May 5, 2026

DGFT

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

DGFT Public Notice No. 07/2026-27 amends Para 4.12(vi) of the HBP 2023: ad hoc norms ratified on or after April 1, 2015 are valid up to March 31, 2028.

THE DIRECTORATE GENERAL of Foreign Trade (DGFT), Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, issued Public Notice No. 07/2026-27, dated May 5, 2026. Its subject is the validity of ad hoc norms under Para 4.12(vi) of the Handbook of Procedures (HBP) 2023, and it amends that para. It is made under paragraphs 1.03 and 2.04 of the Foreign Trade Policy 2023. It was published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part I, Section 1, No. 123, dated May 6, 2026. It is signed by Lav Agarwal, Director General of Foreign Trade and Ex-officio Additional Secretary to the Government of India, and issued from File No. 01/94/180/011/AM24/PC-4. Para 4.07 of the HBP, as DGFT's consolidated Chapter 4 prints it, lets a Regional Authority issue an Advance Authorisation on the applicant's self-declaration, for example where there are no Standard Input Output Norms (SION) or valid ad hoc norms for an export product; the applicant undertakes to abide by the decision of the Norms Committee.

KEY FACTS

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Public Notice No. 07/2026-27

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Before the notice, Para 4.12(vi) said norms ratified by any Norms Committee (NC) in the office of DGFT on or after April 1, 2023, for any Advance Authorisation obtained under paragraph 4.07, "shall be valid for a period of three years from the date of ratification". Norms ratified on or after April 1, 2015 for any Advance Authorisation obtained under paragraph 4.07 of HBP, 2015-2020 "shall also be valid further upto 31.03.2026" (March 31, 2026). Because all Norms Committee decisions are available as minutes on the DGFT website, all other applicants of Advance Authorisation could also apply and get authorizations on such ratified norms on a repeat basis while the norms were valid. The para did not apply to authorizations applied for items listed under Appendix 4P.

The amended Para 4.12(vi) begins: "Norms ratified by any Norms Committee (NC) in the O/o DGFT on or after 01.04.2015 in respect of any Advance Authorisation obtained under paragraph 4.07 shall be valid up to 31.03.2028." It keeps the sentence letting all other applicants use such ratified norms on a repeat basis during their validity. It does not apply to authorizations applied for items listed under Appendix 4P "and to those ad-hoc norms in which Norms Committee (NC) has expressly specified that such norms shall not be applicable for other applications". The notice states its effect as: the validity period of ad hoc norms ratified by Norms Committees on or after April 1, 2015 under Para 4.07 of HBP-2023 "shall remain valid until 31.03.2028" (March 31, 2028). It says the amendment aims to promote ease of doing business by ensuring continuity, predictability and lowering transaction costs for exporters.

The amended para gives one date, March 31, 2028, for all norms ratified on or after April 1, 2015. It does not mention the three years from the date of ratification that the old text gave norms ratified on or after April 1, 2023. The notice states no date from which it takes effect.

DGFT's consolidated copy of HBP Chapter 4 (HBP_07_2026_Chapter_04.pdf, last modified July 30, 2026) still prints the old Para 4.12(vi), with norms ratified on or after April 1, 2015 valid "upto 31.03.2026", on pages 73 and 74 (checked October 28, 2026).

Issued by	Directorate General of Foreign Trade, Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce and Industry
Document	Public Notice No. 07/2026-27
Dated	May 5, 2026
Published	Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part I, Section 1, No. 123, May 6, 2026
Amends	Para 4.12(vi), Handbook of Procedures 2023
Applies to	Norms ratified by any Norms Committee in the office of DGFT on or after April 1, 2015 for any Advance Authorisation obtained under paragraph 4.07
Valid up to	March 31, 2028
Repeat use	All other applicants of Advance Authorisation may apply and get authorizations on such ratified norms on a repeat basis during their validity
Not applicable to	Authorizations applied for items listed under Appendix 4P; ad hoc norms the Norms Committee has expressly specified shall not be applicable for other applications
Para 4.12(vi) before	Norms ratified on or after April 1, 2023: three years from ratification; norms ratified on or after April 1, 2015 for Advance Authorisations under paragraph 4.07 of HBP, 2015-2020: up to March 31, 2026
Takes effect	No date stated in the notice
Legal basis	Paragraphs 1.03 and 2.04, Foreign Trade Policy 2023
HBP Chapter 4 on DGFT's website	Still prints the old Para 4.12(vi), with norms ratified on or after April 1, 2015 valid "upto 31.03.2026" (pages 73 and 74; checked October 28, 2026)
Signed by	Lav Agarwal, Director General of Foreign Trade and Ex-officio Additional Secretary to the Government of India
File number	01/94/180/011/AM24/PC-4

Para 4.12(vi) of the Handbook of Procedures 2023, before and after

Para 4.12(vi)	Text

Existing	Norms ratified by any Norms Committee (NC) in the O/o DGFT on or after 01.04.2023 in respect of any Advance Authorisation obtained under paragraph 4.07 shall be valid for a period of three years from the date of ratification. However, the Norms ratified by any Norms Committee (NC) on or after 01.04.2015 in respect of any Advance Authorisation obtained under paragraph 4.07 of HBP, 2015-2020 shall also be valid further upto 31.03.2026. Since all decisions of the Norms Committees are available in the form of minutes on the DGFT website, all other applicants of Advance Authorisation are also eligible to apply and get their authorisations based on such ratified norms on repeat basis during validity of these norms. This para is not applicable for authorisations applied for items listed under Appendix 4P.
Amended by Public Notice No. 07/2026-27	Norms ratified by any Norms Committee (NC) in the O/o DGFT on or after 01.04.2015 in respect of any Advance Authorisation obtained under paragraph 4.07 shall be valid up to 31.03.2028. Since all decisions of the Norms Committees are available in the form of minutes on the DGFT website, all other applicants of Advance Authorisation are also eligible to apply and get their authorisations based on such ratified norms on repeat basis during validity of these norms. This para is not applicable for authorisations applied for items listed under Appendix 4P and to those ad-hoc norms in which Norms Committee (NC) has expressly specified that such norms shall not be applicable for other applications.

The public notice (PDF, 602 KB)

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IndusDesk

hello@indusdesk.com · +91 11 4141 3939

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

Read online: indusdesk.com/dgft/insights/ad-hoc-norms-ratified-since-april-2015-valid-until-march-31-2028/