

## IEC Holders can Now register with GSTIN

### No Digital Signature required

In a bid to simplify auto registration for the IEC holders, the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) has informed that the IEC holders can register with the Goods and Services Tax Identification Number (GSTIN). It was said that no Digital Signature is required for the same.



The facility is now available on [www.icegate.gov.in](http://www.icegate.gov.in). "IEC holders can now register at ICEGATE without Digital Signature. Registration is allowed with IEC and any of one GSTIN attached to it. Please choose one GSTIN carefully, pertaining to the IEC," the CBIC said. Presently, IEC Registration is allowed on ICEGATE website, with Digital Signature and requires approval. Such registered IEC holders can file documents on ICEGATE. To attract importers and exporters for Registration on ICEGATE and to provide them with various information services including reports, a need is felt to provide a Simplified Auto Registration on ICEGATE. This Simplified Auto Registration is based on IEC and GSTIN, requires OTP verifications of e-mail and mobile number. The simplified Registration Module in ICEGATE is designed to register at the ICEGATE without the need to upload the Digital Signature Certificate (DSC), PAN verification, document upload to ICEGATE and approval procedure. The Board has also issued an advisory explaining the different cases of simplified Registration Process. ■ *Source: taxscan.in*

## EPCH delegation meets Secretary, Commerce; e-BRC issue regarding export to Iran resolved

Exporters especially from Moradabad, were facing problems with respect to export shipment made to countries which are in Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) list and e-BRC could not be generated by the concerned banks for exports to listed countries including Iran. As a result, the exporters were unable to get MEIS benefits.



EPCH took up the matter regarding non-issuance of e-BRC at the highest level in

*Mr. Ravi K Passi, Chairman, EPCH, and Mr. Rakesh Kumar, Director General, EPCH, meeting Dr. Anup Wadhawan, Commerce Secretary, Govt. of India*

the Ministry of Textiles, Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Ministry of Finance and DGFT and with the constant follow-up, the DGFT has issued Public Notice No. 8/2015-20 dated 14th March 2019 in the matter that a declaration by the exporter along with a self-attested copy of the proof of payment such as Foreign Inward Remittance Certificates/ Statements etc. can be given to the DGFT for claiming MEIS benefits.

"This had been a long pending demand of handicraft exporters and the solution provided by DGFT is a very welcome step and would certainly boost the morale of the exporters for their future endeavors", said Mr. Ravi K Passi, Chairman, EPCH. Mr. Rakesh Kumar, Director General, EPCH said that with this initiative the exporters are going to get the much needed MEIS benefits for their exports and this will energise them to continue their efforts towards enhancing exports from the country. ■

## EPCH takes up issues faced by stone/marble artware, with Govt. departments

Stone artware exporters have been facing problem of HS code classification of handicrafts articles of stone/marble wherein the MEIS benefit was being denied to the exporters.



EPCH took up the matter at the highest level and raised the issue with CBIC Chairperson followed by meetings with Joint Secretary (Drawback), Commissioner Customs, Mumbai and Chief Commissioner Customs, Delhi Zone. In a meeting on 6th May 2019, a delegation of exporters from Agra as well as EPCH Joint Director, Mr. Rajesh Rawat, met Chief Commissioner, Customs, Mumbai, at JNPT, Nhava Sheva. The Chief Commissioner, Customs acknowledged the problem faced by exporters and assured all possible help in this regard. ■

## EPCH invites Members to enrol for MAH-EPCH Elite Group

### Recover Your Export Dues and settle quality or other international debt disputes

EPCH has been receiving complaints from its Members Exporters regarding their disputes related to payment of shipments. Members have shared the agnony faced due to these disputes with foreign buyers/clients with EPCH.

In view of such member concerns, the Council has engaged an **International Debt Recovery Organisation** so that the cases pertaining to debt/lost payments of exporters can be minimized. This international debt recovery agency has been engaged to facilitate resolution of disputes and recovery of money from the concerned overseas buyers. This is a **free service for the first 1000 member exporters**. We are glad to inform you that the service is now being **extended for another six months i.e till 30th September 2019**. During this period EPCH will bear the initial membership fees of US\$ 10/ per exporter on behalf of each exporter. For details contact : [renugupta@epch.com](mailto:renugupta@epch.com)/[www.epch.in](http://www.epch.in)



DEBT SETTLEMENT

**Free**  
Service for upto 1000 EPCH members on first-come-first-served basis to become Elite Group members

## Higher tariffs threats to spark retail imports increases in US

### Boost expected through this summer

Rising retail sales and fears of soon-to-come tariff hikes are expected to spur unusually high levels of imports at USA's major retail container ports through summer. according to the monthly Global Port Tracker report, released by the National Retail Federation and Hackett Associates, USA. "Much of this is driven by consumer demand, but retailers are likely to resume stocking up merchandise before new tariffs can take effect," said Jonathan Gold, NRF vice president for supply chain and customs policy. "Tariff increases and new tariffs will mean higher costs for US businesses, higher prices for American consumers and lost jobs for many American workers. We encourage the administration to stay focused on a trade agreement, and we hope the negotiations will get back on track. It would be unfortunate to undermine the progress that has been made with more tit-for-tat tariffs that only punish Americans."



The rush to bring merchandise into the country that was seen through much of last year slowed down after Trump postponed a tariff hike from January to March and then put it on hold indefinitely as trade talks with China showed signs of progress, NRF reminded.

But the US President warned the 10% tariffs on \$200 billion worth of Chinese goods will rise to 25%, and that he plans to impose new 25% tariffs on most remaining Chinese goods at an unspecified date. US ports covered by Global Port Tracker include: Los Angeles/Long Beach, Oakland, Seattle and Tacoma on the West Coast; New York/New Jersey, Port of Virginia, Charleston, Savannah, Port Everglades, Miami and Jacksonville on the East Coast; and Houston on the Gulf Coast. Together, they handled 1.61 million Twenty-Foot Equivalent Units (TEUs) in March, the latest month for which after-the-fact numbers are available. That was down 0.6% from February but up 4.4% year-over-year. A TEU is one 20-foot-long cargo container or its equivalent.

NRF noted imports have never before hit the 1.9 million TEU mark earlier than July. And the August number would be the highest monthly total since the record 2 million TEU record set last October. Imports during 2018 set a record of 21.8 million TEU, an increase of 6.2% over 2017's previous record of 20.5 million TEU. The first half of 2019 is expected to total 10.7 million TEU, up 3.9% over the first half of 2018. "Consumption is facing the potential of increased tariffs on Chinese imports if President Trump's tweets are anything to go by," added Ben Hackett, founder of Hackett Associates. ■

Source : Home Textiles Today