DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF FOREIGN TRADE

DGFT import authorization: how to import a restricted item

To import a restricted item into India, you need a DGFT import authorization, unless DGFT has notified another procedure for it. You apply online to DGFT headquarters in form ANF 2M. Only the actual user may import the goods unless DGFT waives that condition, and the authorization is valid for 18 months from issue unless DGFT sets another period.

A DGFT IMPORT authorization is a permission from the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) to import an item that India's import policy lists as restricted. A restricted item may come in only against an authorization, or under a procedure DGFT has notified (FTP 2.08). A free item needs no authorization, and a prohibited item can't be imported.

KEY FACTS

POLICY
Foreign Trade Policy 2023

PROCEDURES
Handbook of Procedures 2023

LAW
Foreign Trade (Development and Regulation) Act, 1992

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Directorate General of Foreign Trade · October 28, 2026

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ITC (HS) codes goods at up to eight digits, and its Schedule I sets the import policy against each item (FTP 2023, Chapter 2, paras 2.02(a) to (c)). To check your item, see India's import policy: free, restricted and prohibited goods.

DGFT's fee schedule calls it an "import License for restricted item" (Appendix 2K, item 4), so you'll also see it called an import licence for restricted items. For the rest of DGFT's rules, see DGFT: India's foreign trade rules, schemes and authorizations.

Who can apply, and where?

Where an authorization is needed, only the actual user, the person or business that will use the goods, may import them, unless DGFT waives that condition (FTP 2.09). You apply online to DGFT headquarters in form ANF 2M (HBP 2.47(a)). DGFT, or a Regional Authority it authorizes, grants the authorization, and it may first take the EXIM Facilitation Committee's advice.

The Policy defines the actual user as a person or company authorized to use the imported goods in its own premises (FTP 11.03). So when a foreign company sells a restricted item into India, the Indian business that will use the goods applies for the authorization, not the foreign seller. See DGFT's import rules for foreign companies.

Some summaries say the EXIM Facilitation Committee grants authorizations. The Handbook says DGFT, or a Regional Authority it authorizes, grants them, and may take the committee's advice and ask technical authorities for written comments (Handbook of Procedures, para 2.48(a)). Where a case waited for those comments, the committee's Chairman approves it and the committee approves it afterwards (HBP 2.48(c)).

1. Check the item's ITC (HS) code.

Read its eight-digit line in Schedule I and confirm it says restricted (FTP 2.02(c)).

2. Apply online in form ANF 2M.

File through DGFT's Import Management System, to DGFT headquarters, with the documents the form asks for (HBP 2.47(a)) and the fee. Sign with a digital signature certificate or Aadhaar e-sign (HBP 1.05).

3. Answer DGFT's points on the portal.

Upload documents, reply and track the application online (HBP 1.04(c)). DGFT can reject an incomplete application with reasons, and treats one as withdrawn if its gaps aren't fixed within 90 days (HBP 2.05).

4. Ship once it's issued.

Restricted goods that arrive first can't be cleared unless DGFT allows (FTP 2.12).

How long is it valid, and can it be revalidated?

A DGFT import authorization for a restricted item is valid for 18 months from the date of issue, unless DGFT sets another period (HBP 2.16). DGFT headquarters may revalidate it on merits for six months from the date it expires (HBP 2.20(a)). So the old line that it can't be extended is wrong, though revalidation isn't automatic.

DGFT may also require all imports under it to come through one port you choose (HBP 2.48(b)).

Some run on other periods. IT hardware authorizations end on December 31, 2026, and silver ones under the simplified procedure last six months with no extension. See the 2026 items.

What does it cost?

A restricted import authorization costs ₹1 for every ₹1,000 of CIF value, at least ₹500 and at most ₹1 lakh (Appendix 2K, item 4). A first revalidation costs ₹500 and a second ₹1,000 (items 8 and 9). These are the fees in DGFT's copy of Appendix 2K last changed May 14, 2025.

DGFT's fees from Appendix 2K, as of its May 14, 2025 copy

Application	Fee	Appendix 2K
Import authorization for a restricted item	₹1 per ₹1,000 of CIF value, at least ₹500 and at most ₹1 lakh	Item 4
First revalidation	₹500 per application	Item 8
Second revalidation	₹1,000 per application	Item 9
Request to relax a rule for hardship (ANF-2D)	₹2,000 per application	Item 12
Review of a committee's decision (ANF-2E)	₹5,000 per application	Item 13

CIF value is the cost of the goods plus insurance and freight. On our arithmetic, ₹50 lakh of goods pays a ₹5,000 fee, and the fee reaches its ₹1 lakh cap at ₹10 crore.

How long does DGFT take?

No DGFT document we've read sets a time for deciding a restricted import authorization. The Handbook's table of disposal times for Regional Authorities (HBP 11.10) has no row for one, and these applications go to DGFT headquarters. The Handbook does say the EXIM Facilitation Committee "shall normally meet once every month" (HBP 2.48(c)).

Day counts quoted on other sites, such as 40 to 60 days, don't come from any DGFT document we've read.

Can goods that arrive first be cleared later?

Not for a restricted item, unless DGFT allows it. FTP 2.12 lets goods that are shipped or arrive before their authorization be warehoused, then cleared once it's issued. The same paragraph says this facility isn't available for restricted items, or goods traded through State Trading Enterprises, unless DGFT specifically allows it.

The paragraph's own words: "This facility will however be not available to 'Restricted' items or items traded through STEs, unless specifically allowed by DGFT" (FTP 2.12). DGFT's Import Management System page agrees: a restricted item needs its authorization before it's imported.

If the item became restricted while your goods were on the way, a different rule applies: see policy changes after a contract.

What if a restricted item arrives without an authorization?

Importing a restricted item without an authorization breaks the Foreign Trade Policy (FTP 2.08). Under the Foreign Trade (Development and Regulation) Act, you're liable to a penalty. It's at least ₹10,000 and up to five times the value of the goods, whichever is more (section 11(2), as amended in 2010). The goods can also be confiscated (section 11(8)).

Confiscated goods, and any conveyance, can be released on payment of redemption charges equal to their market value (FT(D&R) Amendment Act, 2010, new section 11(9)). On our arithmetic, the penalty on ₹20 lakh of goods can reach ₹1 crore.

Claims that the penalty stops at twice the value of the goods are wrong: the Act says five times. For appeals and the Denied Entity List, see DGFT appeal, penalties and the Denied Entity List.

When do you need an End User Certificate?

You need one when a foreign government asks for proof of the end user before it lets goods leave for India. A DGFT Regional Authority may then issue an End User Certificate (HBP 2.35). For a restricted item, it's issued only against a valid DGFT authorization, and its quantity and value can't exceed the authorization's.

So for a restricted item the order is fixed: the DGFT authorization first, then the certificate.

Which items need an authorization in 2026?

Laptops, tablets, all-in-one PCs and servers under HSN 8471 need a DGFT import authorization in 2026, applied for in DGFT's Import Management System. Silver bars under 71069221 and 71069229 have been restricted since May 16, 2026, and every jewelry line under heading 7113 since April 1, 2026. Other restricted lines in Schedule I follow the same rule.

A minimum import price works this way too: clear float glass is restricted below ₹34,000 per metric ton CIF and free at or above it (Notification 29/2026-27). See minimum import prices in India.

Laptops, tablets and servers

Laptops, tablets, all-in-one PCs, ultra small form factor computers and servers under HSN 8471 are restricted. Importers apply in DGFT's Import Management System (Policy Circular 08/2025-26, December 17, 2025, paras 1 and 2(I)).

- Applications: December 22, 2025 to December 15, 2026 (para 2(II)).
- Validity: every authorization under the system ends on December 31, 2026 (para 2(III)).
- Repeat applications: an importer may apply more than once in the year (para 2(IV)).

The circular covers 2026 only. As of October 28, 2026, we haven't seen a procedure for 2027.

Silver

Silver bars under 71069221 and 71069229 moved from free to restricted on May 16, 2026 (Notification 17/2026-27). Export-oriented units and special economic zone (SEZ) units that don't sell the bars in India are exempt, and so are imports under the gems and jewelry export schemes. Both exemptions are Policy Condition 7 of Chapter 71 (Notification 03/2026-27, para 2; Policy Circular 02/2026-27, para 2.3).

Since June 2, 2026, four other silver lines (71061000, 71069110, 71069120 and 71069190) need a DGFT import authorization even through RBI-nominated banks and DGFT-nominated agencies. So do IFSCA-qualified jewelers importing through the India International Bullion Exchange (IIBX), where the policy allows them (Notification 19/2026-27).

From October 15, 2026, a silver import authorization application that declares duty will be paid at the general rate, with no concession, can go through a simplified procedure. It covers 71069110, 71069120, 71069221 and 71069229, not silver dore. An authorization under it lasts six months with no extension. The silver must come through IIBX or the nominated banks and agencies in Appendix 4B (Trade Notice 30/2026-27, paras 1, 2, 5, 6 and 8).

Silver imports under four HS codes now need DGFT authorization
June 2, 2026 →

DGFT clarifies silver imports under HS 71069221
October 9, 2026 →

Silver import authorizations simplified on self-declaration
October 13, 2026 →

Jewelry under heading 7113

Every line under heading 7113 has been restricted for import since April 1, 2026, and eleven of them moved from free that day (Notification 02/2026-27). The restriction applied whatever the prior contract, letter of credit, advance payment or shipment status, so goods already ordered got no transitional protection. The same exemptions apply (para 4).

Eleven HS 7113 jewelry lines move from Free to Restricted
April 1, 2026 →

Twelve Chapter 71 lines restricted, three platinum lines now Free
April 2, 2026 →

What if DGFT refuses or limits an authorization?

No one has a right to an authorization, and DGFT may refuse one (FTP 2.13). For genuine hardship and adverse impact on trade, you can ask DGFT to relax a rule in ANF-2D. Against a committee's decision or a DGFT officer's order, you can seek a review and a personal hearing in ANF-2E, for a fee (FTP 2.60; HBP 2.96(a)).

DGFT decides a relaxation after consulting a Norms Committee, the EPCG Committee or the Policy Relaxation Committee (FTP 2.59). The fees are in the fee table.

A hearing isn't available in an adjudication or appeal under the Act (FTP 2.60(b)). For those, see how a DGFT appeal works.

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Frequently asked questions

Can you amend a DGFT import authorization after it's issued?

Yes. You apply for the amendment online to DGFT headquarters, as for the authorization itself (HBP 2.47(b)).

Can you sell goods imported under an authorization?

If they came in under the actual user condition, only with the issuing authority's prior permission. You don't need it once two years have passed since import, or if the goods are freely importable without that condition on the date of transfer (HBP 2.46).

Do samples of a restricted item need an authorization?

Not bona fide technical and trade samples, except defense or security items, seeds, bees and new drugs (FTP 2.25). See India's import policy for the other exceptions.

Sources

- Foreign Trade Policy 2023, Chapter 2 (compiled July 30, 2026), paras 2.02, 2.08, 2.09, 2.12, 2.13, 2.25, 2.59 and 2.60 (PDF, 873 KB)
- Foreign Trade Policy 2023, Chapter 11 (compiled July 30, 2026), definitions, para 11.03 (actual user)
- Handbook of Procedures 2023, Chapter 1 (compiled July 30, 2026), paras 1.04(c) and 1.05
- Handbook of Procedures 2023, Chapter 2 (compiled July 30, 2026), paras 2.05, 2.16, 2.20(a), 2.35, 2.46, 2.47, 2.48 and 2.96(a)
- Handbook of Procedures 2023, Chapter 11 (compiled April 3, 2023), para 11.10 (time norms for Regional Authorities)
- Appendix 2K: scale of application fees (copy last changed May 14, 2025), items 4, 8, 9, 12 and 13

- Foreign Trade (Development and Regulation) Amendment Act, 2010 (Act No. 25 of 2010), section 12: new section 11(2), (8) and (9)
- Policy Circular 08/2025-26, December 17, 2025: Import Management System for restricted IT hardware in 2026, paras 1 and 2
- Notification 02/2026-27, April 1, 2026: jewelry under heading 7113 restricted for import, paras 2 to 4 (PDF, 1.1 MB)
- Notification 03/2026-27, April 2, 2026: Policy Condition 7 of Chapter 71 (the EOU, SEZ and gems and jewelry scheme exemptions), para 2 (PDF, 1.1 MB)
- Notification 17/2026-27, May 16, 2026: silver bars under 71069221 and 71069229 restricted (PDF, 577 KB)
- Notification 19/2026-27, June 2, 2026: silver imports through nominated agencies need a DGFT authorization (PDF, 1.2 MB)
- Notification 29/2026-27, August 18, 2026: clear float glass restricted below its minimum import price (PDF, 631 KB)
- Policy Circular 02/2026-27, October 9, 2026: import of silver under 71069221, para 2.3 (PDF, 421 KB)
- Trade Notice 30/2026-27, October 13, 2026: simplified import authorizations for silver, paras 1, 2, 5, 6 and 8 (PDF, 195 KB)
- DGFT: Import Management System (web page, read October 28, 2026)

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