DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF FOREIGN TRADE

DGFT questions, answered from the official texts

This page answers the DGFT questions people ask, 121 of them, each from the official texts with the paragraph it rests on, as of October 28, 2026. The answers are grouped by who asks and what about: DGFT itself, importers, foreign companies, exporters, the schemes, trade agreements and penalties. Questions the texts don't answer are left out rather than guessed.

DGFT, THE Directorate General of Foreign Trade, is the Department of Commerce office that runs the Foreign Trade Policy. Its law is the Foreign Trade (Development and Regulation) Act, 1992: the Central Government notifies the policy under section 5, and section 6(2) makes the Director General responsible for it. Every import and export must follow both (section 11(1)).

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

This page answers the DGFT questions people ask, 121 of them, each from the official texts with the paragraph it rests on, as of October 28, 2026. The answers are grouped by who asks and what about: DGFT itself, importers, foreign companies, exporters, the schemes, trade agreements and penalties. Questions the texts don't answer are left out rather than guessed.

General DGFT questions

What is DGFT, and what law gives it its powers?

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DGFT: India's foreign trade rules, schemes and authorizations → The guide this page belongs to

How is DGFT different from Customs and the RBI?

No single text compares them, but the texts show the split. DGFT runs the Foreign Trade Policy and its authorizations, and swaps shipping bill and bill of entry data with Customs (Handbook paragraph 1.04(h)). RoDTEP e-scrips sit in the Customs ledger of CBIC (Foreign Trade Policy paragraph 4.54(ix)), while RBI sets the time to realize export payments (paragraph 2.54(a)).

What DGFT does, in our DGFT guide →

Which DGFT office handles my application, and how many regional offices are there?

Your address decides which DGFT Regional Authority handles your application, and Appendix 1A sets each office's area (Handbook of Procedures paragraph 2.04). Some applications go to DGFT headquarters in New Delhi instead, such as import authorizations for restricted items (paragraph 2.47(a)). DGFT's own list of Regional Authorities names 26 offices as of October 28, 2026.

How you deal with DGFT, in our DGFT guide →

How do I contact DGFT's helpdesk?

Call DGFT's 24×7 helpdesk toll-free on 1800-572-1550 or 1800-111-550, email dgftedi@nic.in, or raise a service ticket on the dgft.gov.in portal. Handbook of Procedures paragraph 1.04(g) lists

these channels for help with online applications. Trade Notice 15/2026-27 names the same channels, in its paragraph 6, for problems with voluntary duty payment data.

Filing with DGFT online, in our DGFT guide →

Does Foreign Trade Policy 2023 expire, and is a new policy coming?

No, it doesn't expire. Foreign Trade Policy 2023 took effect on April 1, 2023 and stays in force until it's changed, so it isn't a five-year policy (paragraph 1.01). The Central Government may ask importers, exporters and experts for views before changing it, giving 30 days where it can, or change it without asking (paragraph 1.07(A)).

How Foreign Trade Policy 2023 changes, and what changed in 2026 →

What's the difference between a DGFT notification, a public notice, a trade notice and a policy circular?

The Central Government changes the Foreign Trade Policy by notification, published in the Official Gazette, and DGFT sets and changes procedures by public notice (Foreign Trade Policy paragraphs 1.02 and 1.03; paragraphs 11.35 and 11.42). The Policy doesn't define trade notices or policy circulars, so it doesn't state what legal force they carry.

How DGFT's notifications and notices change the Policy →

DGFT's 2026 Gazette notices, in our DGFT tracker →

What is the Handbook of Procedures, and how is it different from the Policy?

The Handbook of Procedures sets out how the Foreign Trade Policy is carried out: the steps, appendices and forms. DGFT notifies it by public notice, while the Central Government amends the Policy itself by notification (Foreign Trade Policy paragraphs 1.02 and 1.03). Where the Policy or the Handbook has a specific rule, it beats the general one (paragraph 1.04).

The Policy's chapters and the Handbook, in our Foreign Trade Policy guide →

How long does DGFT take to decide an application?

DGFT's Handbook sets its own norms in working days, counted from a complete application (paragraph 11.10). They're 3 for an Advance Authorization under notified norms or EPCG, 1 on the automatic route, 1 for a revalidation or extension, 15 for closing an Advance Authorization or DFIA, and 30 for closing EPCG. They're norms, not a promise.

Extending and closing an authorization, in our export obligation guide →

How an Advance Authorization is issued →

What happens if DGFT finds my application incomplete?

DGFT can reject an incomplete application with its reasons, and if you don't fix the gaps within 90 days it treats the application as withdrawn (Handbook of Procedures paragraph 2.05). Even a

complete application gives no right to an authorization: DGFT or a Regional Authority may refuse to grant or renew one (Foreign Trade Policy paragraph 2.13).

Applying to DGFT, in our DGFT guide →

Do I have to report each export to DGFT myself?

DGFT receives shipping bill and bill of entry data from Customs, and fee and e-BRC data from banks, by electronic message exchange (Handbook of Procedures paragraph 1.04(h)). Some scheme steps still need you: for example, you link your shipping bills when you apply to close an Advance Authorization (paragraph 4.43(b)).

Closing an authorization and the EODC →

Can I sign DGFT applications with Aadhaar e-sign, or do I need a digital signature certificate?

Either one works. Handbook of Procedures paragraph 1.05 lets you sign a DGFT application with a digital signature certificate issued by an entity the Controller of Certifying Authorities approves, or with Aadhaar e-sign. The paragraph doesn't name a certificate class.

Dealing with DGFT online, in our DGFT guide →

What are Districts as Export Hubs?

Under Districts as Export Hubs, each district has a District Export Promotion Committee, chaired by the Collector and co-chaired by a DGFT Regional Authority. The committee prepares and carries out the district's export action plan, which may put two or three products or services first (Foreign Trade Policy paragraphs 3.1 and 3.2).

Chapter 3 and the rest of the Policy, in our Foreign Trade Policy guide →

Which documents does an import or an export need?

An import needs a bill of lading, airway bill or other transport receipt, a commercial invoice cum packing list, and a bill of entry. An export needs the same transport document and invoice, plus a shipping bill or bill of export (Foreign Trade Policy paragraph 2.06). Regulators may notify more for regulated goods, and seek more in specific cases.

Import rules and documents, in our import policy guide →

Export rules and documents →

Importers

Is an IEC the same as an import licence or a DGFT authorization?

No: the Importer-Exporter Code (IEC) is the 10-character code, the same as your PAN, that you need to import or export at all, unless exempt (Foreign Trade Policy paragraph 2.05). An import authorization is separate: DGFT grants it for a restricted item (paragraph 2.08). DGFT issues the IEC online, on its IEC page.

What a DGFT import authorization is, and when you need one →

How do I find out whether my product is free, restricted or prohibited?

Look up its eight-digit code in the ITC (HS) schedules: Schedule I sets the import policy and Schedule II the export policy (Foreign Trade Policy paragraphs 2.01 and 2.02). Goods are free unless the schedules make them restricted, prohibited or reserved for State Trading Enterprises. DGFT lets you search them on its ITC (HS) page.

Free, restricted and prohibited imports, in our import policy guide →

How India decides what can cross its border →

What does STE or canalized import mean?

An STE or canalized item is one reserved for State Trading Enterprises. Only the State Trading Enterprise concerned may import or export it, unless DGFT authorizes another entity; Appendix 2J lists STEs (Foreign Trade Policy paragraph 2.21). Indian Potash Limited, for example, may import agricultural urea on government account as an STE up to March 31, 2027 (Notification 68/2025-26).

State Trading Enterprise items, in our import policy guide →

If an item is free to import, can it still be stopped, and which other permissions apply?

Yes: some items are free under the Foreign Trade Policy but subject to conditions in other laws (paragraph 2.01(b)). Laws, technical rules, and safety, health and environmental norms that apply to goods made in India apply to imports too, unless specifically exempted (paragraph 2.03(a)). So a free item can still be held to another law's conditions.

Other laws that apply to imports, in our import policy guide →

Do Indian quality control orders apply to imports, and are exporters exempt?

Yes, they apply to imports, as Indian rules for domestic goods do (Foreign Trade Policy paragraph 2.03(a)). Exporters get limited relief: EOUs, and Advance Authorization holders with the exemption endorsed, may import inputs for export production without meeting them, and SEZ units may import for use inside the zone (paragraphs 2.03(A)(i) to (iii)).

Quality control orders and imports, in our import policy guide →

Quality Control Orders in India explained →

Do quality control orders apply to imports by SEZ units?

Not for use inside the zone. Since June 2, 2026, SEZ units and developers may import all permissible goods without meeting BIS quality control orders, for use inside the SEZ (Notification 20/2026-27, revised Foreign Trade Policy paragraph 2.03A(iii)). Anything moved into the domestic market must meet the orders.

SEZ and EOU imports, in our import policy guide →

QCO exemption widened to all permissible SEZ imports → Our insight

Does India ban imports made with forced labor, and what can DGFT ask for?

Yes. Notification 23/2026-27 of July 13, 2026 bans imports of goods made wholly or partly with forced labor: at once in its English text, 30 days after publication in its Hindi. The Government may name goods; our register shows none named as of October 28, 2026. DGFT's enquiry can seek information from importers, exporters and manufacturers (Handbook paragraph 2.50A).

The forced labor prohibition, in our import policy guide →

FTP prohibits imports of goods produced using forced labor → Our insight

Do I have to register copper or aluminum imports in an import monitoring system?

Yes, for the copper and aluminum items listed in ITC (HS) Chapters 74 and 76: importers give advance information in NFMIMS and get an automatic registration number. Since June 30, 2026, they may register any time before Customs gives the Out of Charge order (Notification 22/2026-27). The fee is ₹500 a number (Appendix 2K item 18, May 14, 2025).

Import monitoring systems, in our import policy guide →

NFMIMS registration allowed until Customs out of charge → Our insight

Do metal scrap imports need a pre-shipment inspection certificate, and which ports can skip it?

Each metal scrap consignment needs a pre-shipment inspection certificate (Handbook paragraph 2.51). Since October 21, 2026, scrap from the USA, the UK, Canada, New Zealand, Australia and the EU is exempt, on conditions, if it enters through one of eleven sea ports (Public

Notice 35/2026-27). They are Chennai, Tuticorin, Kandla, JNPT, Mumbai, Krishnapatnam, Mundra, Kattupalli, Hazira, Kamarajar and Adani Gangavaram.

Metal scrap imports, in our import policy guide →

Scrap imports without PSIC now through eleven ports → Our insight

Do I need a licence to import samples of a restricted item?

Not for bona fide technical and trade samples, with exceptions. Samples of restricted items need no authorization, except defense or security items, seeds, bees and new drugs (Foreign Trade Policy paragraph 2.25). The Handbook says "vegetable seeds" instead of "seeds" (paragraph 2.62(a)), so the two texts don't quite agree.

Samples, gifts and prototypes, in our import policy guide →

Can I import gifts by courier or post?

Only if you pay the full duty. Gifts sent by post or courier, including goods bought on e-commerce sites, are prohibited unless the full applicable duty is paid (Foreign Trade Policy paragraph 2.26 and its Explanation). Life-saving drugs and medicines, and rakhis (but not gifts sent with them), are the exceptions.

Gifts and courier imports, in our import policy guide →

If DGFT restricts my product after I sign a contract, can the goods still come in?

Sometimes. Goods backed by an irrevocable letter of credit opened before the change may still come in, within its balance, if the letter is registered with the Regional Authority within 15 days (Foreign Trade Policy paragraph 1.05(b)). High-sea sales don't get this, and a notification can switch it off, as Notification 02/2026-27 did for heading 7113 jewelry.

When the policy changes mid-contract, in our import policy guide →

Policy changes and letters of credit, for foreign suppliers →

How do I get an import authorization for a restricted item?

Apply online to DGFT headquarters in form ANF 2M (Handbook of Procedures paragraph 2.47(a)). DGFT may take the advice of the EXIM Facilitation Committee, which normally meets once a month, and seek technical authorities' comments in writing before it decides (paragraph 2.48). Only the actual user may import the goods, unless DGFT waives that condition (Foreign Trade Policy paragraph 2.09).

DGFT import authorization: how to import a restricted item →

How long does DGFT take to approve a restricted import application?

The Handbook sets no time for it. Its list of disposal times in working days (Handbook of Procedures paragraph 11.10) is for Regional Authorities and has no line for restricted imports,

which go to DGFT headquarters (paragraph 2.47(a)). DGFT may take the advice of the EXIM Facilitation Committee, which normally meets once a month (paragraph 2.48).

Who decides a restricted import application, and how →

How long is a restricted import authorization valid, can it be revalidated or transferred, and what does it cost?

An authorization is normally valid for 18 months, and headquarters may revalidate it for six months on merits (Handbook paragraphs 2.16 and 2.20(a)). Passing on goods under its actual user condition needs prior permission for two years after import, unless freely importable by then (2.46). The fee is ₹1 per ₹1,000 of CIF value, ₹500 to ₹1 lakh (Appendix 2K).

Validity, revalidation and fees, in our import authorization guide →

Can goods that arrived before the authorization was issued still be cleared?

Clearance depends on the item. Goods that have arrived but aren't cleared can be warehoused under a bill of entry for warehousing, then cleared against an authorization issued later (Foreign Trade Policy paragraph 2.12). That facility isn't available for restricted items or goods traded through State Trading Enterprises, unless DGFT specifically allows it.

Clearing goods against a DGFT authorization →

Do laptops, tablets and servers need an import authorization, and what happens in 2027?

Yes, for 2026: laptops, tablets, all-in-one PCs, ultra small form factor computers and servers under HSN 8471 are restricted (Policy Circular 08/2025-26). Importers apply in DGFT's Import Management System from December 22, 2025 to December 15, 2026, and authorizations last until December 31, 2026. As of October 28, 2026, we've seen no procedure for 2027.

IT hardware imports, in our import authorization guide →

Do I need a DGFT authorization to import silver bars, and what is the simplified route?

Yes, since May 16, 2026, for silver bars under 71069221 and 71069229 (Notification 17/2026-27). Since June 2, unwrought silver and powder need an authorization even through nominated banks, agencies or IIBX (Notification 19/2026-27). From October 15, applicants paying duty at the general rate can get a six-month authorization by a simplified route, except for silver dore (Trade Notice 30/2026-27).

Silver imports, in our import authorization guide →

Silver import authorizations simplified on self-declaration → Our insight

Can I import gold or silver jewelry under heading 7113?

Mostly only with a DGFT authorization. Notification 02/2026-27 made every line under heading 7113 restricted on April 1, 2026, whatever the prior contract, letter of credit or shipment status.

Five gold jewelry lines need no licence under a valid India-UAE CEPA tariff rate quota. EOU and SEZ imports not sold in India, and gem and jewelry export schemes, are exempt.

Restricted items and their authorizations →

Eleven HS 7113 jewelry lines move from free to restricted → Our insight

Are yellow peas, tur and urad free to import, and until when?

Yes, until March 31, 2027. Urad and tur stay free to import up to that date (Notifications 71 and 72/2025-26). Yellow peas are free for consignments whose bill of lading is issued by then, without the minimum import price or port restriction but subject to registration in the online Import Monitoring System (Notification 70/2025-26).

Pulses and other 2026 import changes, in our import policy guide →

Is the duty-free raw sugar quota still open?

Yes, until December 31, 2026. Notification 31/2026-27 of August 20, 2026 allowed 10 lakh metric tons of raw sugar to be imported duty free under a tariff rate quota until October 31, 2026. Notification 45/2026-27 of October 19, 2026 extended that window to December 31, 2026.

Tariff rate quotas and 2026 import changes, in our import policy guide →

Duty-free raw sugar quota deadline moved to December 31 → Our insight

Can I import second-hand machinery into India, and is there an age limit?

Yes: most second-hand capital goods are free to import, and Foreign Trade Policy paragraph 2.31 sets no age or residual-life limit for them. Second-hand desktop computers, refurbished PC and laptop spares, air conditioners and diesel generating sets are restricted. Refurbished spares of capital goods need a Chartered Engineer's certificate of at least 80% residual life.

Import second-hand machinery into India: the DGFT rules →

What is a minimum import price, and which products have one?

A minimum import price makes an item restricted when its CIF value is below a set floor, and free above it (Notification 29/2026-27, for example). Floors notified or extended in 2026 in our register cover paper board, ATS-8, sulfadiazine, glufosinate, S-PVC resin, float glass, penicillin G potassium, amoxicillin trihydrate, 6-APA and umbrellas. The Policy keeps no consolidated list.

Minimum import prices in India: products, floors and end dates →

Minimum import prices extended on three products → Our insight

Foreign companies selling to India

Are goods made in Pakistan banned even when they're shipped through another country?

Yes. Direct or indirect import or transit of all goods made in or exported from Pakistan is prohibited, even goods that are otherwise free to import (Foreign Trade Policy paragraph 2.20A). The Policy gives national security and public policy as the reasons, and any exception needs the Government of India's prior approval.

Country bans and other limits, for foreign suppliers →

Prohibited imports, in our import policy guide →

Can our Indian company import prototypes for product development?

Yes, on payment of duty and without an authorization (Foreign Trade Policy paragraph 2.30). An actual user engaged in production, or holding an industrial licence or letter of intent for research, may import a new or second-hand prototype for product development or research. It files a self-declaration, to Customs' satisfaction.

Samples and prototypes, in our import policy guide →

What foreign companies can send to an Indian unit →

When is a Chartered Engineer's certificate needed for used goods?

For refurbished or reconditioned spares of capital goods: they're free to import with a Chartered Engineer's certificate of at least 80% residual life (Foreign Trade Policy paragraph 2.31, row I(c)). Most other second-hand capital goods are free with no residual-life condition in that paragraph (row I(d)).

Refurbished spares and the 80% rule, in our second-hand machinery guide →

Can we import refurbished or used goods that aren't capital goods?

Usually only with an authorization: second-hand goods other than capital goods are restricted (Foreign Trade Policy paragraph 2.31, row II). Goods brought in for repair and re-exported are free (row III), and an industrial actual user may import a second-hand sample on paying duty (paragraph 2.30).

Used goods other than machinery, in our second-hand machinery guide →

Can goods come to India for repair and go back out?

Yes. Second-hand goods imported for repair or refurbishing are free, provided they're re-exported and the waste is handled under Indian law (Foreign Trade Policy paragraph 2.31, row III). In the other direction, capital goods sent abroad for repair, testing or upgrading can come back without an authorization, unless restricted (paragraph 2.28).

Repair and refurbishing imports, in our second-hand machinery guide →

Does a minimum import price apply to imports by Advance Authorization holders, EOUs and SEZ units?

Mostly not. Most 2026 minimum import prices don't apply to imports by Advance Authorization holders, EOUs and SEZ units, as long as the goods aren't sold into the domestic market (Notifications 25 and 29/2026-27, for example). Check the notification for your product, since each one sets its own terms.

Which minimum import prices exempt AA, EOU and SEZ imports →

Can a foreign company be the importer itself, or must an Indian entity import?

Whoever imports needs an Importer-Exporter Code (IEC), and the IEC is that entity's PAN (section 7 of the Foreign Trade (Development and Regulation) Act; Foreign Trade Policy paragraph 2.05). No text we read says in words whether a foreign entity without an Indian PAN can hold one. DGFT issues IECs online, on its IEC page.

Exporting to India: DGFT import rules for foreign companies →

Who applies for a restricted-item import authorization: the foreign supplier or the Indian importer?

The Indian importer that will use the goods, as a rule. Applications go online to DGFT headquarters in form ANF 2M (Handbook of Procedures paragraph 2.47(a)), and only the actual user may import the goods, unless DGFT waives that condition (Foreign Trade Policy paragraph 2.09).

Who applies, and what the foreign supplier does →

How the Indian importer applies →

Who decides an import authorization: DGFT, the EXIM Facilitation Committee or a technical ministry?

DGFT, or a Regional Authority it authorizes, grants or refuses it. DGFT may take the advice of the EXIM Facilitation Committee, which normally meets once a month, and seek technical authorities' comments in writing (Handbook of Procedures paragraph 2.48). Where a case waited for those comments, the committee's Chairman approves it and the committee approves it afterwards (paragraph 2.48(c)).

The EXIM Facilitation Committee and the decision →

What happens if a restricted item arrives without a valid authorization?

Importing in breach of the Foreign Trade Policy can bring a penalty of at least ₹10,000 and up to five times the value of the goods, whichever is more (section 11(2) of the Act). The goods can be confiscated, and released only on paying redemption charges equal to their market value (section 11(8) and (9)).

Penalties and confiscation, in our penalties and appeals guide →

Getting the authorization first →

What can our Indian buyer do if DGFT refuses an authorization or cuts the quantity?

The buyer can ask DGFT to relax a rule for genuine hardship and adverse impact on trade, in form ANF-2D for ₹2,000 (Foreign Trade Policy paragraph 2.59; Handbook paragraph 2.96(a)). In ANF-2E, it can ask for a review and a personal hearing; a committee review costs ₹5,000 (paragraph 2.60; Appendix 2K of May 14, 2025).

Relaxation, review and personal hearings →

When a buyer's application fails →

Our government wants an Indian end-user certificate before it grants our export licence. Who issues it?

A DGFT Regional Authority. When a foreign government asks for proof of the end user before goods leave for India, the Regional Authority may issue an End User Certificate (Handbook of Procedures paragraph 2.35). For a restricted item, the certificate can't exceed the quantity and value of a valid DGFT import authorization.

End User Certificates, in our import authorization guide →

Paperwork a foreign supplier may need →

Exporters

How do I get an export authorization for a restricted item, and can it be revalidated?

Apply online to DGFT headquarters in form ANF 2N, and the EXIM Facilitation Committee considers it on merits (Handbook of Procedures paragraph 2.68). The fee is ₹1,000 (Appendix 2K

of May 14, 2025). The authorization is normally valid for 24 months, and headquarters may revalidate it six months at a time, up to 12 months (paragraphs 2.16(i) and 2.20(b)).

Restricted exports and their authorizations →

SCOMET licence: our guide to dual-use exports →

Which exports were restricted, prohibited or freed in 2026?

Wheat and wheat flour became free to export on August 24, 2026 (Notifications 34 and 35/2026-27). Grade A and B baryte became restricted under Notification 12/2026-27 of April 17, and wood pellets and briquettes on April 6 (Notification 04/2026-27). Sugar exports were prohibited, with exceptions, from May 13 until September 30, 2026 or further orders, whichever came first (Notification 16/2026-27).

Every 2026 export policy change, in our export policy guide →

Wheat and wheat flour exports move from prohibited to free → Our insight

Can I send free samples or gifts abroad?

Yes: trade and technical samples of freely exportable items can be exported without limit (Foreign Trade Policy paragraph 2.43(a)). Gifts worth up to ₹5,00,000 in a licensing year may be exported, edible items included (paragraph 2.44). An item restricted for export can go as a gift only with an export authorization.

Samples and gifts, in our export policy guide →

Can I export through a merchant or another firm and still claim benefits?

Yes. Third-party exports, except deemed exports, are allowed under the Foreign Trade Policy (paragraph 2.42). The shipping bill names both the manufacturer and the third-party exporter, and the e-BRC, export order and invoice should be in the third-party exporter's name.

Third-party exports, in our export policy guide →

Is merchanting trade allowed?

Yes, under RBI's rules. Merchanting trade, where an Indian intermediary arranges a shipment between two foreign countries without the goods touching India, is allowed, but not for CITES and SCOMET goods (Foreign Trade Policy paragraph 2.39). For re-exports, transshipments and merchanting trade, agencies may issue back-to-back non-preferential certificates of origin (Handbook paragraph 2.93(f)).

Merchanting and re-exports, in our export policy guide →

Merchanting trade is allowed except for SCOMET and CITES goods → Our insight

Can I invoice exports in rupees or any currency and still get FTP benefits?

Yes. Since August 20, 2026, export contracts and invoices, except with Asian Clearing Union members, may be in any foreign currency or in rupees, and proceeds may be realized in either (Notification 30/2026-27, paragraph 2.52(a)). Rupee payments into non-residents' rupee accounts count for FTP benefits at par with foreign currency, except for Nepal and Bhutan (paragraph 2.53).

Currency and realization, in our export policy guide →

Export proceeds may be realized in any foreign currency or rupees → Our insight

What happens if my buyer never pays, and how long do I have to realize the proceeds?

Nine months, as a rule. RBI cut it from fifteen months on June 5, 2026 (FEMA 23(R)/(8)/2026-RB), and its 2026 regulations set nine from October 1 (FEMA 23(R)/(1)/2026-RB). Miss it and you're liable to return the FTP benefits (Foreign Trade Policy paragraph 2.54(a)). You may ask RBI to write off the amount if nonpayment is beyond your control (paragraph 2.54(b)).

Getting paid and write-offs, in our export policy guide →

RBI cuts export realization period to nine months from October 1 → Our insight

What is an e-BRC, and what changed in 2026?

An e-BRC is the electronic bank realization certificate that lets DGFT receive export realization details from banks (Foreign Trade Policy paragraph 1.17(a)). Since January 13, 2026, it also carries the exporter's GSTIN and the GST invoice number and date (Public Notice 42/2025-26).

Realization and the e-BRC, in our export policy guide →

Do I still need an RCMC, and is a small consignment exempt?

Yes, unless an exemption applies. Anyone applying for an authorization or other Foreign Trade Policy benefit needs a Registration-cum-Membership Certificate, though authorizations for restricted items don't (paragraph 2.57(a)). Since September 15, 2026, an export consignment with an FOB value of ₹3,00,000 or less needs none (Notification 36/2026-27).

What changed for exporters in 2026, in our DGFT guide →

No RCMC needed for export consignments up to ₹3,00,000 FOB → Our insight

Is there still a value limit on courier exports?

No. Since April 1, 2026, courier exports have had no value limit per consignment; the limit had been ₹10,00,000 (Notification 67/2025-26, revised Foreign Trade Policy paragraph 9.05). Exports by courier or post still follow the export policy in ITC (HS), so a restricted item still needs its authorization.

E-commerce exports from India: courier rules and Exporter-on-Record →

Can an e-commerce company hold export-only inventory in India, and who is the Exporter-on-Record?

Yes, since August 5, 2026, through an Exporter-on-Record: an entity registered with DGFT in form ANF-9A that holds export-only inventory bought from Indian sellers (Notification 27/2026-27; Public Notice 25/2026-27). Only Indian-origin goods qualify, title passes only against a confirmed export order, and marketplace entities are excluded (Foreign Trade Policy paragraph 9.15).

The Exporter-on-Record framework, in our e-commerce exports guide →

E-commerce exporters may hold export-only inventory under the FTP → Our insight

Advance Authorization, DFIA and EPCG

What is an Advance Authorization, and what can I import under it?

An Advance Authorization lets you import inputs duty free when they're physically built into a product you export; fuel, oil and catalysts used up in making it may also be allowed (Foreign Trade Policy paragraph 4.03(a)). The inputs come from the Standard Input Output Norms (SION), your self-declaration, a Norms Committee ruling or the self-ratification scheme (paragraph 4.03(b)).

Advance Authorization scheme: duty-free inputs for exporters →

Can a merchant exporter get an Advance Authorization?

Yes, if it's tied to a supporting manufacturer. Foreign Trade Policy paragraph 4.05(a) lets manufacturer exporters, and merchant exporters tied to a supporting manufacturer, apply. The authorization covers physical exports, including supplies to SEZs, intermediate supplies, specified deemed exports, and ship and aircraft stores where a SION exists (paragraph 4.05(c)).

Who can apply, in our Advance Authorization guide →

Which duties does an Advance Authorization waive, and is IGST covered?

Imports under it are exempt from basic customs duty, additional customs duty, education cess, and anti-dumping, countervailing and safeguard duties (Foreign Trade Policy paragraph 4.14). IGST and compensation cess are exempt too, for physical and deemed exports. Supplies under paragraphs 7.02(c) and 7.02(f) don't get the anti-dumping, countervailing and safeguard exemption.

Duties an Advance Authorization covers →

What value addition does an Advance Authorization need, and how is it worked out?

Usually at least 15% (Foreign Trade Policy paragraph 4.09). Appendix 4D lists products where it can be lower, while tea needs 50% and spices 25%. Value addition is (A minus B) divided by B, times 100: A is the FOB value realized, and B the CIF value of the inputs plus any inputs on which drawback is claimed (paragraph 4.08).

Value addition, worked through, in our Advance Authorization guide →

What if there's no SION for my product, and who fixes the norms?

The inputs allowed can come from your self-declaration, a Norms Committee ruling or the self-ratification scheme instead of a SION (Foreign Trade Policy paragraph 4.03(b)). Seven Norms Committees at DGFT headquarters fix input-output norms, each for a range of ITC (HS) chapters (Handbook of Procedures paragraph 4.06(i)).

SIONs, ad hoc norms and the Norms Committees →

How long are ad hoc norms valid, and can another exporter use them?

Norms the Norms Committees ratified on or after April 1, 2015 for self-declared authorizations stay valid up to March 31, 2028 (Public Notice 07/2026-27, amended Handbook paragraph 4.12(vi)). Other applicants may use them on a repeat basis. The rule doesn't cover authorizations for Appendix 4P items, or norms a committee expressly kept from other applicants.

Ad hoc norms, in our Advance Authorization guide →

Ad hoc norms ratified since April 2015 valid until March 31, 2028 → Our insight

Is DGFT suspending unused SIONs?

DGFT has proposed it. On September 7, 2026, Trade Notice 26/2026-27 proposed suspending 544 SIONs unused under Advance Authorization and DFIA in the last three financial years, and gave 15 days for comments. As of October 28, 2026, our register holds no final decision.

SIONs and the 2026 proposal, in our Advance Authorization guide →

DGFT proposes to suspend 544 SIONs unused for three years → Our insight

Can I sell Advance Authorization inputs or the finished goods in India?

Not the inputs. The authorization and the imported inputs carry an actual user condition and can't be transferred, even after the export obligation is met (Foreign Trade Policy paragraph 4.16(i)). Once the obligation is met, you may sell the products you made from those inputs.

The actual user condition, in our Advance Authorization guide →

When do I use an Advance Release Order or an invalidation letter?

Both let an Advance Authorization or DFIA holder buy inputs in India instead of importing them (Foreign Trade Policy paragraph 4.20(i)). The Regional Authority issues an invalidation letter if the supplier will source its inputs duty free under its own Advance Authorization. It issues an Advance Release Order if it will claim a deemed export refund (paragraphs 4.20(ii) and (iii)).

Buying inputs in India, in our Advance Authorization guide →

Can I import QCO-covered inputs under an Advance Authorization without BIS certification?

Yes, only if the exemption is endorsed on the authorization (Foreign Trade Policy paragraph 2.03(A)(i)). Those inputs must come in before export, count only for physical exports, can never go to the domestic market and can't be clubbed with other authorizations. Unused inputs are destroyed or re-exported, paying duty, interest and a composition fee of 10% of CIF value.

QCO-exempt inputs, in our Advance Authorization guide →

Quality Control Orders in India explained →

How much gold can one Advance Authorization cover?

Up to 100 kg, since May 14, 2026. A new gold authorization is issued only after at least 50% of the export obligation on earlier gold authorizations is met. First-time applicants get a physical inspection, and holders send a fortnightly report certified by a Chartered Accountant (Public Notice 11/2026-27, notes 1 to 4).

Gold and the 2026 conditions, in our Advance Authorization guide →

DGFT caps gold Advance Authorizations at 100 kg each → Our insight

Can I get one Advance Authorization for a whole year?

Yes, if you've exported in the two preceding financial years. An Advance Authorization for Annual Requirement covers only products with a notified SION, and it's worth up to 300% of the previous year's exports or ₹1 crore, whichever is higher (Foreign Trade Policy paragraph 4.07).

Annual Advance Authorizations, in our Advance Authorization guide →

What is a DFIA, and can it be transferred?

A Duty Free Import Authorization exempts basic customs duty only and is issued after export, for products with a notified SION (Foreign Trade Policy paragraphs 4.25 and 4.26). You file before exporting and finish the exports within 12 months of filing. Then the Regional Authority issues a transferable DFIA, valid for 12 months with no revalidation (paragraph 4.28).

DFIA compared with Advance Authorization →

What is the application fee for an Advance Authorization or an EPCG authorization?

An MSME pays ₹100 up to ₹1 crore of CIF value or duty saved, and ₹5,000 above that. Other applicants pay ₹1 for every ₹1,000, with a minimum of ₹500 and a maximum of ₹1 lakh. The same scale covers DFIA (Appendix 2K, item 3, in the copy last changed May 14, 2025).

Fees, in our Advance Authorization guide →

Applying for EPCG →

Can the import validity of an Advance Authorization be extended?

Yes, once. Imports must be made within 12 months of issue, and one revalidation of 12 months is allowed (Handbook of Procedures paragraph 4.39). That's separate from the export obligation period, which runs 18 months from issue and has its own paid extensions (paragraph 4.40).

Import validity and revalidation →

Export obligation extensions →

What are deemed exports, and what benefits do they get?

Deemed exports are supplies of goods made in India that don't leave the country (Foreign Trade Policy paragraph 7.01). They include supplies against an Advance Authorization or DFIA, to EOUs, and of capital goods against EPCG (paragraph 7.02). The benefits are an Advance Authorization or DFIA, deemed export drawback, and refund of terminal excise duty (paragraph 7.03).

Deemed exports, in our Advance Authorization guide →

How long do I have to export under an Advance Authorization, and how do I extend it?

Eighteen months from issue, longer for defense, military store, aerospace and nuclear energy items (Handbook paragraph 4.40). The Regional Authority may grant two extensions of up to six months each, for ₹5,000 to ₹15,000 and then ₹10,000 to ₹30,000 by CIF value, never past 12 months from the period's expiry. Each needs a self-declaration that unused inputs are on hand.

Export obligation discharge certificate (EODC) and extensions →

Was there an automatic export obligation extension in 2026, and what now that August 31 has passed?

Yes. Export obligations ending between March 1 and May 31, 2026 were extended automatically to August 31, 2026, for Advance Authorizations and for EPCG blocks and full periods (Handbook paragraph 4.40(l); paragraphs 5.13(f) and 5.16(f)). That relief has ended, so the normal paid extensions apply again (paragraph 4.40(e) and (f) for Advance Authorizations).

The 2026 automatic extension and what replaced it →

How do I close an Advance Authorization and get the EODC?

Within six months of the export obligation period ending, apply online for the Export Obligation Discharge Certificate, linking your shipping bills (Handbook paragraphs 4.43(b) and 4.47(b)). For voluntary duty paid since August 1, 2026, DGFT counts only Customs' ICEGATE data (Trade Notice 15/2026-27). Its own norm is 15 working days from a complete application (paragraph 11.10).

Closing an Advance Authorization, step by step →

EODC processing to use voluntary duty payment data from ICEGATE → Our insight

What happens if I can't meet my export obligation?

Under an Advance Authorization, you regularize a bona fide shortfall in quantity by paying duty with interest on the unused inputs, plus 10% of CIF value for restricted ones (Handbook paragraph 4.49). Under EPCG, you pay proportionate duty and interest (paragraph 5.21). Default can bring action under the Act and the Denied Entity List (Foreign Trade Policy paragraph 2.14).

Shortfalls and regularization, in our export obligation guide →

The Denied Entity List →

How do I close an EPCG authorization?

EPCG closes with the Export Obligation Discharge Certificate, once the obligation is met; until then the capital goods carry an actual user condition (Foreign Trade Policy paragraph 5.03). A shortfall is settled by paying duty in proportion, with interest, and an unused authorization may be surrendered without penalty (Handbook paragraph 5.21). DGFT's own norm is 30 working days (paragraph 11.10).

Closing an EPCG authorization →

The EPCG scheme →

How do EPCG blocks and extensions work, and what do they cost?

At least 50% of the specific obligation is due in years one to four, and the rest in years five and six (Handbook paragraph 5.13(a)). After six years, you may get two one-year extensions or one of two years, for ₹20,000, ₹30,000 or ₹60,000 by duty saved. A Regional Authority can't extend it past eight years from issue (paragraph 5.16).

EPCG blocks and extensions, in our export obligation guide →

Is my EPCG average export obligation cut for 2024-25?

Your average export obligation may be cut. When a sector's exports fall more than 5% in a year, Handbook paragraph 5.17(a) lets its average export obligation be cut in proportion. Policy Circular 10/2025-26 of February 26, 2026 applies this to 2024-25: it lists the product groups whose exports fell and asks Regional Authorities to re-fix the obligation.

The average export obligation, in our EPCG guide →

What is the EPCG scheme, and what export obligation comes with it?

EPCG lets you import capital goods for making goods or services at zero customs duty, and for physical exports free of IGST and compensation cess (Foreign Trade Policy paragraph 5.01(a)). You then export six times the duties, taxes and cess saved within six years (paragraph 5.01(b)), and keep up your average exports of the last three years every year (5.04(c)).

EPCG scheme: zero-duty capital goods and the export obligation →

Can my EPCG export obligation be reduced?

Yes: buying capital goods in India cuts the specific obligation by 25%, and green technology products carry 75% (Foreign Trade Policy paragraphs 5.04(d) and 5.10). Units in the North Eastern states, Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh carry 25% (5.11). Meeting 75% and the whole average obligation in half the period waives the rest (5.09), and only one reduction applies (5.04(l)).

Reduced export obligations, in our EPCG guide →

Which exports count toward the EPCG export obligation?

Exports of the goods the authorization covers, made by you or your supporting manufacturer, or services you render, directly or through a third party (Foreign Trade Policy paragraphs 5.04(a) and (b)). Deemed exports count too, as do exports under Advance Authorization, DFIA, drawback, RoSCTL and RoDTEP (paragraphs 5.04(e) and (f)). Only exports above your average obligation count (paragraph 5.04(c)).

Meeting the EPCG export obligation →

Who certifies EPCG installation, and by when?

Within three years of completing the imports, you give the Regional Authority a certificate confirming installation at your factory or your supporting manufacturer's (Handbook of Procedures paragraph 5.04(a)). It comes from the jurisdictional Customs authority or an independent Chartered Engineer, at your choice. The deadline can be extended, up to the export obligation period, for ₹10,000 a year.

Installation and the actual user condition, in our EPCG guide →

Does EPCG cover machinery bought in India?

Yes. Sourcing the capital goods in India cuts the specific export obligation by 25%, while any average obligation stays the same (Foreign Trade Policy paragraph 5.04(d)). Only one benefit among domestic sourcing, early completion, green technology and the regional reduction applies (paragraph 5.04(l)).

Buying capital goods in India under EPCG →

RoDTEP, RoSCTL and the Export Promotion Mission

Do e-commerce exports get RoDTEP?

Under the Exporter-on-Record framework, yes: rebates such as RoDTEP, RoSCTL and drawback pass to the Indian sellers in proportion to their FOB value (Foreign Trade Policy paragraph 9.17). The Exporter-on-Record may keep an administrative charge of at most 10% (Handbook paragraph 9.03(vi)). RoDTEP's exclusions still apply, such as exports without ICEGATE electronic documentation or from non-EDI ports (paragraph 4.55).

Who can claim RoDTEP, in our RoDTEP guide →

The Exporter-on-Record framework →

Can I claim RoDTEP on exports under Advance Authorization, or from an SEZ or EOU?

Yes. Notification 41/2026-27 continues RoDTEP until December 31, 2026 for exports by DTA units, Advance Authorization holders, SEZ units and EOUs. Products made by Advance Authorization holders, EOUs and SEZ units get the separate rates in Appendix 4RE (Foreign Trade Policy paragraphs 4.54(vii) and 4.59A).

RoDTEP for AA, EOU and SEZ exports →

Is RoDTEP available, until when, and at what rates?

Yes, until December 31, 2026, at the rates and caps in force on September 30, 2026 (Notification 41/2026-27). RoDTEP refunds duties, taxes and levies on exported products that aren't refunded any other way (Foreign Trade Policy paragraph 4.54(i)). As of October 28, 2026, our register holds nothing beyond that date.

RoDTEP scheme: rates, claims and the 2026 changes →

RoDTEP export scheme continues until December 31, 2026 → Our insight

Were RoDTEP rates cut in 2026, and which rate applied from February 23 to March 31?

Yes: on February 23, 2026, Notification 60/2025-26 halved all RoDTEP rates and caps, and a corrigendum the next day took ITC (HS) chapters 1 to 24 out of the cut. Notification 66/2025-26 restored the rates from March 23. Our reading is that February 23 to March 22 ran at half rates; no official text says so outright.

The 2026 rate changes, in our RoDTEP guide →

Which exports can't claim RoDTEP?

Foreign Trade Policy paragraph 4.55 excludes, among others, re-exports of imported goods, transshipments, and goods under a minimum export price or export duty. Restricted or prohibited exports, deemed exports, supplies from DTA units to SEZ units and exports from non-EDI ports are out too. The Government may change these categories later (paragraph 4.55A).

RoDTEP exclusions, in our RoDTEP guide →

How is RoDTEP given and used, and does the money reach my bank account?

Not as cash. RoDTEP is given as a transferable e-scrip in CBIC's electronic ledger, and the scrip can pay basic customs duty only (Foreign Trade Policy paragraphs 4.54(ix) and 4.56). The rebate is a percentage of FOB value, with a cap per unit where needed, for each eight-digit code listed in Appendix 4R (paragraph 4.54(vii)).

How RoDTEP scrips work →

Can I sell or transfer RoDTEP scrips?

Yes, the e-scrip is transferable (Foreign Trade Policy paragraph 4.54(ix)). It sits in CBIC's electronic ledger and can pay basic customs duty only (paragraph 4.56). The rebate is treated as never given if the export proceeds don't arrive within the time FEMA allows (paragraph 4.54(viii)).

RoDTEP scrips, in our RoDTEP guide →

Who files the Annual RoDTEP Return, by when, and what does a late filing cost?

Exporters whose RoDTEP claims top ₹1 crore in a financial year file the Annual RoDTEP Return by March 31 of the next year (Handbook paragraph 4.94). Late filing costs ₹10,000 up to June 30 and ₹20,000 after, and without the return no further claims are scrolled out. For 2025-26 claims, that means by March 31, 2027, unless DGFT extends it.

The Annual RoDTEP Return, in our RoDTEP guide →

Where do I find the RoDTEP rate for my product?

In Appendix 4R, which gives a rate as a percentage of FOB value, with a per-unit cap where needed, for each eight-digit HS code (Foreign Trade Policy paragraph 4.54(vii)). Products made by Advance Authorization holders, EOUs and SEZ units use Appendix 4RE. Both were realigned with the Finance Act 2026 tariff changes from May 1, 2026 (Notification 15/2026-27).

RoDTEP rates and appendices →

Does RoDTEP depend on the buyer paying?

Yes. The rebate is treated as never given if the sale proceeds don't arrive within the time allowed under FEMA (Foreign Trade Policy paragraph 4.54(viii)). RBI cut that period from fifteen months

to nine on June 5, 2026 (FEMA 23(R)/(8)/2026-RB), and set nine months in its 2026 regulations from October 1, 2026 (FEMA 23(R)/(1)/2026-RB).

RoDTEP and realization, in our RoDTEP guide →

RoDTEP and RoSCTL apply on full FOB value within the 12.5% limit → Our insight

Can I pay IGST or cess with a RoDTEP scrip?

No. Foreign Trade Policy paragraph 4.56 limits a RoDTEP e-scrip to paying basic customs duty, so IGST and compensation cess have to be paid another way. The scrip sits in CBIC's electronic ledger, and you can transfer it to another holder (paragraph 4.54(ix)).

What a RoDTEP scrip can pay →

Is RoSCTL still available for garments and made-ups?

Yes, until December 31, 2026. The Ministry of Textiles extended RoSCTL for apparel, garments and made-ups from October 1 to December 31, 2026, with the same scope, rates and caps as on September 30, 2026 (its notification of September 30, 2026). The rebate is a transferable e-scrip in the Customs ledger, issued without waiting for export proceeds.

RoSCTL, in our RoDTEP guide →

RoSCTL for apparel and made-ups extended to December 31, 2026 → Our insight

What is the Export Promotion Mission, and what replaced interest equalization?

The Export Promotion Mission has ₹25,060 crore for 2025-26 to 2030-31 and folds in earlier schemes, interest equalization and the Market Access Initiative among them. It runs through Niryat Protsahan, for trade finance such as interest subvention, and Niryat Disha, for export readiness and market access (DGFT's Export Promotion Mission page).

Export Promotion Mission: interest subvention, TRACE and RELIEF →

How much interest subvention can I get on export credit, and who handles it?

Interest subvention began on January 2, 2026 at 2.75% a year on rupee export credit before and after shipment (Trade Notice 20/2025-26). It's for MSMEs exporting products on a positive list, up to ₹50 lakh per exporter a year. Since April 1, 2026, EXIM Bank runs it instead of RBI, and banks pass the benefit upfront (Trade Notice 17/2026-27).

Interest subvention, in our Export Promotion Mission guide →

Export credit subvention adds 167 iron and steel lines for MSEs → Our insight

What does TRACE pay for testing and certification?

TRACE pays micro and small enterprises up to 95% of a certification's cost net of taxes, and medium enterprises up to 80%, or the notified ceiling if lower. Each IEC can get ₹50 lakh a

financial year at most (Trade Notice 09/2026-27, revised paragraph 2(b)). It pays half after the certification and half after the linked exports (paragraph 2(c)).

TRACE, in our Export Promotion Mission guide →

TRACE certification support rises to 95% for micro and small firms → Our insight

Is there support for export factoring?

Yes, under the Export Promotion Mission's support for alternative trade instruments such as factoring. From October 26, 2026, it no longer needs a UIN, and factoring done on or after February 20, 2026 can be claimed once the portal for it is live (Trade Notice 32/2026-27, items (a) and (d)).

Factoring support, in our Export Promotion Mission guide →

Export factoring support drops UIN and sets claim deadlines → Our insight

What is RELIEF, and is it still open?

RELIEF supports exporters hit by shipping disruption in the Gulf and West Asia, through ECGC: extra cover for insured exporters, help to take cover, and surcharge refunds for MSMEs without ECGC cover (Notification 65/2025-26). Egypt and Jordan were added on April 17, 2026 (Notification 11/2026-27). Its second component now covers shipments up to March 31, 2027 (Notification 37/2026-27).

RELIEF, in our Export Promotion Mission guide →

RELIEF Component II extended to shipments up to March 31, 2027 → Our insight

Trade agreements and certificates of origin

Who issues certificates of origin now, where, and at what fee?

Since April 7, 2026, only agencies DGFT authorizes may issue them for Indian exports (Notification 05/2026-27), and only on trade.gov.in or another platform DGFT designates (Public Notice 01/2026-27). A preferential certificate costs ₹600 and a non-preferential one ₹200 (Appendix 2K of May 14, 2025). The Handbook's own norm is one working day (paragraph 2.88(d)).

Certificates of origin, in our trade agreements guide →

Only DGFT-authorized agencies may issue certificates of origin → Our insight

What's the difference between a preferential and a non-preferential certificate of origin?

A preferential certificate claims a lower duty under a trade agreement or a one-way tariff preference; a non-preferential one shows origin but gives no tariff preference (Handbook paragraphs 2.90 and 2.93(b)). Appendix 2B lists the issuers for trade agreements, 2C for GSP and 2E for non-preferential certificates. They cost ₹600 and ₹200 (Appendix 2K of May 14, 2025).

Preferential and non-preferential origin →

Can I declare origin myself instead of using an agency?

Sometimes. Under the India-UK CETA and the India-EFTA TEPA, exporters may declare origin themselves (Handbook paragraph 2.91(e); Public Notice 09/2026-27). Exporters to the EU under its Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) self-certify origin under the REX system (Foreign Trade Policy paragraph 2.63). Manufacturer exporters that are status holders may self-certify non-preferential origin (Handbook paragraph 2.93(e)).

Self-declared origin, in our trade agreements guide →

Exporters to the UK may self-declare origin under the CETA → Our insight

Does origin hold if my product uses imported inputs?

For non-preferential origin, imported inputs must go beyond the minimal operations the Handbook lists, such as simple packing, labeling, simple mixing or simple assembly (Handbook paragraph 2.93(a)). On September 14, 2026, DGFT invited comments on a draft rewrite of that paragraph, which isn't in force (Trade Notice 27/2026-27). For preferential origin, the agreement's own rules apply.

Origin rules, in our trade agreements guide →

Which trade agreements does India have in force?

The Handbook, as compiled on July 30, 2026, lists 16 free trade agreements India has signed (paragraph 2.88). They're with Sri Lanka, SAFTA, Nepal, Bhutan, Thailand, Singapore, ASEAN, South Korea, Japan, Malaysia, Mauritius, the UAE, Australia, EFTA, the UK and Oman. The India-New Zealand FTA rates apply from October 20, 2026 (Customs Notification 32/2026).

India's free trade agreements: origin rules, certificates and quotas →

FTA duty rates for New Zealand goods take effect on October 20 → Our insight

Is India changing its non-preferential rules of origin?

DGFT has proposed a change. On September 14, 2026, DGFT invited comments on a draft rewrite of Handbook paragraph 2.93, setting non-preferential origin rules for both exports and imports (Trade Notice 27/2026-27). As of October 28, 2026, the draft isn't in force, so the

current rule stands: imported inputs must go beyond the minimal operations paragraph 2.93(a) lists.

The draft origin rules, in our trade agreements guide →

DGFT drafts non-preferential rules of origin for imports → Our insight

Is the India-EU FTA in force?

Not that we've seen, as of October 28, 2026. The India-EU FTA isn't in the Handbook's July 2026 list of trade agreements (paragraph 2.88), and our register holds no Customs notification applying its rates. India's agreements with EFTA and the UK are in that list, and Customs applies the UK rates from July 15, 2026 (Customs Notification 29/2026).

Which agreements apply, in our trade agreements guide →

Trade agreements for foreign suppliers →

How do I apply for a tariff rate quota under the UK, Oman or New Zealand agreements?

DGFT notifies how to apply for import tariff rate quotas under trade agreements (Handbook paragraph 2.92). It has done so for the India-UK CETA (Public Notice 19/2026-27), the India-Oman CEPA (Public Notice 20/2026-27) and the India-New Zealand FTA, whose quotas it notified on October 17, 2026 (Public Notice 33/2026-27).

Tariff rate quotas, in our trade agreements guide →

DGFT sets India-Oman CEPA import quotas and how to apply → Our insight

Penalties, delays and appeals

How do I complain when a DGFT application is stuck?

Write to the head of the regional office: the Handbook says a written representation on undue delay is to be looked into promptly (paragraph 11.10). Grievance committees chaired by DGFT at headquarters, and by heads of Regional Authorities, hear trade grievances (paragraph 11.08). For portal problems, DGFT's helpdesk is on 1800-572-1550 or dgftedi@nic.in (paragraph 1.04(g)).

Grievances and delays, in our penalties and appeals guide →

What penalties can DGFT impose?

DGFT can impose a penalty of at least ₹10,000 and up to five times the value involved, whichever is more, and confiscate the goods (section 11(2) of the Act; 11(8)). It covers breaches of the Act, its rules, orders or the Policy, and using a document with DGFT you know, or have reason to believe, is false (section 11(3)).

DGFT appeal, penalties and the Denied Entity List →

What is the Denied Entity List, and how do I get off it?

A Regional Authority may put a firm on the Denied Entity List, blocking all its new licences, authorizations, scrips and certificates (Policy paragraph 2.14(c)). It may hold a listing in abeyance, up to 60 days at a time, and remove the firm once it meets its obligation, pays the penalty, meets the demand notice or files requested documents (2.14(d), (e)).

The Denied Entity List, in our penalties and appeals guide →

Meeting an export obligation →

Can DGFT suspend or cancel an IEC, a licence or a scrip?

Yes. DGFT can suspend or cancel an IEC after written notice and a chance to answer, for example for breaking the Act or customs, excise or foreign exchange law (section 8(1) of the Act; paragraph 8.03(a)). It can also refuse, suspend or cancel a licence, certificate, scrip or other instrument of financial or fiscal benefit (paragraph 8.03(b) and (c)).

Suspension and cancellation, in our penalties and appeals guide →

How do I appeal a DGFT order or answer a show-cause notice?

Reply to the notice in writing, asking for a hearing if you want one (sections 13 and 14 of the Act). Appeal within 45 days of service to the Director General (DG) or a higher officer the DG authorizes, or, against the DG's own order, to the Central Government (section 15). Deposit any penalty or redemption charge first, unless waived.

Appeals, step by step, in our penalties and appeals guide →

How do I ask DGFT to relax a rule, and what does it cost?

Apply in form ANF-2D. DGFT may relax a rule for genuine hardship and adverse impact on trade, after consulting a Norms Committee, the EPCG Committee or the Policy Relaxation Committee (Foreign Trade Policy paragraph 2.59; Handbook paragraph 2.96(a)). The request costs ₹2,000, and a review of a committee's decision, in form ANF-2E, costs ₹5,000 (Appendix 2K of May 14, 2025).

Relaxation and the Policy Relaxation Committee →

Extensions the committee can grant →

How do I get an official reading of a Policy provision?

Apply to the Policy Interpretation Committee in form ANF-2F (Handbook paragraph 2.95; Foreign Trade Policy paragraph 2.58(b)). DGFT's decision is final on how the Policy and the Handbook are read, and on how an item is classified in ITC (HS) (paragraph 2.58(a)).

Interpretation and classification rulings →

How the Policy is read →

Can I get a personal hearing if a committee rules against me?

Yes: you can ask for a personal hearing with DGFT, for a fee, against a Policy Relaxation Committee decision or another DGFT decision (Foreign Trade Policy paragraph 2.60). It isn't available in an adjudication or an appeal. Apply online in form ANF-2E, the review application; a committee review costs ₹5,000 (Handbook paragraph 2.96(a)).

Hearings and reviews, in our penalties and appeals guide →

Can DGFT help with a foreign buyer who hasn't paid or a supplier who shipped poor goods?

Yes, through committees at DGFT's Regional Authorities that take up quality complaints and trade disputes with a foreign party. They aim to resolve each within three months (Foreign Trade Policy paragraphs 8.01 and 8.04(c)). Complaints against the foreign party go through the Department of Commerce and India's missions abroad (8.07(c)). Either side may still take legal action (8.05).

Trade disputes with foreign parties →

Latest notices and insights

- Export factoring support drops UIN and sets claim deadlines (Insight, October 26, 2026)
- DGFT adds three sea ports and ICD clearance to the PSIC exemption for metallic waste and scrap (Notice, October 21, 2026)
- Scrap imports without PSIC now through eleven ports (Insight, October 21, 2026)
- DGFT extends the 10 lakh MT duty-free raw sugar TRQ to December 31, 2026 (Notice, October 19, 2026)
- Duty-free raw sugar quota deadline moved to December 31 (Insight, October 19, 2026)

Sources

- The Foreign Trade (Development and Regulation) Act, 1992 (Act No. 22 of 1992)
- The Foreign Trade (Development and Regulation) Amendment Act, 2010 (Act No. 25 of 2010)
- Foreign Trade Policy 2023, Chapter 1: Legal Framework and Trade Facilitation (DGFT's compiled copy of July 30, 2026)
- Foreign Trade Policy 2023, Chapter 2: General Provisions regarding Imports and Exports (DGFT's compiled copy of July 30, 2026) (PDF, 873 KB)
- Foreign Trade Policy 2023, Chapter 3: Developing Districts as Export Hubs (DGFT's compiled copy of July 30, 2026)
- Foreign Trade Policy 2023, Chapter 4: Duty Exemption / Remission Schemes (DGFT's compiled copy of August 17, 2026)
- Foreign Trade Policy 2023, Chapter 5: Export Promotion Capital Goods (EPCG) Scheme (DGFT's compiled copy of July 30, 2026)
- Foreign Trade Policy 2023, Chapter 7: Deemed Exports (DGFT's compiled copy of July 30, 2026)
- Foreign Trade Policy 2023, Chapter 8: Quality Complaints and Trade Disputes (DGFT's compiled copy of July 30, 2026)
- Foreign Trade Policy 2023, Chapter 9: Promoting Cross Border Trade in Digital Economy (DGFT's compiled copy of August 6, 2026)
- Foreign Trade Policy 2023, Chapter 11: Definitions (DGFT's compiled copy of July 30, 2026)
- Handbook of Procedures 2023, Chapter 1: Legal Framework and Trade Facilitation (DGFT's compiled copy of July 30, 2026)
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- Handbook of Procedures 2023, Chapter 4: Duty Exemption / Remission Schemes (DGFT's compiled copy of July 30, 2026)
- Handbook of Procedures 2023, Chapter 5: Export Promotion Capital Goods (EPCG) Scheme (DGFT's compiled copy of July 30, 2026)
- Handbook of Procedures 2023, Chapter 9: Promoting Cross Border Trade in Digital Economy (DGFT's compiled copy of August 6, 2026)
- Handbook of Procedures 2023, Chapter 11: Miscellaneous Matters (DGFT's compiled copy of April 3, 2023)

- Appendix 2K: scale of application fees (the copy last changed May 14, 2025)
- Notification No. 60/2025-26 (February 23, 2026): RoDTEP rates and caps halved (PDF, 1.1 MB)
- Corrigendum to Notification No. 60/2025-26 (February 24, 2026): Chapters 1 to 24 kept out of the RoDTEP cut (PDF, 540 KB)
- Notification No. 65/2025-26 (March 19, 2026): RELIEF under the Export Promotion Mission (PDF, 893 KB)
- Notification No. 66/2025-26 (March 23, 2026): Restoration of RoDTEP rates (PDF, 578 KB)
- Notification No. 67/2025-26 (March 27, 2026): No value limit per consignment for courier exports (FTP 9.05) (PDF, 1003 KB)
- Notification No. 68/2025-26 (March 27, 2026): Urea imports on government account through Indian Potash Limited (PDF, 1.0 MB)
- Notification No. 70/2025-26 (March 31, 2026): Yellow peas free to import for bills of lading up to March 31, 2027 (PDF, 1.0 MB)
- Notification No. 71/2025-26 (March 31, 2026): Urad free to import up to March 31, 2027 (PDF, 1.1 MB)
- Notification No. 72/2025-26 (March 31, 2026): Tur free to import up to March 31, 2027 (PDF, 1.0 MB)
- Notification No. 02/2026-27 (April 1, 2026): Jewelry under heading 7113 restricted for import (PDF, 1.1 MB)
- Notification No. 04/2026-27 (April 6, 2026): Wood pellets and wood briquettes need an export authorization (PDF, 1.1 MB)
- Notification No. 05/2026-27 (April 7, 2026): Certificates of origin only from DGFT-authorized agencies (FTP 2.62) (PDF, 766 KB)
- Notification No. 11/2026-27 (April 17, 2026): Egypt and Jordan added to RELIEF (PDF, 563 KB)
- Notification No. 12/2026-27 (April 17, 2026): Grade A and B baryte restricted for export (PDF, 650 KB)
- Notification No. 15/2026-27 (April 30, 2026): RoDTEP schedules aligned with the Finance Act, 2026 (PDF, 933 KB)
- Notification No. 16/2026-27 (May 13, 2026): Sugar exports prohibited until September 30, 2026 (PDF, 698 KB)
- Notification No. 17/2026-27 (May 16, 2026): Silver bars under 71069221 and 71069229 restricted (PDF, 577 KB)
- Notification No. 19/2026-27 (June 2, 2026): Unwrought silver and silver powder need an authorization even through nominated agencies (PDF, 1.2 MB)
- Notification No. 20/2026-27 (June 2, 2026): QCOs and SEZ imports (FTP 2.03(A)(iii)) (PDF, 561 KB)

- Notification No. 22/2026-27 (June 30, 2026): NFMIMS registration allowed until Out of Charge (PDF, 641 KB)
- Notification No. 23/2026-27 (July 13, 2026): Imports of goods made with forced labor prohibited (FTP 2.20B, 11.64) (PDF, 702 KB)
- Notification No. 25/2026-27 (July 24, 2026): Minimum import price on suspension grade PVC resin (PDF, 585 KB)
- Notification No. 27/2026-27 (August 5, 2026): Inventory-based cross-border e-commerce export framework (FTP 9.13 to 9.19) (PDF, 738 KB)
- Notification No. 29/2026-27 (August 18, 2026): Minimum import price on clear float glass (PDF, 631 KB)
- Notification No. 30/2026-27 (August 20, 2026): Currency of export contracts and rupee realization (FTP 2.52, 2.53) (PDF, 602 KB)
- Notification No. 31/2026-27 (August 20, 2026): Raw sugar duty-free TRQ of 10 lakh metric tons (PDF, 1.2 MB)
- Notification No. 34/2026-27 (August 24, 2026): Wheat flour exports free (PDF, 1.1 MB)
- Notification No. 35/2026-27 (August 24, 2026): Wheat exports free (PDF, 1.1 MB)
- Notification No. 36/2026-27 (September 15, 2026): No RCMC for export consignments up to ₹3,00,000 FOB (FTP 2.57(c)) (PDF, 658 KB)
- Notification No. 37/2026-27 (September 30, 2026): RELIEF Component II extended to March 31, 2027 (PDF, 683 KB)
- Notification No. 41/2026-27 (September 30, 2026): RoDTEP continued until December 31, 2026 (PDF, 632 KB)
- Notification No. 45/2026-27 (October 19, 2026): Raw sugar TRQ window extended to December 31, 2026 (PDF, 443 KB)
- Public Notice No. 42/2025-26 (January 9, 2026): GST fields added to the e-BRC (Appendix 2U) (PDF, 794 KB)
- Public Notice No. 01/2026-27 (April 7, 2026): Certificates of origin only on the designated platform (HBP 2.90) (PDF, 675 KB)
- Public Notice No. 07/2026-27 (May 5, 2026): Ad hoc norms valid up to March 31, 2028 (HBP 4.12(vi)) (PDF, 602 KB)
- Public Notice No. 09/2026-27 (May 11, 2026): Self-declared origin under the India-UK CETA (HBP 2.88, 2.91) (PDF, 559 KB)
- Public Notice No. 11/2026-27 (May 14, 2026): Conditions on Advance Authorizations for gold (SIONs M-1 to M-8) (PDF, 584 KB)
- Public Notice No. 19/2026-27 (July 9, 2026): Tariff rate quotas under the India-UK CETA (PDF, 842 KB)

- Public Notice No. 20/2026-27 (July 13, 2026): Tariff rate quotas under the India-Oman CEPA (PDF, 753 KB)
- Public Notice No. 25/2026-27 (August 5, 2026): Procedures for the inventory-based e-commerce export framework (HBP 9.03 to 9.07) (PDF, 928 KB)
- Public Notice No. 33/2026-27 (October 17, 2026): Tariff rate quotas under the India-New Zealand FTA (PDF, 619 KB)
- Public Notice No. 35/2026-27 (October 21, 2026): Scrap from safe countries without PSIC through eleven ports (HBP 2.51) (PDF, 643 KB)
- Trade Notice No. 20/2025-26 (January 2, 2026): Interest Subvention for Pre- and Post-Shipment Export Credit launched
- Trade Notice No. 09/2026-27 (July 1, 2026): TRACE guidelines amended (PDF, 564 KB)
- Trade Notice No. 15/2026-27 (August 5, 2026): Voluntary duty payment data from ICEGATE for EODC (PDF, 178 KB)
- Trade Notice No. 17/2026-27 (August 7, 2026): EXIM Bank replaces RBI as implementing agency for interest subvention
- Trade Notice No. 26/2026-27 (September 7, 2026): Proposed suspension of 544 unused SIONs (PDF, 969 KB)
- Trade Notice No. 27/2026-27 (September 14, 2026): Draft rewrite of HBP 2.93 on non-preferential origin (PDF, 1.6 MB)
- Trade Notice No. 30/2026-27 (October 13, 2026): Simplified import authorizations for silver bullion (PDF, 195 KB)
- Trade Notice No. 32/2026-27 (October 26, 2026): Support for Alternative Trade Instruments amended (PDF, 538 KB)
- Policy Circular No. 08/2025-26 (December 17, 2025): Import Management System for restricted IT hardware in 2026
- Policy Circular No. 10/2025-26 (February 26, 2026): EPCG average export obligation relief for 2024-25 (HBP 5.17(a))
- Export Promotion Mission, DGFT's web page (read October 28, 2026)
- Notification No. 29/2026-Customs (G.S.R. 628(E)) (July 14, 2026): India-UK CETA tariff rates from July 15, 2026 (PDF, 8.4 MB)
- Notification No. FEMA 23(R)/(8)/2026-RB (June 5, 2026): Export realization period cut from fifteen months to nine in the 2015 regulations (PDF, 579 KB)
- Notification No. FEMA 23(R)/(1)/2026-RB (September 22, 2026): Export realization period of nine months in the 2026 regulations from October 1, 2026 (PDF, 562 KB)
- F. No. 12015/12/2026-TTP(Pt.1) (September 30, 2026): RoSCTL extended from October 1 to December 31, 2026 (PDF, 879 KB)

- Notification No. 32/2026-Customs (October 16, 2026): India-New Zealand FTA tariff rates from October 20, 2026 (PDF, 2.1 MB)
- DGFT's Regional Authorities and their officers, DGFT's web page (read October 28, 2026)
- ITC (HS) import and export policy search, DGFT's web page
- IEC Profile Management, DGFT's web page (read October 28, 2026)

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