HANDBOOK OF PROCEDURES

DGFT inserts Handbook of Procedures Para 2.50A on inquiries into forced labor in imported goods

Public Notice No. 21/2026-27 inserts Para 2.50A in the Handbook of Procedures 2023, setting how DGFT inquires whether imports were made with forced labor.

PUBLIC NOTICE NO. 21/2026-27, dated July 13, 2026, inserts Para 2.50A, "Procedure for determination of use of forced labour in the production of imported goods", in the Handbook of Procedures, 2023. The Directorate General of Foreign Trade issues it under paragraph 1.03 read with 2.04 of the Foreign Trade Policy 2023. The Gazette prints it as a Notification with no number, under F. No. K-31013/1/2026-DIR NAFTA-Part(4)/[E-46765]; its closing paragraph calls it a Public Notice, and DGFT numbers it Public Notice No. 21/2026-27.

THE CHANGE

Para 2.50A, "Procedure for determination of use of forced labour in the production of imported goods", is inserted in the Handbook of Procedures, 2023.

KEY FACTS

TYPE
Handbook of Procedures

NOTIFICATION
Public Notice No. 21/2026-27

DATED
July 13, 2026

REFERENCES

CG-DL-E-16072026-274552

DGFT inserts Handbook of Procedures Para 2.50A on inquiries into forced labor in imported goods

Public Notice No. 21/2026-27 · July 13, 2026

Public Notice No. 21/2026-27, dated July 13, 2026, inserts Para 2.50A, "Procedure for determination of use of forced labour in the production of imported goods", in the Handbook of Procedures, 2023. The Directorate General of Foreign Trade issues it under paragraph 1.03 read with 2.04 of the Foreign Trade Policy 2023. The Gazette prints it as a Notification with no number, under F. No. K-31013/1/2026-DIR NAFTA-Part(4)/[E-46765]; its closing paragraph calls it a Public Notice, and DGFT numbers it Public Notice No. 21/2026-27.

Under Para 2.50A, the Director General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) may, on its own initiative (suo motu) or upon receipt of any information or complaint supported by credible material, undertake an inquiry to ascertain whether any goods imported into India have been produced, wholly or in part, using forced labor. For the inquiry, the DGFT may seek information, documents or clarifications from the importer(s), exporter(s), manufacturer(s) or any other person or authority. It may consult the relevant Ministries, Departments or agencies, or other stakeholders, and may obtain information or technical inputs from any domestic or international organization, governmental authority or expert body.

Upon completion of the inquiry, the DGFT shall prepare a report containing its findings on the use of forced labor in the production of the goods under inquiry. It may make appropriate recommendations to the Central Government, including recommendations for prohibition of the import of such goods under the Foreign Trade (Development and Regulation) Act, 1992 and the Foreign Trade Policy, 2023. The notice does not list any goods, countries or HS codes, and it does not state a date from which the procedure applies.

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Type	Handbook of Procedures
After	Para 2.50A, "Procedure for determination of use of forced labour in the production of imported goods", is inserted in the Handbook of Procedures, 2023.

Conditions	• The Director General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) may, on its own initiative (suo motu) or upon receipt of any information or complaint supported by credible material, undertake an inquiry to ascertain whether any goods imported into India have been produced, wholly or in part, using forced labor. • For the inquiry, the DGFT may seek such information, documents or clarifications from the importer(s), exporter(s), manufacturer(s) or any other person or authority as may be considered necessary. • During the inquiry, the DGFT may consult the relevant Ministries, Departments or agencies, or other stakeholders, as may be considered necessary. • The DGFT may also obtain information or technical inputs from any domestic or international organization, governmental authority or expert body, wherever considered necessary for the inquiry. • Upon completion of the inquiry, the DGFT shall prepare a report containing its findings regarding the use of forced labor in the production of the goods under inquiry, and may make appropriate recommendations to the Central Government, including recommendations for prohibition of the import of such goods under the Foreign Trade (Development and Regulation) Act, 1992 and the Foreign Trade Policy, 2023.
Applies to	Imports into India of goods that may have been produced, wholly or in part, using forced labor, and the importers, exporters, manufacturers or any other person or authority the DGFT may ask for information during an inquiry.
Issued under	Paragraph 1.03 read with 2.04 of the Foreign Trade Policy 2023, as amended from time to time
Signed by	LAV AGARWAL, Director General of Foreign Trade & Addl. Secy.

The notification (PDF, 687 KB)

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