

This column is compiled by Consultant [EXIM Policy] of EPCH. It contains recent Public Notices, Notifications and Circulars of DGFT, CBEC 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

Implementation of GST

Since all the major work for implementation of GST with effect from 01-07-2017 has been completed or shall be completed well ahead of the deadline, the focus has now shifted to educate the trade and industry, etc. On various aspects of GST, to remove their apprehensions/ doubts/ misgivings, etc. The Department of Revenue has set/up facilities as detailed below:

DGFT issues Trade Notice constituting 'GST Facilitation Cells' in HQ and all its regional offices for addressing GST related issues in FTP.

1. GST Migration Seva Kendras at jurisdictional Commissionerates/Division.
2. CBEC Helpdesk Number: 18001300232.
3. E-mail: cbecmitra.helpdesk@icegate.gov.in
4. GST Suvidha Provider

DGFT has also set-up 'GST Facilitation Centres for the same purpose at its HQ and its Regional offices and issued a Trade Notice No.08/2018 dated 08-06-2017 (copy reproduced below):

Trade Notice: 08/2018, dated 8th June 2017

Subject: Constitution of GST Facilitation Cell-reg.

To ensure smooth and successful rollout of GST w.e.f. 1st July 2017, the likely date of implementation of GST, it is decided to constitute a 'GST Facilitation Cell' in DGFT Headquarter and all Regional offices of DGFT to serve as the first point of contact for addressing any issues regarding GST in respect of Foreign Trade Policy.

2. 'GST Facilitation Cell', DGFT is headed by Shri Nikunj Kumar Srivastava, Addl. DGFT (email: nikunj.srivastava@nic.in) and Shri Rakesh Kumar, Joint DGFT (email:r.kumar73@nic.in) & Shri Kaushlendra Pratap Singh, Dy. DGFT (email: kaushlendrap.singh@nic.in) as members of the Cell.

3. On the same lines, all Regional Authorities have been advised to constitute 'GST Facilitation Cell' for addressing GST related issues in respect of Foreign Trade Policy.

Impex # 2

Questions & Answers

Question : How will export and import be treated under GST?

- Answer :
- Exports and supplies to SEZ unit/SEZ developer shall be treated as zero/rated supplies.
 - Exporters may opt to pay IGST on output and claim its refund.
 - Alternatively exporters can export under bond or LUT (without tax) and claim refund of accumulated Input Tax Credit.
 - Import of goods and services would be treated as inter-State supplies and would be subject to IGST (in addition to Customs Duties).
 - IGST paid on imports shall be available as credit for further transactions.

Question : What will be modes of payment under GST?

- Answer : • Modes of tax payment widened. Now duty can be deposited by different modes, namely, e-Payment (Internet Banking), Credit Card, Debit Card, Real Time Gross settlement (RTGS) or National Electronic Fund Transfer (NEFT).
- Small taxpayers can also pay taxes Over-the-Counter in authorised Banks.
 - Liability will be discharged by debit to electronic cash or credit ledger.

Question : How will existing assessee migrate to GST?

- Answer : • Simplified online system of migration introduced.
- All existing tax assessee are being issued provisional GSTIN Number by GSTN.
 - Provisional registration certificate will be available to taxpayers on the date of GST implementation.
 - After verification this will be converted into final registration within 6 months.

Note: PAN is mandatory for migration into GST. Central Excise & Service Tax registrants not having a valid PAN will not be migrated. Update your mobile number and email ID on ACES portal before migration. In case of any difficulty/query, please contact GST Migration Seva Kendras established at your jurisdictional Commissionerates/ Divisions or call CBEC Helpdesk Number: 1800-1200-232 or send your email to cbecmitra.helpdesk@icegate.gov.in.

Question : Has CBEC provided some special facilitation agency under GSP?

Answer : Yes. CBEC has created a special agency named 'GST Suvidha Provider' as detailed below:

- It is an eco-system of third party service providers, having access to GST system, who can help taxpayers in GST compliance.
- GSP will develop applications for return filing, reconciliation of purchase register data with auto-populated data for acceptance/rejection/modification, dashboards for taxpayers for quick monitoring.

Question : Any 'Twitter Handle' on GST?

Answer : The Union government started a new Twitter handle to answer industry queries related to the Goods and Services Tax (GST). "The Department of Revenue has opened a new Twitter Handle @askGST_Gol to invite queries from all taxpayers on GST," a finance ministry statement said. All taxpayers and other stakeholders are welcome to direct their queries related to GST in the said twitter handle for early resolution and clarification, it added.

Question : What is the threshold limit under 'Composition Scheme' under GST?

Answer : The GST Council, in its meeting held on 11th June, 2017, has increased the limit from Rs.50 lakh to Rs.75 lakh per year for businesses to take part in the GST Composition Scheme. The scheme allows traders, manufacturers and restaurant owners to pay presumptive taxes at the rate of 1, 2 and 5% respectively.

This will allow more small businesses to avail of a hassle free compliance regime. These segments are large job creators, a priority area for the government.