DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF FOREIGN TRADE

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

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KEY FACTS

POLICY
Foreign Trade Policy 2023

PROCEDURES
Handbook of Procedures 2023

LAW
Foreign Trade (Development and Regulation) Act, 1992

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Which free trade agreements does India have?

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India's trade agreements in HBP 2.88 (compiled July 30, 2026), plus the New Zealand FTA

Agreement	Type	Start date
India-Sri Lanka FTA	FTA	In Appendix 2A
SAFTA (SAARC countries)	FTA	In Appendix 2A
India-Nepal Revised Agreement of Cooperation	FTA	In Appendix 2A
India-Bhutan Agreement on Trade, Commerce and Transit	FTA	In Appendix 2A
India-Thailand FTA, Early Harvest Scheme	FTA	In Appendix 2A
India-Singapore CECA	FTA	In Appendix 2A
India-ASEAN CECA	FTA	In Appendix 2A
India-South Korea CEPA	FTA	In Appendix 2A
India-Japan CEPA	FTA	In Appendix 2A
India-Malaysia CECA	FTA	In Appendix 2A
India-Mauritius CECPA	FTA	In Appendix 2A
India-UAE CEPA	FTA	In Appendix 2A
India-Australia ECTA	FTA	In Appendix 2A
India-EFTA TEPA	FTA	In Appendix 2A
India-UK CETA	FTA	Customs rates from July 15, 2026 (Notification 29/2026-Customs)
India-Oman CEPA	FTA	Customs rates from June 1, 2026 (Notification 20/2026-Customs)

India-New Zealand FTA	FTA	Customs rates from October 20, 2026 (Notification 32/2026-Customs)
Asia Pacific Trade Agreement (APTA)	PTA	In Appendix 2A
Global System of Trade Preferences (GSTP)	PTA	In Appendix 2A
India-Afghanistan PTA	PTA	In Appendix 2A
India-MERCOSUR PTA	PTA	In Appendix 2A
India-Chile PTA	PTA	In Appendix 2A
SAARC Preferential Trading Arrangement (SAPTA)	PTA	In Appendix 2A

The Handbook counts every agreement above named CECA, CEPA, CECPA, ECTA, TEPA or CETA as an FTA. Its Appendix 2A gives each agreement's countries and entry into force (HBP 2.88(c)).

Para 2.88 still opens by counting 13 FTAs "As of March, 2023", though its list names 16, and it doesn't name the New Zealand FTA.

See our guide to DGFT for the rules around them.

Is the India-EU FTA in force?

No official text we hold shows it in force. The India-EU FTA isn't in the list of agreements in para 2.88 of DGFT's Handbook of Procedures, compiled July 30, 2026. As of October 28, 2026, our register of official documents holds no Customs notification applying its rates. Our DGFT tracker lists DGFT's new Gazette notices.

What is a certificate of origin, and which kind do you need?

A certificate of origin is a document that shows where goods come from (HBP 2.90(a)). Use a preferential certificate to claim a lower duty under a trade agreement or a one-way tariff preference (HBP 2.91(a)). A non-preferential certificate shows origin but gives no right to a preferential tariff (HBP 2.93(b)).

Preferential and non-preferential certificates of origin compared

Point	Preferential certificate	Non-preferential certificate
What it does	Claims a lower duty under a trade agreement or GSP (HBP 2.91(a))	Shows origin only, with no right to a preferential tariff (HBP 2.93(b))
Who issues it	Agencies listed in Appendix 2B for trade agreements (HBP 2.91(c)), and in Appendix 2C for GSP (HBP 2.89(A)(b))	Agencies listed in Appendix 2E, and any preferential issuer (HBP 2.93(b))
Fee	₹600 per certificate (Appendix 2K, item 15, May 14, 2025 copy)	₹200 per certificate, including attestation of any extra documents (HBP 2.93(c)(ii))
Origin rules	The rules of the agreement you claim under (HBP 2.91(a))	Made by the exporting firm (FTP 11.31); imported inputs must go beyond the operations HBP 2.93(a) lists

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

Since April 7, 2026, only agencies DGFT authorizes may issue certificates of origin for exports from India, and only on trade.gov.in or another platform DGFT designates. Appendix 2B lists the issuers for trade agreements, 2C for GSP and 2E for non-preferential certificates. A preferential certificate costs ₹600 (Appendix 2K) and a non-preferential one ₹200 (HBP 2.93(c)(ii)).

- **Authorized agencies only.** Notification 05/2026-27, dated April 7, 2026, rewrote FTP para 2.62, adding 2.62(a): certificates for exports from India "can only be issued by agencies authorized by the Directorate General of Foreign Trade".
- **One invoice number.** Use the same invoice number on the certificate and on the shipping bill, so the two can be checked automatically (amended FTP 2.62(a)(iii)).
- **One platform.** Public Notice 01/2026-27, the same day, added HBP 2.90(d): agencies issue only on trade.gov.in or another platform DGFT designates. Issuing by hand outside it may cost an agency its authorization.
- **DGFT's own norm.** The Handbook says a certificate "will be delivered within 24 hours/1(one) working day of the application made" (HBP 2.88(d)). That's DGFT's norm, in its own words.

DGFT's compiled FTP para 1.15 of July 30, 2026 still names coo.dgft.gov.in as the platform. Go by HBP 2.90(d) as amended on April 7, 2026.

Our insights explain the April 7 rule on authorized agencies and who issues India-Oman CEPA certificates.

Can you declare origin yourself?

Yes, under some agreements. Under the India-UK CETA and the India-EFTA TEPA, you may get a certificate of origin on your own self-declaration, as well as from an authorized agency (HBP 2.91(e)). Exporters to the EU under its GSP self-certify through the REX system (FTP 2.63). The Approved Exporter Scheme applies only where an agreement provides for it.

- **UK and EFTA.** Public Notice 09/2026-27, dated May 11, 2026, rewrote HBP 2.91(e) to cover the India-UK CETA and the India-EFTA TEPA.
- **EU GSP.** A GSP scheme is a one-way duty cut by a developed country for goods from developing countries (HBP 2.89(A)(a)). Under the EU's, exporters with a number in its Registered Exporter System (REX) self-certify a Statement on Origin (FTP 2.63; HBP 2.89(A)(c)).
- **Approved Exporter Scheme.** Manufacturers who are status holders may self-certify preferential origin under it, but only once India writes the scheme into a specific agreement and DGFT notifies it (FTP 2.62(b)(ii) and (iv)).
- **Non-preferential origin.** Manufacturer exporters that are also status holders may self-certify that their goods are of Indian origin, if the goods meet the tests in HBP 2.93(a) (HBP 2.93(e)).

See our insight: exporters to the UK may self-declare origin under the CETA.

What counts as Indian origin for a non-preferential certificate?

Goods count as Indian when the exporting firm manufactures them, as FTP para 11.31 defines manufacture, and any imported inputs go beyond the minimal operations HBP 2.93(a) lists. Packing, labeling, simple mixing and simple assembly of parts don't count. The issuing agency checks this before it grants the certificate (HBP 2.93(d)(i)).

The Handbook lists ten kinds of operation that don't make imported inputs Indian, among them removing dust, sorting, washing, painting, repacking, preserving goods during transport and storage, disassembly and mere dilution with water (HBP 2.93(a)(ii)).

A September 2026 draft would rewrite these rules, but it isn't in force. See our insight: DGFT drafts non-preferential rules of origin for imports.

How do tariff rate quotas under trade agreements work?

A tariff rate quota lets a set quantity of a partner's goods into India at a lower duty each quota year. DGFT notifies how importers apply and adds the quotas to para 2.92 of its Handbook. In 2026 it did so for the UK CETA (July 9), the Oman CEPA (July 13) and the New Zealand FTA (October 17).

DGFT's 2026 quota procedures, by public notice and paragraph

Agreement	Public notice	Who applies, and how	Quota year	Authorization valid
India-UK CETA	Public Notice 19/2026-27, July 9, 2026	Cars and goods vehicles: makers of UK-origin vehicles and their authorized dealers, with a maker's pre-purchase agreement, online on DGFT's Import Management System (paras 5 to 7)	Calendar year (para 11)	12 months or to the year's end, if earlier (para 16)
India-Oman CEPA	Public Notice 20/2026-27, July 13, 2026	Online on DGFT's Import Management System, with the fee; from 2027-28, by February 28 before each year starts (paras 6 and 7)	April to March (para 5)	12 months or to the financial year's end, if earlier (para 12)
India-New Zealand FTA	Public Notice 33/2026-27, October 17, 2026	Apples, kiwifruit, albumins and Mānuka honey: the Indian importer named on a New Zealand export certificate applies on DGFT's system, citing it (paras 1, 2 and 4)	To December 31, 2026, then calendar years (para 9)	Its quota year only, within any quota window (para 11)

Each quota authorization goes electronically to Indian Customs, and quota imports clear only as Customs debits it (Public Notices 19, 20 and 33/2026-27). If UK vehicle applications exceed a quota, DGFT shares it out in proportion to what each applicant asked for (Public Notice 19/2026-27, para 9).

Para 2.92 also lists older quotas, among them those under the Australia, UAE and Mauritius agreements.

Our insights give the goods and quota sizes: UK cars and goods vehicles, India-Oman CEPA quotas and New Zealand apples, kiwifruit, albumins and Mānuka honey.

What do foreign exporters need for Indian Customs?

To get an FTA rate, your importer must prove your goods' origin to Customs under its 2020 rules on origin under trade agreements. Customs applies Oman's rates from June 1, 2026, the UK's from July 15 and New Zealand's from October 20. For UK and Oman quota goods, DGFT's notices require a certificate of origin from that country's authorities.

India-UK CETA origin rules apply from July 15 →

India-UK CETA origin declarations get a URN after authentication →

Form I not a precondition for India-UK CETA origin claims →

India-Oman CEPA origin rules apply from June 1 →

India-New Zealand FTA origin rules apply from October 20 →

Customs accepts electronic certificates of origin from New Zealand →

If you sell into India, see DGFT import rules for foreign companies and India's import policy.

How IndusDesk helps with trade agreements and origin

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Does origin hold if your product uses imported inputs?

Origin can hold: for an FTA rate, the agreement's own rules of origin decide. The Handbook names some key tests: wholly obtained, change in tariff classification, value addition and non-minimal operations (HBP 2.91(a) and (b)). For a non-preferential certificate, imported inputs must go beyond the minimal operations HBP 2.93(a) lists.

Is merchanting trade allowed?

Yes: an Indian intermediary may trade goods shipped from one foreign country to another without touching Indian ports, subject to RBI's guidelines, except CITES and SCOMET goods (FTP 2.39). For such goods, an agency may issue a back-to-back non-preferential certificate naming their foreign country of origin (HBP 2.93(f)). See India's export policy.

Is India changing its non-preferential rules of origin?

It has proposed to. DGFT's Trade Notice 27/2026-27 of September 14, 2026 invited comments on a draft para 2.93 setting non-preferential rules of origin for exports and imports. The draft isn't in force, so the current para 2.93 applies.

Sources

- HBP 2023, Chapter 2: General Provisions regarding Imports and Exports, paras 2.88 to 2.93 (compiled July 30, 2026)

- Notification 05/2026-27, April 7, 2026: amended FTP para 2.62, certificates of origin only from authorized agencies (PDF, 766 KB)
- Public Notice 01/2026-27, April 7, 2026: amended HBP para 2.90, certificates of origin only on the designated platform (PDF, 675 KB)
- Public Notice 09/2026-27, May 11, 2026: amended HBP paras 2.88 and 2.91, India-UK CETA self-declaration (PDF, 559 KB)
- Public Notice 19/2026-27, July 9, 2026: tariff rate quotas under the India-UK CETA, paras 1 to 20 (PDF, 842 KB)
- Public Notice 20/2026-27, July 13, 2026: tariff rate quotas under the India-Oman CEPA, paras 2 to 13 (PDF, 753 KB)
- Public Notice 33/2026-27, October 17, 2026: tariff rate quotas under the India-New Zealand FTA, paras 1 to 13 (PDF, 619 KB)
- Trade Notice 27/2026-27, September 14, 2026: draft amendment of HBP para 2.93, non-preferential rules of origin (PDF, 1.6 MB)
- FTP 2023, Chapter 2: General Provisions regarding Imports and Exports, paras 2.39, 2.62 and 2.63 (compiled July 30, 2026) (PDF, 873 KB)
- FTP 2023, Chapter 1: Legal Framework and Trade Facilitation, para 1.15 (compiled July 30, 2026)
- Appendix 2K: Scale of Application Fee/User Charges, item 15 (last changed May 14, 2025)
- Notification 20/2026-Customs, May 31, 2026: India-Oman CEPA tariff rates from June 1, 2026, the origin proviso and para 2 (PDF, 5.3 MB)
- Notification 29/2026-Customs, July 14, 2026: India-UK CETA tariff rates from July 15, 2026, the origin proviso and para 2 (PDF, 8.4 MB)
- Notification 32/2026-Customs, October 16, 2026: India-New Zealand FTA tariff rates from October 20, 2026, the origin proviso and para 2 (PDF, 2.1 MB)

IndusDesk

hello@indusdesk.com · +91 11 4141 3939

9th Floor, Hemkunt House, Rajendra Place, New Delhi, Delhi 110008, India

Read online: indusdesk.com/dgft/trade-agreements/