DEPARTMENT FOR PROMOTION OF INDUSTRY AND INTERNAL TRADE

DPIIT questions, answered from the official texts

This page answers 166 DPIIT questions, each from the official texts with the paragraph it rests on, as of October 29, 2026. They're grouped by who asks: foreign investors, investors linked to land-border countries, foreign brands and sellers, government suppliers, manufacturers, gas cylinder and explosives importers and makers, and boiler makers. Where the texts stop, the answer says so.

DPIIT, THE DEPARTMENT for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade, is a department of India's Ministry of Commerce and Industry and the nodal department for FDI policy (DPIIT's FDI FAQ, Question 2). DPIIT also issues the Make in India procurement order, licenses four industries (NSWS FAQ) and oversees PESO, the explosives and gas cylinder regulator, and the Central Boilers Board.

KEY FACTS

FDI POLICY

Consolidated FDI Policy Circular of 2020

LAND-BORDER RULE

Press Note No. 2 (2026 Series)

PROCUREMENT

Public Procurement (Preference to Make in India), Order 2017

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General DPIIT questions: its laws and its portal

What is DPIIT, and what does it do?

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DPIIT: India's investment, procurement and licensing rules → The guide this page belongs to

Which offices and bodies sit under DPIIT?

PESO, the Petroleum and Explosives Safety Organization in Nagpur, sits under DPIIT and runs India's explosives, petroleum and inflammable substances laws (PESO's citizen charter). So does the Central Boilers Board, which makes the boiler regulations (Indian Boiler Regulations, 2026). Invest India runs the National Single Window System for DPIIT (NSWS FAQ). The patents and trademarks office is another (IP India).

What DPIIT does, in our DPIIT guide →

How is DPIIT different from DGFT, and which one do I need?

DPIIT writes India's FDI policy and the Make in India procurement order, licenses four industries, and oversees PESO and the boiler rules. DGFT, the Directorate General of Foreign Trade, runs the Foreign Trade Policy under the Foreign Trade (Development and Regulation) Act, 1992 (section 6(2)). Investing, bidding or making licensed products starts with DPIIT; imports and exports, with DGFT.

What DPIIT covers, in our DPIIT guide →

DGFT: India's foreign trade rules, schemes and authorizations →

What did DPIIT's three Press Notes of 2026 change?

Press Note 1 of February 9 opened insurance companies to 100% FDI on the automatic route. Press Note 2 of March 15 rewrote the land-border rule around a beneficial owner test. Press Note 3 of July 23 let foreign-owned e-commerce companies hold inventory to export Indian goods. They took effect on May 2, May 2 and September 3, 2026.

The 2026 Press Notes, in our FDI policy guide →

When does a Press Note take legal effect: on the day DPIIT issues it, or later?

The Press Note itself says. DPIIT's FDI FAQ says changes take effect from the Press Note's date of issue unless it says otherwise, and the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA) rules prevail if the two differ (Question 18). The three 2026 Press Notes took effect with their FEMA notifications, on Gazette publication: May 2, May 2 and September 3, 2026.

How Press Notes become law, in our FDI policy guide →

What is the National Single Window System, and do I have to use it?

The National Single Window System (NSWS) is the central portal to find, apply for and track business approvals from central ministries and states, managed by Invest India under DPIIT (NSWS FAQ). DPIIT's own filings go there, from FDI applications to PESO approvals. On July 28, 2026, it covered 325 central and 2,215 state approvals (Lok Sabha answer 1536).

NSWS, in our DPIIT guide →

Which DPIIT applications are filed on NSWS?

Four kinds, in the texts we read. Government-route FDI applications go on what DPIIT's procedure calls the FIF/NSWS portal (procedure of May 4, 2026, para I.1). Land-border investment reports go there too (land-border FAQ, Question 8), as do industrial licence applications (NSWS FAQ) and PESO applications (PESO's notice on time limits).

NSWS, in our DPIIT guide →

Does it cost anything to register on NSWS?

No. NSWS charges no fee to register a user (NSWS FAQ). A fee that a ministry, department or state charges for its own approval still applies, and you can pay it on NSWS. An industrial licence application, for example, costs ₹2,500 under the 1951 Act, while an online FDI application costs nothing (FIF Portal FAQ 13).

NSWS, in our DPIIT guide →

Do I also need to register on a state's own single-window portal?

No, not for states on NSWS. A user doesn't need to register separately on a state's own single window portal to apply for that state's approvals through NSWS (NSWS FAQ). On July 28, 2026,

NSWS covered 34 states and union territories (Lok Sabha answer 1536). The FAQ doesn't cover states outside it.

NSWS, in our DPIIT guide →

Does NSWS make approvals faster?

Not by itself. NSWS doesn't change how any ministry decides: each authority keeps its own process and time limits (NSWS FAQ). The government told the Lok Sabha on July 28, 2026 that approval times depend on each authority's existing business processes (answer 1536). What NSWS gives you is one place to find, apply for, pay for and track approvals.

NSWS, in our DPIIT guide →

What did the Jan Vishwas Act, 2023 change?

The Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Act, 2023, assented to on August 11, 2023, decriminalized 183 provisions across 42 Acts (Rajya Sabha answer 2276). Among DPIIT's laws, it changed the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act, 1951, the Boilers Act, 1923, and the patent, trademark, geographical indication and copyright laws. Each part starts on a date the government notifies (section 1(2)).

Jan Vishwas, in our DPIIT guide →

What is the Jan Vishwas Act, 2026, and how many laws does it change?

The Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Act, 2026 is a law that decriminalizes and rationalizes offenses across many Acts, for ease of living and doing business. It received assent on April 7, 2026 and amends 784 provisions across 79 central Acts of 23 ministries, decriminalizing 717 (Rajya Sabha answer 2276). Its schedule has 80 entries, one being the 2023 Act.

Jan Vishwas, in our DPIIT guide →

Our note on the Jan Vishwas Act, 2026 →

Is the Jan Vishwas Act, 2026 in force?

The Act received assent on April 7, 2026 and starts on dates the government notifies, which may differ for each law it amends (section 1(2)). For DPIIT's two laws, the Patents Act, 1970 part started on June 1, 2026 (S.O. 2846(E)) and the Copyright Act, 1957 part on June 15, 2026 (S.O. 2875(E)). Other ministries' start dates aren't covered here.

Jan Vishwas, in our DPIIT guide →

Which DPIIT laws did the Jan Vishwas Acts change, and did they touch the Explosives or Petroleum Act?

Neither Act touches the Explosives Act, 1884 or the Petroleum Act, 1934. The 2023 Act changed the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act, 1951, the Boilers Act, 1923, and the patent, trademark, geographical indication and copyright laws (2023 Act, Schedule). Of DPIIT's laws, the 2026 Act changes only the Patents and Copyright Acts (2026 Act, Schedule, serials 35 and 23).

Jan Vishwas, in our DPIIT guide →

Do Jan Vishwas fines rise over time?

Yes. Under section 3 of each Act, fines and penalties in the laws it amends rise by 10% of the minimum amount every three years from that Act's start (2023 Act; 2026 Act). The 2026 Act adds that where an amended law sets its own way of revising fines, only that rule applies.

Jan Vishwas, in our DPIIT guide →

Has India decriminalized business laws, and does that lower the risk for our directors?

Only in part, and law by law. The Jan Vishwas Act, 2023 decriminalized 183 provisions across 42 Acts (Rajya Sabha answer 2276). Its civil penalties under the 1951 industrial licensing Act have applied since December 12, 2023 (S.O. 5318(E)). Prison stays in some laws: tampering with a boiler's safety valve can mean up to two years (Boilers Act, section 29).

Investing in India as a foreign company: DPIIT's rules →

Which quality control orders does DPIIT issue?

DPIIT issues quality control orders that make the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) mark compulsory for products such as electrical appliances (S.O. 1739(E)), hand tools (S.O. 5561(E)), footwear, toys and furniture (S.O. 3417(E), Schedule). We don't repeat them here: our guide to quality control orders explains them, and our QCO tracker lists the orders.

Quality control orders in India, explained →

The QCO tracker →

QCO insights →

Foreign investors: routes, caps and approvals

What counts as foreign direct investment in India?

Foreign direct investment (FDI) is investment through equity instruments by a person resident outside India in an unlisted Indian company. In a listed Indian company, it's a holding of 10% or more of post-issue paid-up equity on a fully diluted basis (DPIIT's FDI FAQ, Question 1). If a listed holding later falls below 10%, it still counts as FDI.

What FDI is, in our FDI policy guide →

What is the difference between the automatic route and the government route?

On the automatic route, neither the foreign investor nor the Indian company needs government approval (FDI Policy, para 3.4.1). On the government route, the investment needs approval first, and the ministry in charge of the sector decides. More than 90% of FDI comes in on the automatic route, the government told the Lok Sabha on August 4, 2026 (answer 2696).

The two routes, in our FDI policy guide →

Does the automatic route need no approval at all from the RBI or the government?

Yes. The automatic route needs no prior approval from the Reserve Bank of India or the central government (DPIIT's FDI FAQ, Question 12). You still follow sectoral laws, security conditions and state and local laws (FDI Policy, para 3.7.1), and report under the RBI's 2019 reporting regulations (FAQ, Question 5). Investors linked to a land-border country may need approval.

The automatic route, in our FDI policy guide →

Do we need government approval to set up a 100% foreign-owned company in India?

Not in most sectors. In any sector the FDI policy doesn't list, FDI up to 100% is on the automatic route (FDI Policy, para 5.2(a)). You need approval where your sector is capped or on the government route. You also need it where the investor is an entity or citizen of a land-border country (Press Note 2 (2026), para 3.1.1(a)).

Sector caps and routes, in our FDI policy guide →

Investing in India as a foreign company: DPIIT's rules →

How do I find out which route my sector takes, and its cap?

Start with chapter 5 of DPIIT's 2020 FDI policy: paragraph 5.1 lists the banned sectors, 5.2 gives listed sectors their caps and routes, and any sector not listed is 100% automatic (para 5.2(a)). Then check later Press Notes, which change it: insurance companies are now 100% automatic. If you're unsure, ask DPIIT at fdi-clarification@gov.in (FDI FAQ, Question 20).

Sector caps and routes, in our FDI policy guide →

Which sectors allow 100% FDI on the automatic route?

Every sector the FDI policy doesn't list, subject to the law that applies (FDI Policy, para 5.2(a)). Listed sectors at 100% automatic include manufacturing (5.2.5.1), single-brand retail, wholesale trading, marketplace e-commerce and telecom services (Press Note 4 (2021)). Insurance companies joined on May 2, 2026, subject to the insurance regulator's approval and verification (S.O. 2186(E)).

Sector caps and routes, in our FDI policy guide →

Which sectors have FDI caps or need government approval?

Examples, as of October 29, 2026: defense is automatic to 74% with approval above (FDI Policy, para 5.2.6.1); multi-brand retail is 51% with approval; print news is 26% with approval; private banks reach 74%, with approval above 49% (DPIIT's list of government-route sectors). The full list is chapter 5 of the 2020 policy, as later Press Notes changed it.

Sector caps and routes, in our FDI policy guide →

In which sectors is FDI banned?

FDI is banned in lottery, gambling and betting, chit funds, Nidhi companies, trading in transferable development rights, real estate business, building farm houses, and making cigars, cheroots, cigarillos and cigarettes. So are sectors closed to private investment, like atomic energy and railway operations (FDI Policy, para 5.1). Building townships or homes isn't real estate business (Press Note 1 (2022)).

Banned sectors, in our FDI policy guide →

Is the 2020 Consolidated FDI Policy still the current text?

Yes, as the base. DPIIT's FAQ says the FDI regime rests mainly on the Consolidated FDI Policy of October 15, 2020, as amended by Press Notes (Question 3). The 2020 text lags, though: it still prints insurance at 49% and telecom at 49% automatic, both since changed. The texts we read don't say if a new consolidated policy is coming.

Which text is current, in our FDI policy guide →

Can foreign money go into an LLP?

Yes, on the automatic route, if the LLP works in a sector where 100% FDI is automatic and there are no FDI-linked performance conditions (FDI Policy, para 3.2.4(i)). The policy permits it only on those terms, and then no prior approval from the Reserve Bank of India is needed (FDI FAQ, Question 12). The LLP Act, 2008 applies too.

Which entities can take FDI, in our FDI policy guide →

Can a foreign investor join an Indian partnership firm or proprietorship?

A foreign investor other than a non-resident Indian (NRI) needs the Reserve Bank of India's prior approval, which the RBI decides with the government (FDI Policy, para 3.2.2(iii)). An NRI may invest without approval on a non-repatriation basis, outside farming, plantations, real estate and print media (3.2.2(i)). That's DPIIT's 2020 policy; the RBI's own current rules aren't covered here.

Which entities can take FDI, in our FDI policy guide →

Should a foreign company use a subsidiary, an LLP, or a branch or liaison office?

The texts don't rank them. A company, as a joint venture or wholly owned subsidiary, follows the sector's route and cap (FDI FAQ, Question 6). An LLP is allowed only in 100% automatic sectors with no FDI-linked performance conditions (FDI Policy, para 3.2.4). Branch, liaison and project offices follow the RBI's 2016 regulations (FAQ, Question 7).

Investing in India as a foreign company: DPIIT's rules →

Which approvals apply when shares change hands between foreign and Indian holders?

Approval is needed when a sale passes ownership or control of an Indian company in a government-route sector from resident Indian citizens to foreign investors (FDI Policy, para 5.2(c)). It's also needed when any transfer puts beneficial ownership in a land-border country (Press Note 2 (2026), para 3.1.1(b)). Pricing and reporting follow the RBI's 2019 regulations, not covered here.

Share transfers, in our FDI policy guide →

Is an investment by our Indian subsidiary into another Indian company foreign investment, and what must be filed?

Yes, if your subsidiary is owned or controlled from abroad. Its investment then counts as indirect foreign investment, and the company it invests in follows the same entry route, caps and pricing rules (FDI FAQ, Questions 9 and 10). Report it to the RBI in Form DI and on the Foreign Investment Facilitation Portal within 30 days (para 3.8.4.2).

Downstream investment, in our FDI policy guide →

What must we report after foreign money comes in, and to whom?

Reports go to the RBI under its 2019 payment and reporting regulations (FDI FAQ, Question 5), which this page doesn't cover. Downstream investments are reported in Form DI within 30 days (FDI Policy, para 3.8.4.2). Where an investor has some land-border ownership but needs no approval, DPIIT also gets a report before the money arrives (land-border FAQ, Question 8).

Reporting, in our FDI policy guide →

Can a company in a sector closed to FDI give bonus shares to its foreign shareholders?

Yes, if the foreign shareholders' shareholding pattern doesn't change. Press Note 2 (2025) of April 7, 2025 lets an Indian company in a banned sector issue bonus shares to its existing non-resident shareholders on that condition (para 1). The FEMA rule, S.O. 2549(E), put it into law on June 11, 2025 and validated earlier such issues (new rule 7(2)).

Banned sectors, in our FDI policy guide →

How do we get DPIIT's clarification on an FDI policy question?

Fill in DPIIT's prescribed form and email it to fdi-clarification@gov.in (FDI FAQ, Question 20). That address is for questions on the FDI policy. Technical problems with the Foreign Investment Facilitation Portal go to fifp-dipphelpdesk@gov.in instead (Question 21). The FAQ sets no time limit for a reply.

Asking DPIIT, in our FDI policy guide →

Can a friend or relative abroad invest in an Indian startup or company?

Yes, in most sectors, if your business is a company. Investment by a person resident outside India in an unlisted Indian company is FDI (FDI FAQ, Question 1), on the automatic route unless the sector is listed (FDI Policy, para 5.2(a)). A citizen of a land-border country needs approval (Press Note 2 (2026)). NRI account rules aren't covered here.

The automatic route, in our FDI policy guide →

How do I apply for government approval of an FDI proposal?

File online on the FIF/NSWS portal with the documents in Annexure I of DPIIT's procedure, plus the security clearance form in Annexure II where it applies (procedure of May 4, 2026, paras I.1 and I.2). Filing is paperless (para I.3) and free (FIF Portal FAQ 13). DPIIT then assigns the proposal to the ministry that decides it (para II.1).

FDI approval in India: the government route, step by step →

Who decides an FDI proposal: DPIIT or the sector ministry?

The sector ministry decides, as the competent authority; DPIIT identifies it and assigns the proposal (DPIIT's procedure, para II.1). A ministry needs DPIIT's agreement before it rejects a

proposal or adds conditions beyond the policy, and DPIIT's Secretary decides those cases (para II.10). Proposals over ₹5,000 crore of foreign equity go to the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (para II.8).

Who decides, in our FDI approval guide →

Is there a fee to file an FDI application?

No. DPIIT's portal FAQ says there's no fee for filing an online FDI application (FIF Portal FAQ 13). Under DPIIT's procedure of May 4, 2026, filing is also paperless, so no physical copies are needed (para I.3). The procedure does ask for an affidavit on ₹100 stamp paper (Annexure VI).

Filing, in our FDI approval guide →

What documents does an FDI approval application need?

DPIIT's procedure lists 15 groups of documents (procedure of May 4, 2026, Annexure I). They include an authorization letter, a summary of the proposal, shareholding before and after, fund-flow and group charts, beneficial ownership details, both sides' company papers and board resolutions, and past approvals or rejections. You also undertake that no party is on a sanctions list (item 12).

The documents, in our FDI approval guide →

Which FDI proposals need security clearance from the Ministry of Home Affairs?

Proposals in broadcasting, telecom, space, private security agencies, defense, civil aviation, and mining and separation of titanium-bearing minerals (DPIIT's procedure, para II.3(i)). Every application under the land-border rule of Press Note 2 (2026) needs it too (para II.3(ii)). The applicant files the security clearance form in Annexure II with the application (para I.2).

Security clearance, in our FDI approval guide →

How long does a government-route FDI approval take?

DPIIT's procedure sets 12 weeks: scrutiny by week 2, DPIIT's policy views by week 4, other ministries' comments by week 8 and the decision by week 12 (procedure of May 4, 2026, Annexure V). Your own time fixing gaps doesn't count, and DPIIT gets two more weeks if rejection or extra conditions are proposed. These are the government's own limits.

Time limits, in our FDI approval guide →

What does DPIIT's 2026 procedure for FDI approvals set?

DPIIT's procedure of May 4, 2026 makes filing paperless (para I.3), lists 15 groups of documents with full beneficial ownership details (Annexure I) and closes incomplete applications after two reminders (para II.9). It sets a 12-week timetable (Annexure V) and, for land-border cases, a report before investing and a 60-day path (Annexure VII).

FDI approval in India: the government route, step by step →

What happens if we don't send missing information on time?

The ministry scrutinizes your application within a week and may ask for more. If you don't reply within a week, a reminder gives seven more days, then a final reminder seven more (DPIIT's procedure, para II.9). The ministry's Secretary may then close the application. Closure isn't rejection: you may apply again with all the documents.

Closure, in our FDI approval guide →

Can we withdraw an FDI application?

Yes, while it's pending. Send a duly authorized letter explaining why, addressed to the ministry deciding it, with a copy to DPIIT (DPIIT's procedure, para II.11). Once the ministry acknowledges it on the portal, the proposal counts as withdrawn. On NSWS, you use the Withdraw option and upload your reasons, attested by the company (FIF Portal FAQ 26).

Withdrawal, in our FDI approval guide →

What if we already have an approval and the deal changes?

File an amendment, not a new application. If an FDI approval already exists, the proposal goes in as an amendment case, and a fresh application filed instead is closed, with a request to file an amendment (FIF Portal FAQ 19). DPIIT's procedure also lets you ask for a corrigendum to fix mistakes in the approval letter (para II.14).

Changes after approval, in our FDI approval guide →

When does an FDI proposal go to the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs?

When total foreign equity inflow in the proposal is more than ₹5,000 crore (FDI Policy, para 4.1.5). The ministry deciding it then places it before the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, within the time limits in DPIIT's procedure. It tells you the decision once the committee has made it (DPIIT's procedure, para II.8).

Who decides, in our FDI approval guide →

Do we need fresh approval to bring more money into an approved company?

Not if the approved foreign shareholding percentage stays the same and total foreign equity stays within ₹5,000 crore. That's a condition in DPIIT's standard approval letter (procedure, Annexure III, condition (ix)). The company tells the ministry within 30 days of receiving the money. The letter also makes the company responsible for staying within the sector's caps (condition (viii)).

After approval, in our FDI approval guide →

Who enforces the FDI rules, and what does a breach cost?

The RBI administers FEMA, the law FDI falls under, and the Directorate of Enforcement enforces it (FDI FAQ, Question 4). A penalty can reach three times the sum involved, or ₹2 lakh where it can't be counted, plus up to ₹5,000 a day, after the first, while it continues (FDI Policy, Annexure 5). Breaches can be compounded (SOP, para II.15).

Enforcement, in our FDI policy guide →

What is the FDI limit in insurance now?

100% on the automatic route for insurance companies since May 2, 2026, with the insurance regulator's approval and verification (S.O. 2186(E)). Intermediaries were already at 100%, and LIC stays at 20%. At least one of an insurer's chairperson, managing director and chief executive must be a resident Indian citizen. DPIIT's 2020 policy still prints 49%, and its FAQ 74%.

Insurance, in our FDI policy guide →

What is the FDI limit in defense?

100%: automatic up to 74%, and above that on the government route, wherever it's likely to bring access to modern technology or for other recorded reasons (FDI Policy, para 5.2.6.1). Foreign investment in defense needs security clearance from the Ministry of Home Affairs (para 5.2.6.2(iv)). The items that need a licence are in Press Note 1 (2019).

Defense, in our FDI policy guide →

Industrial licence in India: the four industries that need one →

Can a foreign company's Indian subsidiary get DPIIT startup recognition?

Not under DPIIT's recognition guidelines of June 30, 2021: subsidiaries, foreign subsidiaries included, aren't recognized, entities incorporated outside India are ineligible, and Indian promoters should hold at least 51% (guidelines, para 4). Those guidelines were written for an earlier notification that G.S.R. 108(E) of February 4, 2026 replaced, and we found no revised guidelines.

DPIIT: India's investment, procurement and licensing rules →

Investors linked to land-border countries

What is Press Note 3 of 2020, and is it still in force?

Press Note 3 (2020), of April 17, 2020, sent investment by an entity of a country that shares a land border with India to the government route. Investment whose beneficial owner was situated in or a citizen of such a country went there too. It aimed to curb opportunistic takeovers during COVID-19. Press Note 2 (2026) rewrote it.

Press Note 3: India's land-border investment rule in 2026 → The guide that covers this group

What changed for land-border investors in 2026?

Press Note 2 (2026) of March 15 defined the beneficial owner by India's money-laundering law and applies the test to the investor entity (para 3.1.1(c)). Foreign investor companies with up to 10% land-border ownership and no control may now use the automatic route, after reporting to DPIIT (land-border FAQ, Questions 2 and 8). Six manufacturing areas got a 60-day path.

What changed in 2026, in our Press Note 3 guide →

Our note on the FEMA rules that set the beneficial owner test →

From what date does the 2026 land-border rule apply?

May 2, 2026, by the FEMA rule that brought it in: S.O. 2174(E) is dated May 1 and starts on Gazette publication, which was May 2 (rule 1(2)). DPIIT's land-border FAQ gives May 1, the date of the rules (Question 12). Press Note 2 (2026) is dated March 15, not March 10, when a release announced the Cabinet's approval.

Dates, in our Press Note 3 guide →

Is investment from China banned, or have the 2026 changes lifted the curbs?

Neither. India's rule sends investment by an entity or citizen of a land-border country to the government route; it doesn't ban it, the government told the Rajya Sabha on March 27, 2026 (answer 3877). The 2026 changes kept that, and eased only small, non-controlling land-border ownership of investors registered elsewhere (land-border FAQ, Question 2).

What the rule does, in our Press Note 3 guide →

Does a direct investment by a Chinese company need approval, even for a 1% stake?

Yes. Any investment made directly by an entity or citizen of a country that shares a land border with India needs prior government approval, whatever the percentage (land-border FAQ, Question 5; Press Note 2 (2026), para 3.1.1(a)). The 10% line applies only to the owners of an investor company registered in another country.

Direct investment, in our Press Note 3 guide →

Our investor is registered outside China but has Chinese owners. Do we need approval?

Only if land-border ownership crosses the line. You need approval if land-border citizens or entities, directly or indirectly, alone or together, hold over 10% of your investor company. You need it too if they control it, or control the Indian company (land-border FAQ, Questions 2 and 3). Otherwise your sector's usual route applies, with a report to DPIIT before investing.

The 10% test, in our Press Note 3 guide →

Can a global fund with Chinese limited partners invest without approval?

Yes, in an automatic-route sector, if the land-border partners stay within the threshold and have no control. The test runs at the fund, as the investor entity (land-border FAQ, Question 3), using the rule 9(3) threshold for a partnership or trust (Question 7). The investment is still reported to DPIIT first, naming the fund's managers (Schedule I).

Funds, in our Press Note 3 guide →

How is the 10% counted through layers of owners and funds?

Holdings count directly or indirectly, alone or together, and the test runs at the immediate investor entity (land-border FAQ, Questions 3 and 4). DPIIT's illustrative diagrams multiply stakes along each chain and add the chains: a 25% stake in a company owning 51% of the investor's sole owner counts as 12.75% (Illustration 2). No text addresses commitments versus paid-in capital.

The 10% test, in our Press Note 3 guide →

Can a small stake still need approval because it gives control?

Yes. Beneficial ownership counts as vested in a land-border country if its citizens or entities can control the investor entity, whatever their percentage. The same holds if they can exercise ultimate effective control over the Indian company in any manner (Press Note 2 (2026), para 3.1.1(c)). DPIIT's FAQ illustrates control through a contract (Question 4, illustration 4).

Control, in our Press Note 3 guide →

What does 'beneficial owner' mean under the land-border rule?

Under the land-border rule, the beneficial owner of an investment into India means the beneficial owner of the investor entity registered outside the land-border countries (Press Note 2 (2026), para 3.1.1(c)). Who that is follows section 2(1)(fa) of the Prevention of Money-laundering Act, 2002, with rule 9(3) of its 2005 record rules. Citizenship counts now, not mere residence.

The beneficial owner test, in our Press Note 3 guide →

Does an investor who lives in China, but isn't a Chinese citizen, need approval?

Not on that ground alone. An NRI, or a citizen of another country, who merely lives in a land-border country doesn't need approval for that reason (land-border FAQ, Question 1(c)). The rule turns on citizenship: approval is for entities and citizens of such a country, and for investors whose beneficial owner is a citizen (Press Note 2 (2026), para 3.1.1(a)).

Citizenship and residence, in our Press Note 3 guide →

Which countries count as sharing a land border with India?

No DPIIT text we read lists them. Press Note 2 (2026) speaks of 'a country which shares land border with India' and names only Pakistan, which has extra limits (para 3.1.1(a)). DPIIT's land-border FAQ of October 23, 2026 names none either. For a specific country, you can ask DPIIT at fdi-clarification@gov.in (FDI FAQ, Question 20).

Which countries, in our Press Note 3 guide →

Do Hong Kong, Macau or Taiwan count as land-border countries?

The official texts don't say. Press Note 2 (2026), the FEMA rule and DPIIT's land-border FAQ speak only of a country that shares a land border with India, and none of them addresses Hong Kong, Macau or Taiwan. The answer depends on how the government reads that phrase. You can ask DPIIT for a clarification (FDI FAQ, Question 20).

Which countries, in our Press Note 3 guide →

What must we report to DPIIT when no approval is needed, and when?

Where your investor has some land-border ownership but needs no approval, report to DPIIT on NSWS in the Schedule I format. It's due before the money arrives, or before shares are issued or transferred if none comes (procedure, Annexure VII, paras 5 and 6). NSWS acknowledges it, and you may go ahead (FAQ, Question 8).

Reporting before investing, in our Press Note 3 guide →

Who files the land-border report: the foreign investor or the Indian company?

The Indian company, or the resident Indian buyer or seller of the shares, carries the duty to report (land-border FAQ, Question 10; procedure, Annexure VII, para 4). The NSWS portal also

lets the foreign investor submit the details. Either way, the duty stays with the Indian side, and the report is due before the money arrives.

Reporting before investing, in our Press Note 3 guide →

Do reported land-border investments need security clearance?

No. Investments reported to DPIIT under para 3.1.1(d), the cases with low land-border ownership, need no prior security or political clearance (land-border FAQ, Question 9). Applications that need government approval under Press Note 2 (2026) are different: they go to the Ministry of Home Affairs for security clearance (DPIIT's procedure, para II.3(ii)).

Reporting before investing, in our Press Note 3 guide →

Does the report to DPIIT replace the usual report to the RBI?

No. After the investment, you still report to the Reserve Bank of India under its 2019 payment and reporting regulations, through the Single Master Form on the FIRMS portal (land-border FAQ, Question 11). DPIIT's procedure says its reporting is in addition to the FEMA requirements and doesn't replace them (Annexure VII, para 2).

Reporting before investing, in our Press Note 3 guide →

Will our bank hold the remittance until the DPIIT report is filed?

The texts don't say what banks check. They do set the order. The report to DPIIT is due before the inward remittance of foreign capital (DPIIT's procedure, Annexure VII, para 6), and NSWS acknowledges it once filed, after which the parties may go ahead (land-border FAQ, Question 8). So file the report before the money moves.

Reporting before investing, in our Press Note 3 guide →

Which land-border proposals get a decision within 60 days?

The ministry decides within 60 days of filing for six areas: capital goods, electronic capital goods and components, polysilicon and ingot-wafer, advanced battery components, rare earth permanent magnets, and rare earth processing (FAQ, Question 13). Land-border investors must hold 49% or less, with resident Indian citizens and their resident Indian entities keeping majority ownership and control (Annexure VII, para 7).

The 60-day path, in our Press Note 3 guide →

Does the 60-day clock start at filing or at a complete application?

DPIIT's procedure says the 60 days run from the date of filing (procedure, Annexure VII, para 7). The procedure doesn't say whether your time answering requests for more information counts. For the general 12-week limits, that time is left out (Annexure V, note (ii)), and the closure rule after two reminders applies to every application (para II.9).

The 60-day path, in our Press Note 3 guide →

How long does a land-border approval take?

The official limits are 12 weeks for a government-route decision, not counting your own time (DPIIT's procedure, Annexure V). For the six manufacturing areas on the 60-day path, it's 60 days from filing (Annexure VII, para 7). These are the government's own targets, not a promise. We found no official figures on actual times in the texts we read.

Time limits, in our Press Note 3 guide →

What is the approval process for a Chinese partner's investment in an Indian company?

The government route applies. File on the FIF/NSWS portal with the documents in Annexure I, including beneficial ownership details of every land-border owner up to the ultimate one, and the security clearance form (DPIIT's procedure, paras I.1, I.2 and II.3). DPIIT assigns the ministry, the Home Affairs and External Affairs ministries comment, and the ministry decides.

FDI approval in India: the government route, step by step →

Approval cases, in our Press Note 3 guide →

Does a later sale of shares to a buyer linked to a land-border country need approval?

Yes, if it puts beneficial ownership in a land-border country. Any transfer of existing or future FDI, direct or indirect, with that result needs prior approval (Press Note 2 (2026), para 3.1.1(b)). Since June 12, 2026, so does a listed-share purchase by an individual abroad that passes ownership or control to such a country's entities or citizens (S.O. 3030(E)).

Later transfers, in our Press Note 3 guide →

Can investors from Pakistan, Bangladesh or Nepal invest in India?

Yes, with government approval, where their country shares a land border with India (Press Note 2 (2026), para 3.1.1(a)). Press Note 2 names only Pakistan: its citizens and entities may invest only on the government route, and not in defense, space, atomic energy or sectors closed to foreign investment. No DPIIT text we read lists which countries share the border.

Which countries, in our Press Note 3 guide →

Are defense, space and atomic energy closed to all land-border investors?

No. That bar applies only to citizens and entities of Pakistan (Press Note 2 (2026), para 3.1.1(a); S.O. 2174(E), rule 6(a)). Other land-border investors may apply on the government route in any sector open to foreign investment, defense and space included, within each sector's cap. Atomic energy is closed to FDI for everyone (FDI Policy, para 5.1).

Pakistan, in our Press Note 3 guide →

Do investments by a multilateral bank or fund count as land-border money?

No. A multilateral bank or fund that India belongs to isn't treated as an entity of any particular country. Nor is any country treated as the beneficial owner of its investments in India (S.O. 2174(E), rule 6(a), first proviso (iv)). That FEMA rule, in force since May 2, 2026, brought Press Note 2 (2026) into law.

Exceptions, in our Press Note 3 guide →

What happens to land-border applications filed before the 2026 rule took effect?

The texts don't say. Press Note 2 (2026), the FEMA rule that brought it in (S.O. 2174(E)) and DPIIT's procedure of May 4, 2026 contain no transitional rule for applications already pending. The new rule took effect on May 2, 2026. You can ask DPIIT about a pending case at fdi-clarification@gov.in (FDI FAQ, Question 20).

Dates, in our Press Note 3 guide →

Can a Chinese company open a branch, liaison or project office, and does the land-border rule apply?

Branch, liaison and project offices come under the Reserve Bank of India's 2016 regulations for such offices, not DPIIT's FDI policy (FDI FAQ, Question 7). DPIIT's land-border rule speaks of investment into India (Press Note 2 (2026), para 3.1.1). The RBI's own conditions for applicants from land-border countries aren't covered here.

Press Note 3: India's land-border investment rule in 2026 →

Investing in India as a foreign company: DPIIT's rules →

Foreign brands, retail and e-commerce

Can a foreign-owned manufacturer in India sell its products online or in its own shops?

Yes. A manufacturer may sell what it makes in India wholesale or retail, including online, without government approval (FDI Policy, para 5.2.5.1). Subject to the rest of the FDI policy, manufacturing itself is on the automatic route, and it may be the company's own or contract manufacturing in India under a legally tenable contract.

Selling what you make, in our retail and e-commerce guide → The guide that covers this group

If a contract manufacturer makes our products in India, do we count as a manufacturer?

Yes. DPIIT's clarification of December 9, 2019 says contract manufacturing in India is covered by the definition of manufacturing (items 1 and 2). So a foreign-owned company whose products a third party makes for it in India, under a legally tenable contract, may sell them wholesale, retail and online without approval, as any manufacturer may (FDI Policy, para 5.2.5.1).

Contract manufacturing, in our retail and e-commerce guide →

Can a foreign-owned e-commerce company hold its own inventory and sell to consumers in India?

No. FDI isn't allowed in the inventory model, where the e-commerce company owns the goods it sells (FDI Policy, para 5.2.15.2.3(ii)); the marketplace model is 100% automatic. Since September 3, 2026, inventory is allowed only to export goods made in India (S.O. 4870(E)). A manufacturer may still sell its own India-made products online (para 5.2.5.1).

E-commerce, in our retail and e-commerce guide →

What changed for e-commerce exports in 2026, and from when?

Press Note 3 (2026) of July 23 lets an e-commerce company with FDI hold inventory exclusively to export goods made or produced in India. On the FDI side it took effect on September 3, 2026, when the Gazette published S.O. 4870(E) of September 2. The ban on inventory sales to consumers in India stays (new para 5.2.15.2.5(ii)).

Export inventory, in our retail and e-commerce guide →

Our note on S.O. 4870(E) →

Does an export-inventory e-commerce company also follow DGFT's rules?

Yes. The export inventory route follows the Foreign Trade Policy 2023, its Handbook of Procedures and the 2015 FEMA regulations on exports (Press Note 3 (2026), new para 5.2.15.2.5(i)). Our guide to e-commerce exports covers DGFT's side. The Foreign Trade Policy requires a separate legal entity, registered as an Exporter-on-Record, and leaves marketplace entities out (paras 9.13(i) and 9.15(i)).

E-commerce exports from India: DGFT's rules →

Export inventory, in our retail and e-commerce guide →

Can unsold or returned export stock be sold in India?

The FDI texts don't address unsold or returned export stock. They say the inventory permission is exclusively for exports of goods made or produced in India (S.O. 4870(E), new serial 15.2.5(a)). They also say the ban on inventory sales to consumers in India stays (Press Note 3 (2026), new para 5.2.15.2.5(ii)).

Export inventory, in our retail and e-commerce guide →

What are the rules for a marketplace with foreign investment?

A marketplace may take 100% FDI on the automatic route but not own the goods it sells (FDI Policy, para 5.2.15.2.3). It's deemed to control a seller's inventory if over 25% of the seller's purchases come from it or its group, and such a seller can't sell on it. Nor can a company it holds equity in (5.2.15.2.4).

Marketplaces, in our retail and e-commerce guide →

What are the conditions for single-brand retail?

Single-brand retail is 100% automatic (FDI Policy, para 5.2.15.3). Products must be of one brand, sold under it in at least one other country, and branded at manufacture. Above 51% FDI, 30% of the value of goods bought must come from India: as a five-year average from April 1 of the year the business starts, then every year (para 5.2.15.3(2)(e)).

Single-brand retail, in our retail and e-commerce guide →

Does buying from a unit in a Special Economic Zone count as sourcing from India?

Yes, if the goods are made in India. DPIIT's clarification of February 27, 2020 says sourcing from units in India's Special Economic Zones qualifies as sourcing from India for single-brand retail's 30% rule (item 1). Goods sourced from India for the brand's global operations count too, whether sold in India or exported (FDI Policy, para 5.2.15.3(2)(f)).

Single-brand sourcing, in our retail and e-commerce guide →

Can a single-brand retailer sell online before opening stores?

Yes, if it opens brick-and-mortar stores within two years of starting online retail (FDI Policy, para 5.2.15.3(2)(g)). The five-year sourcing average then starts from April 1 of the year the business began, which is the first store opening or the start of online retail, whichever came first (para 5.2.15.3(2)(e)).

Single-brand retail, in our retail and e-commerce guide →

Is there any relief from the 30% sourcing rule?

There's one, and it's narrow. For products with leading-edge technology that can't be sourced locally, the sourcing rule doesn't apply for three years from the first store or the start of online retail. A committee chaired by DPIIT's Secretary examines each claim and recommends (FDI Policy, para 5.2.15.3, Note (iii)). Goods sourced from India for global operations also count.

Single-brand sourcing, in our retail and e-commerce guide →

Can a foreign company own a multi-brand retail chain?

Up to 51%, with approval (para 5.2.15.4). The investor must bring at least USD 100 million, with at least USD 50 million of it in back-end infrastructure within three years. At least 30% of

manufactured or processed goods, by value, must come from Indian micro, small and medium industries. Stores need state or union territory consent; online retail is barred.

Multi-brand retail, in our retail and e-commerce guide →

Can our wholesale company sell to our own group companies?

Yes, within a limit. Wholesale trading, including business-to-business e-commerce, is 100% automatic, and sales to your own group companies may not exceed 25% of the wholesale business's total turnover (FDI Policy, paras 5.2.15.1 and 5.2.15.1.2(d)). Other sales must go to business customers, such as firms with a tax registration or trade licence, or to government (5.2.15.1.2(b)).

Wholesale trading, in our retail and e-commerce guide →

Selling to the Indian government

What is the Make in India procurement order, and who must follow it?

The Public Procurement (Preference to Make in India) Order, 2017 is DPIIT's order on local content in government buying, issued under GFR rule 153(iii) (order, para 1). Central ministries and departments, their attached and subordinate offices, the autonomous bodies they control and government companies must follow it (para 2). The current text is DPIIT's revision of July 19, 2024.

Make in India procurement order: local content and bidding rules → The guide that covers this group

Has the Make in India order changed in 2026?

Not its main text: as of October 29, 2026, that's still DPIIT's revision of July 19, 2024 (the order). In 2026, DPIIT added a separate order. In tenders the India-UK trade agreement covers, issued from July 7, 2026, UK-origin suppliers with at least 20% UK value added count as Class-II local suppliers (UK suppliers order, paras 2, 4 and 10).

The 2026 UK order, in our Make in India guide →

What are Class-I, Class-II and non-local suppliers?

A Class-I local supplier offers goods, services or works with at least 50% local content, a Class-II local supplier at least 20% but under 50%, and a non-local supplier under 20% (order, paras 2

and 5). Exactly 50% is Class-I and exactly 20% is Class-II (DPIIT's FAQ, Question 13). A nodal ministry may only raise these thresholds.

Supplier classes, in our Make in India guide →

How is local content calculated, and what's left out?

Local content is the item's price without net domestic indirect taxes, minus imported content with all customs duties, as a percentage of that price (order, para 2). For example, ₹100 with ₹40 imported gives 60%. Left out: imports bought from Indian resellers, royalties paid abroad and rebranded imports (notes a to c), and transport, installation and service (FAQ, Question 9).

Local content, in our Make in India guide →

Can a foreign company's Indian subsidiary bid as a local supplier?

Yes, if what it offers meets the local content minimum. The order classes suppliers by the local content of the goods, services or works they offer (order, paras 2 and 5), and its definitions set no ownership test. Separate registration rules apply if your group is linked to a land-border country: see GFR Rule 144(xi).

Supplier classes, in our Make in India guide →

Can a foreign supplier bid in Indian government tenders, and when is there a global tender?

Yes, in a global tender enquiry, where non-local suppliers may bid alongside local ones. Otherwise, where the order applies, only Class-I and Class-II suppliers may bid (order, para 3(b)). Under GFR rule 161(iv), a global tender isn't issued for purchases under ₹200 crore without approval from the authority the Department of Expenditure names. Notified items are Class-I only (para 3(a)).

Who may bid, in our Make in India guide →

How does the 20% purchase preference work?

Class-I local suppliers get a purchase preference with a 20% margin; Class-II suppliers get none (order, paras 6 and 3A(d)). If the lowest bid isn't Class-I, the lowest Class-I bidder within 20% of it may match the lowest price. Where the order can be split, the lowest bidder gets half and matching Class-I bidders the rest (para 3A).

Purchase preference, in our Make in India guide →

Is there a Make in India certificate?

No. The government issues no Make in India certificate (DPIIT's FAQ on the order, Question 3). Each bidder self-certifies its local content percentage and where the value is added (order, para 9(a)). For purchases over ₹10 crore, the bidder also gives a certificate from its statutory or cost auditor, or from a practicing cost or chartered accountant (para 9(b)).

Proof of local content, in our Make in India guide →

Who certifies local content, and when is an auditor's certificate needed?

The bidder certifies its own local content at the tender, giving the percentage and where the value is added (order, para 9(a)). Above ₹10 crore, a company adds a certificate from its statutory or cost auditor, and other suppliers one from a practicing cost or chartered accountant (para 9(b)). A declaration about future local content isn't accepted (FAQ, Question 14).

Proof of local content, in our Make in India guide →

What happens if a local content declaration turns out to be wrong or false?

If a supplier falls to a lower class after the award, the buyer may impose a penalty of up to 10% of the contract value, but won't end the contract for that (order, para 9(c)). A false declaration breaks the General Financial Rules' code of integrity, and the bidder can be debarred for up to two years (para 9(g)).

Penalties, in our Make in India guide →

Which purchases are exempt from the Make in India order?

Purchases under ₹5 lakh are exempt, and buyers may not split purchases to get under that limit (order, para 4). So are spares and consumables for closed systems, and service contracts with the original equipment maker or supplier (para 4A). Research institutes' scientific equipment and consumables have a ₹50 lakh limit since July 8, 2025 (DPIIT's memorandum).

Exemptions, in our Make in India guide →

Can a reseller or trader claim Class-I status?

Not on imported goods it resells. Imports bought from resellers or distributors in India, and repackaged, refurbished or rebranded imports, are left out of local content (order, para 2, notes a and c). A reseller submits the original maker's certificate of country of origin (note d). The order doesn't say whose letterhead the declaration goes on.

Local content, in our Make in India guide →

Can I offer imported products in a government tender or on GeM?

Only as a non-local supplier, so only in a global tender enquiry where the order applies (order, para 3(b)). Bidders offering imported products are non-local, even if they add transport, installation or after-sales service (DPIIT memorandum of March 4, 2021, para 3). The Government e-Marketplace (GeM) is to mark, as far as possible, items meeting minimum local content (para 8).

Who may bid, in our Make in India guide →

Do PLI manufacturers get any status in government tenders?

Yes. A manufacturer that makes an item under a Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme, and has received the incentive for it, counts as a deemed Class-II local supplier for that item (order, para 2A). That holds unless it meets the Class-I minimum anyway. The status lasts only for the period the ministry running that PLI scheme notifies.

Supplier classes, in our Make in India guide →

Can UK companies count as local suppliers under the India-UK trade agreement?

Yes, as Class-II. In tenders issued from July 7, 2026, a supplier of UK-origin goods, services or works counts as Class-II if UK value added is at least 20% (order, paras 2, 4 and 10). This covers only the buyers and thresholds in the agreement's procurement schedule, Annex 15A, and needs a UK certificate of origin (para 5).

The 2026 UK order, in our Make in India guide →

Which tender conditions count as discriminating against local suppliers?

Naming foreign certifications, unreasonable specifications, brands or models counts as restrictive and discriminatory; a foreign certification needs written approval from the department's Secretary or the Secretary's delegate (order, para 10(e)). Tenders may not ask for proof of supply abroad or of exports (10(a)), and buyers must try to keep turnover and capability conditions from unreasonably excluding local suppliers (10(b)).

Restrictive tenders, in our Make in India guide →

How do I complain about a tender that breaks the Make in India order?

Lodge it on DPIIT's online grievance portal: since July 1, 2021, grievances about breaches of the order go through it (DPIIT memorandum of May 5, 2021, paras 1 and 5). DPIIT refers them to the ministry concerned. The authority that handles that buyer's procurement complaints decides, and nodal ministries and buyers may set fees (order, para 9(d) and (f)).

Complaints, in our Make in India guide →

Could we be shut out because our home country restricts Indian bidders?

Yes. A nodal ministry may find that a country keeps Indian suppliers out of its government buying. Entities of that country then can't take part in Indian government procurement of any item related to that ministry, except items it lists as open (order, para 10(d)(ii)). An entity of a country has the meaning in DPIIT's FDI policy (10(d)(v)).

Reciprocity, in our Make in India guide →

Can a foreign company be required to form a joint venture with an Indian company to bid?

Yes, above a threshold. For items bought in substantial quantities without notified local capacity, the nodal ministry is to notify a procurement value above which foreign companies enter a joint venture with an Indian company to bid (order, para 13A). Such joint ventures may be exempted from the local content minimum. We found no notified thresholds.

Foreign bidders, in our Make in India guide →

Do government buyers actually follow the Make in India order?

Not always. In 2024, DPIIT checked 867 tenders at random and found 259 that didn't follow the order, the government told the Rajya Sabha on February 7, 2025 (answer 546). The biggest factor was tenders not saying the order applied. Others named brands, set excessive turnover criteria or required foreign certificates.

Compliance, in our Make in India guide →

Can a company linked to China or another land-border country bid in Indian public tenders?

Yes, once it's registered with the Registration Committee DPIIT set up, unless an exception in Annexure II applies (order of February 23, 2023, para 2). The rule covers goods, services and works and has applied since July 23, 2020 (para 4). Registration needs political and security clearance from the Ministries of External Affairs and Home Affairs first (Annexure I, D).

GFR Rule 144(xi): registering bidders from land-border countries →

Who counts as a bidder from a country that shares a land border with India?

Seven kinds: an entity registered in such a country; its subsidiary; one controlled through such entities; one whose beneficial owner is situated there; an agent of one; a citizen; or a consortium including one (order of February 23, 2023, para 12). A company's beneficial owner is any individual holding over 25%, alone or with others, or having control (para 13(i)).

Who counts, in our GFR Rule 144(xi) guide →

Is the procurement land-border test the same as the FDI test?

No. The FDI test looks at the investor company: more than 10% held from a land-border country, or control (land-border FAQ, Question 3). The procurement test makes any individual with over 25% of a company, or 15% of a partnership, alone or with others, its beneficial owner (procurement order, para 13). A group can pass one and fail the other.

Two tests, in our GFR Rule 144(xi) guide →

What should I answer to the land-border declaration in a government tender?

The model certificate has you certify that the bidder isn't from a land-border country or, if it is, that it's registered with the Competent Authority, with proof attached (order of February 23, 2023, Annexure III). Buyers may reword it. Check yourself against the order's test first (para 12): a false certificate is grounds for debarment (para 18).

The tender certificate, in our GFR Rule 144(xi) guide →

Can we use components from China in a government contract without registering?

Yes, if you make something from them. A bidder that buys raw materials or components from a land-border entity and manufactures or converts them isn't that entity's agent (order of February 23, 2023, para 14, note ii). A bidder that supplies finished goods from such an entity is its agent, and needs registration (note i).

Components and agents, in our GFR Rule 144(xi) guide →

Do spares and maintenance contracts from a Chinese maker need registration?

No. Spare parts and essential service support bought from the original equipment maker or its authorized agent are exempt from registration (order of February 23, 2023, Annexure II, D). That includes annual or comprehensive maintenance contracts and consumables for closed systems. The Make in India order exempts such purchases too (para 4A).

Exemptions, in our GFR Rule 144(xi) guide →

How do we apply to DPIIT for registration as a land-border bidder?

Apply to DPIIT's Public Procurement Division in the revised format of April 28, 2023: one hard copy, and an identical PDF by email to dpiit.144@gov.in (DPIIT memorandum of April 28, 2023, para 1). The Registration Committee first seeks political and security clearance from the Ministries of External Affairs and Home Affairs (order of February 23, 2023, Annexure I, D).

Applying, in our GFR Rule 144(xi) guide →

How long does a land-border bidder registration last, and can it be canceled?

As long as the committee decides: it may register you for all tenders or set items, for a set or open period, and its decision is final (order of February 23, 2023, Annexure I, F). It may suspend or cancel a registration for sufficient cause without giving reasons, but cancellation doesn't affect contracts already awarded (H and I).

Validity, in our GFR Rule 144(xi) guide →

Which countries are outside the bidder registration rule?

Countries to which India has extended lines of credit, or in which India runs development projects, even if they share a land border with India (order of February 23, 2023, Annexure II, C).

The order names no country itself. It says the Ministry of External Affairs' website carries the updated lists.

Exemptions, in our GFR Rule 144(xi) guide →

How long does registration take, and is the rule being dropped?

No official time limit was found. The committee must first get political and security clearance, and its decision is final (order of February 23, 2023, Annexure I, D and F). We found no official text dropping or changing the rule since that order. DPIIT's 2024 memorandum asks buyers to check the certificates it publishes (memorandum of April 30, 2024).

GFR Rule 144(xi): registering bidders from land-border countries →

Manufacturers: industrial licences and the PLI scheme

Which industries still need an industrial licence?

Four: electronic aerospace and defense equipment; industrial explosives, such as detonating fuses, safety fuses, gunpowder, nitrocellulose and matches; hazardous chemicals, namely hydrocyanic acid and phosgene with their derivatives, and isocyanates and di-isocyanates of hydrocarbons; and cigars and cigarettes (NSWS FAQ; DPIIT's industrial licensing page). No fresh licence for cigars and cigarettes has been given since 1999.

Industrial licence in India: the four industries that need one → The guide that covers this group

Can a foreign company hold an Indian industrial licence?

No. Only Indian companies are considered for industrial licences under the 1951 Act and the Arms Act, 1959 (NSWS FAQ). The FDI policy and FEMA, not the licensing Acts, govern foreign investment in a licensed company. Defense FDI, for example, is automatic up to 74% (FDI Policy, para 5.2.6.1), but making cigarettes is closed to FDI (para 5.1(g)).

Who can hold a licence, in our industrial licence guide →

How long does an industrial licence take, and how long is it valid?

NSWS says 'all efforts are being made' to issue a licence within five months of a complete application: a target, not a promise (NSWS FAQ). A licence is valid for 15 years, extendable by 3, to 18 at most; if production hasn't started by then, it lapses (Press Note 1 (2023)). Before production, you report progress twice a year.

Validity, in our industrial licence guide →

Do defense manufacturers need an industrial licence, and who issues it?

Yes, for the items in Press Note 1 (2019), under the 1951 Act. DPIIT also licenses, under the Arms Act, 1959, arms and ammunition of 12.7 mm caliber and above, crew-fired weapons and allied defense equipment; the Ministry of Home Affairs licenses smaller calibers (NSWS FAQ). DPIIT consults the Defense and External Affairs ministries (FDI Policy, para 5.2.6.2(iii)).

Defense licences, in our industrial licence guide →

What security rules apply to licensed defense makers?

Companies holding DPIIT industrial licences must follow the 2025 security manual for licensed defense industries (SMLDI) before they start producing the licensed items (Press Note 3 (2025) of July 23, 2025). The Ministry of Defense reviewed the 2014 manual with stakeholders, and its website carries the new one. The Press Note replaced Press Note 6 (2014).

Defense licences, in our industrial licence guide →

What is the penalty for breaching the industrial licensing law?

The Jan Vishwas Act, 2023 turned breaches of the 1951 Act into civil penalties of up to ₹25 lakh, set by a district magistrate or additional district magistrate after an inquiry (Schedule, serial 10). That part has applied since December 12, 2023 (S.O. 5318(E)). DPIIT's rules for the inquiry and the 30-day appeal are G.S.R. 764(E) of December 12, 2024.

Penalties, in our industrial licence guide →

Who must file an Industrial Entrepreneur Memorandum (IEM)?

Large plants in industries that need no industrial licence file one. Since April 1, 2025, that means investment in plant and machinery over ₹125 crore, or annual turnover over ₹500 crore (DPIIT Press Note of April 1, 2025, para 2). The IEM is filed on NSWS (NSWS FAQ). It's an informational filing, not a licence.

Which industries need a licence instead, in our industrial licence guide →

What is the PLI scheme for white goods, and what does it pay?

The Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme for white goods is a DPIIT incentive for making components of air conditioners and LED lights in India. It pays 6% to 4% of net incremental sales of eligible products, on a reducing scale, for five years (PIB release of January 23, 2026). The Cabinet approved its ₹6,238 crore outlay on April 7, 2021.

The PLI scheme for white goods, in our DPIIT guide →

Is a PLI white goods application window open?

Not that we found. The fourth round took applications from September 15 to November 10, 2025 and drew 13 (PIB release of November 13, 2025); five applicants were provisionally selected in January 2026 (release of January 23, 2026). We found no later window as of October 29, 2026. The scheme runs to 2028-29.

The PLI scheme for white goods, in our DPIIT guide →

Can a foreign-owned company apply for the white goods PLI?

Yes, if it's a company incorporated in India under the Companies Act, 2013; LLPs aren't eligible (scheme guidelines, para 5.1; FAQ, Question 3). Foreign investment in the applicant must follow the FDI policy (para 5.2). Assembling finished goods alone earns nothing, and value-added resellers don't qualify (paras 6.1 and 5.7).

The PLI scheme for white goods, in our DPIIT guide →

Does a Chinese shareholder or partner rule out PLI incentives?

Not in itself, on the texts we read: the scheme requires only that foreign investment in the applicant follow the FDI policy (guidelines, para 5.2). Under that policy, investment by an entity or citizen of a land-border country, or with a beneficial owner who's a citizen of one, needs government approval first (Press Note 2 (2026), para 3.1.1(a)).

The PLI scheme for white goods, in our DPIIT guide →

The land-border rule, in our Press Note 3 guide →

What does a PLI white goods application cost?

₹1,00,000, non-refundable (FAQ on the scheme, Question 52). IFCI, the scheme's project management agency, takes applications and claims for DPIIT, which appointed it (guidelines, para 2.34 and Annexure III). Claims are filed once a year, by October 31 of the financial year after the one claimed (Question 46).

The PLI scheme for white goods, in our DPIIT guide →

When are PLI white goods claims filed?

Once a year, by October 31 of the financial year after the one claimed (FAQ on the scheme, Question 46). By our reading of that rule, claims on 2026-27 sales are due by October 31, 2027. IFCI, the project management agency, takes claims for DPIIT (guidelines, para 2.34 and Annexure III). The scheme runs to financial year 2028-29.

The PLI scheme for white goods, in our DPIIT guide →

Which other central approvals does a foreign manufacturer need, and in what order?

No document sets an order; what applies depends on the product. Settle the FDI route first (FDI Policy, chapter 5). An industrial licence applies only to four industries (NSWS FAQ). PESO approves gas cylinders, pressure vessels, explosives and hazardous-area equipment; boilers need certified designs; and some products need the BIS mark under quality control orders.

Investing in India as a foreign company: DPIIT's rules →

PESO: cylinders, pressure vessels, explosives and Ex equipment

What does PESO license, and does my product need a PESO approval?

PESO, the Petroleum and Explosives Safety Organization in Nagpur, grants licences and approvals to make, store, transport and import explosives, gas cylinders, pressure vessels and petroleum, and to export explosives. It also approves equipment for hazardous areas (PESO's citizen charter). If your product falls in one of these groups, that group's rules decide what you need. Applications go through NSWS.

PESO licence: gas cylinders, pressure vessels and explosives → The guide that covers this group

Do I need a PESO licence to import gas cylinders?

Yes. Importing cylinders needs a licence in Form D, with separate licences for cylinders and valves (PESO's gas cylinder FAQ, III.2). The cylinders must be of an approved type, from a foreign maker PESO has approved (Gas Cylinders Rules, 2016, rule 3(1)), and only the maker's appointed Indian distributor may import its new cylinders (FAQ III.5).

Importing cylinders, in our PESO licence guide →

Does a foreign cylinder or valve maker need PESO approval, and how does it get one?

Yes, before its cylinders or valves can be imported for filling and use in India (PESO's gas cylinder FAQ, I.1). The maker applies itself, in the Schedule III format, with drawings that BIS or an accredited third-party inspection agency may endorse (I.4 and I.7). PESO weighs its track record, ten years' manufacturing experience and market share (rule 3(3)).

Foreign makers, in our PESO licence guide →

What does PESO approval cost a foreign maker, and how long does it last?

The first approval costs ₹6,50,000, and renewal ₹32,500 a year (G.S.R. 386(E), Schedule V, Part B, serial 2). The first approval runs one year, extended on satisfactory performance, and PESO re-evaluates the foreign plant every five years (Gas Cylinders Rules, 2016, rule 3(3)(d) and (e)). Late-renewal rules aren't covered here.

Foreign makers, in our PESO licence guide →

Who in India can import a foreign maker's approved cylinders and valves?

Only the Indian distributor the foreign maker has appointed. The maker makes the appointment and files the distributor agreement with PESO (PESO's gas cylinder FAQ, I.8), and only that distributor may import the maker's new cylinders and valves (III.5). The distributor also needs its own import licence in Form D (III.2).

Importing cylinders, in our PESO licence guide →

Can cylinders from a maker PESO hasn't approved be imported?

Only in the cases the gas cylinder rules allow (rule 3(5)). A licensed filler may fill them to send back to the country of origin or to supply a foreign-going ship at an Indian port (PESO's FAQ, III.6). Since April 28, 2026, defense and space establishments may also import them for their own use (G.S.R. 315(E), rule 2).

Importing cylinders, in our PESO licence guide →

Can cylinders be made to ISO or EN standards instead of Indian Standards?

Yes, if the Chief Controller of Explosives accepts the standard. A foreign maker may build cylinders to any internationally accepted standard the Chief Controller approves, not only Indian Standards (PESO's gas cylinder FAQ, I.3). Its design drawings may be endorsed by BIS or an internationally accredited third-party inspection agency (I.7).

Foreign makers, in our PESO licence guide →

Do imported cylinders still need Customs landing permission?

Cylinders fitted with valves still do. Since April 28, 2026, two kinds don't: empty cylinders without valves, and valves and LPG regulators from foreign plants the Chief Controller approved, with a valid Form D licence (G.S.R. 315(E), new proviso to rule 32(1)). Everything else needs the Commissioner of Customs' permission to land (rule 32(1)).

Importing cylinders, in our PESO licence guide →

Our note on G.S.R. 315(E) →

What changed in the gas cylinder rules in 2026?

Three things. From April 28, empty cylinders without valves, and approved valves and LPG regulators, no longer need Customs landing permission (G.S.R. 315(E)). From June 5, storage licences no longer need a district authority certificate (G.S.R. 447(E)). From September 23, mobile units may refuel CNG and CBG vehicles in mines and ports, locomotives and boats (G.S.R. 831(E)).

The 2026 changes, in our PESO licence guide →

Do I still need a district authority NOC for a gas cylinder storage licence?

No. Rule 48 of the Gas Cylinders Rules, 2016, the no-objection certificate from the district authority, was omitted on June 5, 2026 (G.S.R. 447(E), rule 2). PESO's gas cylinder FAQ still refers to rule 48 (FAQ IV.8), so read it together with the amendment.

Storage licences, in our PESO licence guide →

What fees does PESO charge?

PESO's fees are set rule by rule. Examples: a foreign cylinder maker's first approval, ₹6,50,000, and ₹32,500 a year to renew (G.S.R. 386(E)); importing a pressure vessel, ₹5,000 (G.S.R. 374(E)); approving imported Ex equipment, ₹2,000 per certificate (PESO's Ex SOP). Fees are paid online (SMPV FAQ, Q38). Other fees aren't covered here.

Fees, in our PESO licence guide →

Are PESO fees lower for small firms, startups or women entrepreneurs?

Yes, under the gas cylinder rules: micro and small enterprises and recognized startups pay half of most fees, and women entrepreneurs pay one fifth (G.S.R. 386(E), Schedule V and its note). The pressure vessel rules got a new fee schedule with lower fees for the same three groups in G.S.R. 374(E) of June 5, 2025.

Fees, in our PESO licence guide →

How long are PESO licences valid?

Licences to fill and store gas in cylinders run from one to ten years (PESO's gas cylinder FAQ, IV.12). Since June 5, 2026, a permission to import or transport compressed gas in an ISO tank container can run up to ten years (G.S.R. 448(E)). A foreign cylinder maker's first approval runs one year. Other licences' terms aren't covered here.

Validity, in our PESO licence guide →

How long does PESO take to decide an application?

PESO's own targets differ. A notice on PESO's site since May 2023 says online applications are processed within 21 days (PESO's notice on time limits). Its citizen charter says 2 to 3 days for

simple cases and 2 to 3 weeks for other routine approvals, with major matters taking longer (citizen charter). Neither is a promise.

Time limits, in our PESO licence guide →

Do imported pressure vessels and ISO tank containers need PESO approval?

Yes. No one may import a pressure vessel without the Chief Controller's prior approval (pressure vessel rules, 2016, rule 4(4)). Apply in Form AS-3 with the maker's test and inspection report, endorsed by the country of origin's inspection agency, and third-party endorsed drawings (rule 4(5)); the fee is ₹5,000. ISO tank permissions can now run up to ten years.

Pressure vessels, in our PESO licence guide →

Does imported Ex electrical equipment for hazardous areas need PESO approval?

Yes, before use in hazardous areas under the petroleum, gas cylinder and pressure vessel rules (PESO's Petroleum Rules FAQ). PESO approves only the maker, or a foreign maker's Indian agent. It accepts an IECEx certificate of conformity with its test report or, from EU makers, an EU-type examination certificate (Ex SOP, Part B). The fee is ₹2,000 a certificate.

Ex equipment, in our PESO licence guide →

Who can import explosives, and how?

Only the holder of an import licence in Form LE-8 who also has a licensed LE-3 store, and only through ports the central government notifies (PESO's explosives FAQ, Questions 52 and 53). For a foreign company, the occupier answerable under the Explosives Rules is its director living in India (G.S.R. 887(E), new clause (37)(g)).

Explosives, in our PESO licence guide →

Can a research lab make or use explosives without a full licence?

Yes, with PESO's permission, since October 14, 2026. A research and development laboratory may make, store and use new explosive compositions for research, up to 5 kg on its premises at any one time (G.S.R. 887(E), rules 6 and 9). The permission, in Form LE-13, runs up to three years. Commercial production and sales aren't allowed.

Explosives, in our PESO licence guide →

Our note on the laboratory permission →

Who is the 'occupier' for a foreign company under the Explosives Rules?

A foreign company's occupier under the Explosives Rules, 2008 is its director residing in India under section 149 of the Companies Act, 2013 (G.S.R. 887(E), new clause (37)(g) of rule 2), since October 14, 2026. For a partnership, it's a partner residing in India under section 7 of the Limited Liability Partnership Act, 2008 (clause (37)(h)).

Explosives, in our PESO licence guide →

Is PESO changing the explosives and gas cylinder laws?

PESO opened a review in July 2026. It invited suggestions, until July 31, 2026, on the Explosives Act, 1884 and six sets of rules, including the gas cylinder and pressure vessel rules (PESO circular of July 10, 2026). We found no draft from that review as of October 29, 2026. The 2026 amendments already in force are covered above.

The 2026 changes, in our PESO licence guide →

Boilers

Which boiler law applies now, and what changed from the 1923 Act?

The Boilers Act, 2025 has applied since May 1, 2025, replacing the Boilers Act, 1923 (S.O. 1943(E)). Boilers registered under the old Act count as registered under the new one (section 45(2)(f)). Under the 2025 Act, every maker must engage an inspecting authority (section 8). We haven't compared the two Acts clause by clause.

Indian Boiler Regulations 2026 and the Boilers Act, 2025 → The guide that covers this group

What replaced the Indian Boiler Regulations, 1950, and when?

The Indian Boiler Regulations, 2026, which the Central Boilers Board made on August 7, 2026 under the Boilers Act, 2025. They apply from their publication in the Gazette issue of October 1, 2026 (regulation 1(3)). They set US dollar fees for recognizing foreign firms, and deem approvals granted once their time limits pass (Appendix K).

The 2026 regulations, in our boiler guide →

Our note on the 2026 regulations →

Does my small boiler or heater count as a boiler?

Not if it's small, low pressure or below boiling. Under the Boilers Act, 2025, a boiler makes steam for use outside itself (section 2(c)). A vessel isn't a boiler if it holds under 25 liters, has under 1 kg/cm² design and working gauge pressure, or heats water below 100 degrees Celsius. The texts don't address thermic fluid heaters.

What counts as a boiler, in our boiler guide →

How does a boiler made outside India get approved?

A boiler's drawings are approved in up to three steps, before manufacture. First, the inspecting authority where it's made reviews them (Indian Boiler Regulations, regulation 321(2)). Fired boilers of 100 tons of steam an hour or more, and waste heat boilers of 20 or more, go to the Technical Adviser (Boilers). Then the user state's Chief Inspector approves (321(3), (4)).

Boilers made abroad, in our boiler guide →

How long do boiler approvals take for equipment made abroad?

The regulations set 21 days to approve drawings for boilers made outside India, and 5 or 10 days to approve their materials (Indian Boiler Regulations, 2026, Appendix K, serials 12 and 13). The limits run from a complete submission, and once one passes, the approval is deemed granted. These are the regulations' own limits.

Time limits, in our boiler guide →

How does a foreign firm get recognized under the boiler regulations, and what does it cost?

Apply to the Secretary of the Central Boilers Board, on paper or electronically, with two years' experience (regulation 17(1) to (3)). A foreign competent authority, steel maker, tube or pipe maker, foundry or forge pays USD 10,000, plus USD 2,000 per extra unit in one country. A foreign inspecting authority pays USD 1,000 (17(5)). Recognition lasts five years.

Recognition, in our boiler guide →

How long does a boiler maker's recognition last?

Three years. An inspecting authority recognizes a boiler maker in the category it applies for, for three years (Indian Boiler Regulations, 2026, regulation 7(3) and (4)). The maker may apply to renew at least 90 days before it ends. The Central Boilers Board's own recognitions, such as of inspecting and competent authorities, last five years (regulation 17(9)).

Recognition, in our boiler guide →

Can a foreign inspection body inspect boilers for India?

Yes, once the Central Boilers Board recognizes it as an inspecting authority, for a USD 1,000 fee (Indian Boiler Regulations, 2026, regulation 17(5)). It must be a registered entity, not a sole proprietorship, doing only inspection and certification work. To operate in India, it must be registered in India, with its design and drawing inspection office in India (regulation 24(2)).

Recognition, in our boiler guide →

What are the penalties under the Boilers Act, 2025?

Using a boiler without a certificate, or above its permitted pressure, carries a penalty of up to ₹1 lakh (Boilers Act, 2025, section 28). A continuing breach adds up to ₹1,000 a day, after the first. Tampering with a safety valve can mean up to two years in prison, a fine of up to ₹1 lakh, or both (section 29).

Penalties, in our boiler guide →

How is a boiler registered, and how soon is it examined?

The owner applies to the state's boiler inspector, and the state's Chief Inspector registers it or refuses, giving reasons (Boilers Act, 2025, section 12). The inspector sets the examination within 30 days of the application, or a shorter time the state sets, with ten days' notice at least. A certificate to use the boiler runs up to 12 months.

Registration, in our boiler guide →

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