstanding the above, the Central Government reserves the right to suo moto formulate, amend or incorporate any specific provisions in the Foreign Trade Policy, without seeking views, suggestions, comments, or feedback from stakeholders.

1.07B Soliciting of views, suggestions, comments or feedback

After receiving the views, suggestions, comments or feedback as provided for in para 1.07A, if such views, suggestions, comments or feedback are not incorporated in the Foreign Trade Policy thereof, the Central Government may to the extent possible and if deems reasonable to do so, provide, to the relevant stakeholders, including importers/exporters/ industry experts from whom such views, suggestions, comments or feedback were received, the reasons for not considering their views, suggestions, comments, or feedback while formulating, amending or incorporating specific provisions in the Foreign Trade Policy.

Provided nothing in the above para shall oblige or mandate the Central Government to disclose reasons for not incorporating views, suggestions, comments or feedback, that

- i. has the potential to or will adversely affect trade relations with any foreign country;
- ii. would adversely affect food, economic or national security of India; iii.
- iii. is in conflict with any government policies, strategic programs, international obligations or commitments or long-term plans and would undermine the objectives of such policies or programs;
- iv. addresses matters unrelated to trade or serve narrow, private or special interests to the detriment of or contrary to the broader public interest, good; or
- v. would require the disclosure of confidential or classified information.

vi. Nothing shall confer any legal right whatsoever on any person to seek reasons for his views, comments, opinions or feedback, not being incorporated in the Foreign Trade Policy thereof.

3. This is issued in the public interest.

Effect of this Notification: Para 1.07 of Foreign Trade Policy 2023 is amended by inserting Para 1.07A and Para 1.07B to introduce trade facilitation measures with an option available to the Central Government for consultation with relevant stakeholders such as exporters/importers/industry experts to seek their views, suggestions, comments or feedback and also providing the mechanism on best endeavour basis, to inform reasons for not accepting views, suggestions, comments or feedback concerning the formulation or amendment of the Foreign Trade Policy.

Impex # 2

Amendment in Import Policy and introduction of MIP for Synthetic Knitted Fabrics covered under Chapter 60

DGFT amended the Import policy on various Synthetic Knitted Fabrics covered under chapter 60 which are "Restricted". However, Now Import is "Free" if CIF Value is at least USD 3.5 or above per KG.

Import by Advance Authorisation Holders, EOUs and SEZ are exempted from MIP condition.

Copy of Notification No. 49/2024-25-DGFT | Dated: 4th January, 2025

Subject: Amendment in Import Policy and Import Policy Condition of Synthetic Knitted Fabrics Covered under Chapter 60 of the ITC (HS), 2022- reg.

S.O. 97(E). In exercise of powers conferred by Section 3 and Section 5 of FT (D&R) Act, 1992, read with paragraph 1.02 and 2.01 of the Foreign Trade Policy, 2023, as amended from time to time, and in partial modification to Notification No. 77/2023 dated 16.03.2024 and Notification No. 33/2024-25 dated 01.10.2024 the Central Government hereby extends the condition of Minimum Import Price (MIP) on the following 13 ITC (HS) codes of Synthetic Knitted Fabrics from 01.01.2025 to 31.03.2025 as under:

ITC(HS) Code	Item Description	Revised Import Policy	Policy Condition
60063100	- Of synthetic fibres: - Unbleached or bleached	Restricted	However, import is 'Free' if CIF value is 3.5 US Dollar and above per Kilogram
60063200	- Of synthetic fibres: - Dyed	Restricted	However, import is 'Free' if CIF value is 3.5 US Dollar and above per Kilogram
60063300	- Of synthetic fibres: - Of yarns of different colours	Restricted	However, import is 'Free' if CIF value is 3.5 US Dollar and above per Kilogram
60063400	- Of synthetic fibres: - Printed	Restricted	However, import is 'Free' if CIF value is 3.5 US Dollar and above per Kilogram
60069000	- Other	Restricted	However, import is 'Free' if CIF value is 3_5 US Dollar and above per Kilogram
60019200	- Other: - Of man- made fibres	Restricted	However, import is 'Free' if CIF value is 3.5 US Dollar and above per Kilogram
60041000	Knitted or crocheted fabrics of a width exceeding 30 cm, containing by weight 5 percent or more of elastomeric yarn or rubber thread, other than those of heading 60.01.	Restricted	However, import is 'Free' if CIF value is 3.5 US Dollar and above per Kilogram
60049000	- Other	Restricted	However, import is 'Free' if CIF value is 3.5 US Dollar and above per Kilogram

60053600	- Of synthetic fibres: - Other, unbleached or bleached	Restricted	However, import is 'Free' if CIF value is 3.5 US Dollar and above per Kilogram
60053790	- Other	Restricted	However, import is 'Free' if CIF value is 3.5 US Dollar and above per Kilogram
60053900	- Of synthetic fibres: - Other, printed	Restricted	However, import is 'Free' if CIF value is 3.5 US Dollar and above per Kilogram
60062200	- Of cotton: - Dyed	Restricted	However, import is 'Free' if CIF value is 3.5 US Dollar and above per Kilogram
60064200	- Of artificial fibre: - Dyed	Restricted	However, import is 'Free' if CIF value is 3.5 US Dollar and above per Kilogram

2. Minimum Import Price (MIP) condition on above items shall not be applicable for imports by Advance Authorisation holders, Export Oriented Units (EOUs) and units in the SEZ subject to the condition that the imported inputs are not sold into Domestic Tariff Area (DTA).

Effect of the Notification Import of Synthetic Knitted Fabrics under ITC(HS) 60063100, 60063200, 60063300, 60063400, 60069000, 60019200, 60041000, 60049000, 60053600, 60053790, 60062200 and 60064200 is "Restricted". However, import is 'Free' if CIF value is 3.5 US Dollar and above per Kilogram. Further, inputs imported by Advance Authorisation holders, EOUs and SEZ shall be exempted from MIP condition.

Impex # 3

Schedule II (Export Policy) of ITC(HS) 2022 has been updated

The Schedule II (Export Policy) of ITC (HS) 2022 has been update and in sync with the Finance Act 2024 dated 16.08.2024 and the same is notified.

Even the General Notes to Export Policy is notified.

The Updated Schedule II is available on DGFT website www.dgft.gov.in (copy reproduced below)

Copy of Notification No. 50/2024-25 - DGFT| Dated: 13th January, 2025

Subject: Notification of Schedule-II (Export Policy) of ITC(HS) 2022, in sync with Finance Act 2024 dated 16.08.2024 -reg.

In exercise of the powers conferred by Section 3 read with Section 5 of the Foreign Trade (Development & Regulation) Act 1992, read with Para 1.02 and 2.01 of the Foreign Trade Policy 2023, as amended from time to time, the Central Government hereby notifies Schedule-II (Export Policy) of ITC(HS) 2022 in sync with the Finance Act 2024 as follows:

2. The updated 'Schedule-II (Export Policy) of ITC(HS) 2022' contains the current export policy of all ITC(HS) Codes along with specific policy conditions (if any) to be fulfilled, shall be available on the DGFT website ([https:// dgft.gov.in](https://dgft.gov.in))
3. The 'General Notes to Export Policy' has also been updated in sync with the Schedule-II (Export Policy) and shall be available on the DGFT website (<https:// dgft.gov.in>).
4. This shall come into force with immediate effect.

Effect of the Notification: Schedule-II (Export Policy) of ITC(HS), 2022, in sync with Finance Act 2024 dated 16.08.2024 has been notified. Updated General Notes to Export Policy are also notified.

Impex # 4

Amendments for Online Certificate of Origin (eCoO) System

In alignment with the online issuance of Certificate of Origin (COO) for both Preferential and Non - Preferential categories through the new platform - www.trade.gov.in

The Notice amends specific paragraphs of Handbook of Procedures to ensure consistency with the implementation of the New eCOO System.

The Public Notice also provides the provisions to issue back-to-back COO for goods not of Indian Origin which are being re-exported, transhipped or used for merchanting trade purpose. Copy reproduced below

Detailed Public Notice Link:

<https://content.dgft.gov.in/Website/dgftprod/b84e7f78-64fe-4884-8622-3009d8a73932/PN%2043-2024-25%20Eng-reg.pdf>

Impex # 5

DGFT Notifies the Policy Circular for re-fixing of Annual Average of EO for EPCG Authorisation for FY 23-24

As per para 5.17 of HBP of FTP 2023, there is provision that the exporters are provided with relief in Annual Export Obligation where the sector/product group has declined by more than 5% then their proportionate reduction in exports in their Annual Export Obligation must be provided for the year.

The Policy Circular for re-fixing the Annual Average for the year 2023-24 has been notified.

Detailed Circular Link: [https://content.dgft.gov.in/Website/dgftprod/83510d7b-ba39-4d00-9fa6-089957f9c798/Policy%20Circular%20No.%2011%20\(2024-25\)%20dated%2021.01.2025.pdf](https://content.dgft.gov.in/Website/dgftprod/83510d7b-ba39-4d00-9fa6-089957f9c798/Policy%20Circular%20No.%2011%20(2024-25)%20dated%2021.01.2025.pdf)

Impex # 6

Annual RoDTEP Return Filing Online Module Activated

In continuation to the DGFT Public Notice No. 27/2024-25 where exporters with RoDTEP Claim on Rs. 1 Crore or more in FY 2023-24 are required to file Annual RODTEP Return online.

The Annual RoDTEP Return Module is now activated online on DGFT website.

DGFT has also provided a detailed manual and FAQ for the filing process of the Annual Return.

- Fuel tax claims can be approximated based on transporters' data and should be maintained for verification.
- Filing is mandatory if RoDTEP claim value exceeds ₹1 crore, even if the actual claim received is lower.
- Exporters must file separate returns for DTA (Appendix 4R) and AA/SEZ/EOU(Appendix 4RE) exports as per Policy.
- Separate returns are required only for HS Codes with ₹50 lakh+ RoDTEP benefits or single return for the highest accrued 8 digit HS code must be filed.
- Pro-rata tax calculation is required and must be justifiable if scrutinized.
- Only non-refunded taxes/levies should be reported (GST/exempted taxes excluded).
- Exporters must submit HS Code, UQC, product description, export quantity, and FOB value.
- Transport costs should include VAT & Excise duty for both inbound and outbound (road & rail).
- Additional costs like electricity duty, stamp duty, and captive fuel duty must be reported.
- Merchant exporters with ₹1 crore+ RoDTEP claims are also required to file the annual return with data support from their manufacturers.
- Fuel tax claims can be approximated based on transporters' data and should be maintained for verification.
- Filing is mandatory if RoDTEP claim value exceeds ₹1 crore, even if the actual claim received is lower.

Copy of Trade Notice No. 27/2024-25-DGFT | Dated: 29 January, 2025

Subject: Introduction of online module for filing Annual RoDTEP Return (ARR) - reg

Members of Trade and Industry may note that consequent to publication of Public Notice No. 27/2024-25, regarding Filing of Annual RoDTEP Return, a Module for the same has been introduced on the DGFT Website. It can be accessed on the DGFT Portal- www.dgft.gov.in under the link 'Regulations>RoDTEP'.

2. A user guideline, with FAQs (dynamically updated), is also being uploaded for the benefit of the exporters under the same link.