October 1, 2026

CBIC

Insecticides imported for non-insecticidal use need a permit

CBIC Instruction No. 18/2026-Customs: substances in the Insecticides Act Schedule imported for non-insecticidal use, acrylonitrile included, need an import permit.

THE CENTRAL BOARD OF Indirect Taxes & Customs (CBIC), Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance, issued Instruction No. 18/2026-Customs, F. No. 450/51/2018-Cus.III, dated October 1, 2026, to the Principal Chief Commissioners, Chief Commissioners, Principal Commissioners and Commissioners of Customs, and the Principal Directors General and Directors General under CBIC. Its subject is "Requirement of import permit for non-insecticidal use of insecticides". It refers to a communication dated September 21, 2026 from the Directorate of Plant Protection, Quarantine & Storage (DPPQ&S), Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, about the Gazette notification dated July 8, 2026 that amends the Insecticides Rules, 1971 and mandates an import permit for non-insecticidal uses. It is signed by Anshuman Yadav, OSD, Customs Policy Wing, CBIC.

KEY FACTS

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The instruction records that the Registration Committee, at its 474th meeting on July 30, 2026, considered that notification, the Insecticides Third Amendment Rules, 2026. The Committee observed that the notification is statutory, has force of law and must be adhered to by all applicants desiring to import any of the substances included in the Schedule to the Insecticides Act, 1968, for non-insecticidal purposes. It decided that henceforth all applications for an import permit are to be made in the stipulated Form, and that the notification is to be put in the public domain. It has also been specifically conveyed, the instruction says, that since the requirement has now been stipulated in the Insecticides Rules, 1971 by the notification of July 8, 2026, obtaining an import permit is a statutory requirement to be complied with by all applicants for substances proposed to be imported for non-insecticidal uses, "including acrylonitrile". Customs formations are to bring this to the notice of all concerned officers "for information and compliance", and to report any difficulties in implementation to the Board.

The DPPQ&S letter attached to the instruction, F. No. 04-06/2026-CIR-I (E-197047), is addressed to CBIC and the Director General of Foreign Trade, with its day left blank (".09.2026"). It reproduces the Committee's decision under agenda item 3.2, by which the Committee, "in supersession of all its earlier decision on the subject of import permit", decided to comply with the notification. Applications pending with the Secretariat of CIB&RC "shall also be dealt in accordance with revised guidelines with the then application form". The Committee considered a communication of July 24, 2026 from M/s Supreme Petrochem Ltd on the Gujarat High Court order of November 19, 2025, which set aside the import permit requirement to the extent of acrylonitrile imported for non-insecticidal use. It held that, the requirement now being in the Insecticides Rules, 1971, it applies to acrylonitrile as well. The letter says a public notice has been uploaded on the Directorate's website. A scanned public notice of the Directorate, F. No. 26-08/2026-CIR-I (E-190808), dated August 6, 2026, is also enclosed: it asks all applicants to apply for an import permit for pesticides (dual-use/non-insecticidal use) in Form I A, and says applications already received in the CROP portal "shall also be scrutinized as per the above guidelines".

Also attached is the notification itself, G.S.R. 597(E) of July 8, 2026, the Insecticides Third (Amendment) Rules, 2026, published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 3, Sub-section (i), No. 539, and in force from that publication. It adds a clause (c) to rule 4, "grant import permit to any person desirous to import an insecticide for non-insecticidal use", and a new rule 8A. The application is made to the Registration Committee in Form IA with a fee of rupees five thousand; the Committee may hold an inquiry to verify the information furnished by the applicant; a complete application is to be disposed of "preferably within a period of forty-five days which may further extend to a period not later than fifteen days"; and the permit is valid for one year, or three years if the applicant holds a certificate of registration for the pesticide for which the imported goods are intended to be used as raw material.

Form IA's notes say an application is to be decided "preferably in 30 days (4-6 weeks as per Registration Committee meeting)" from receipt of the complete form on the online portal, and that no permit is required for unit packs of 5 gm or less of Certified Reference Material or Reference Standards of insecticides/pesticides. The form asks for the insecticide and its minimum purity, the item to be manufactured, the annual quantity in MT, an industrial licence or Industrial Entrepreneur Memorandum, Pollution Control Board consent and three years of imports and consumption, and the applicant undertakes that the imported material is not for sale but for use as per its own requirement. The instruction itself refers only to "the stipulated Form"; the form, fee and time limits are in the Rules and guidelines attached to it. It sets out no check at clearance, does not list the substances in the Schedule or name tariff items, does not say what is to be presented with the bill of entry, and gives no date from which it applies.

A later instruction gives importers interim relief. CBIC Instruction No. 23/2026-Customs, F. No. 450/51/2018-Cus.III, dated November 10, 2026, records representations from the trade: importers who are not themselves manufacturers, including traders who import liquid bulk chemicals on behalf of several actual users, cannot apply for the import permit, and consignments contracted and shipped earlier are being held at ports. CBIC examined the issue with CIB&RC and the Directorate General of Foreign Trade. "In view of above and ongoing litigation on the issue", for 90 days from October 1, 2026, the date of Instruction No. 18/2026-Customs, consignments of Schedule substances declared for non-insecticidal use are to be released on an end use bond. The importer must also give an undertaking that the goods are imported for non-insecticidal use and will not be used, sold or supplied for insecticidal use, with the name and address of the actual users. The facility also covers consignments held now only for want of the permit. It does not apply where any other violation is noticed or where there is specific intelligence of diversion to insecticidal use. NCTC is to change the risk management system to match, and Custom Houses are to align their local procedures and may issue public notices. CBIC calls it an interim measure, to be reviewed with CIB&RC, the Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare and DGFT, and says Instruction No. 18/2026-Customs "stands modified to the above extent". It is signed by Anshuman Yadav, OSD, Customs Policy Wing, CBIC.

Issued by	Central Board of Indirect Taxes & Customs, Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance
Document	Instruction No. 18/2026-Customs (F. No. 450/51/2018-Cus.III)
Dated	October 1, 2026
Addressed to	Principal Chief Commissioners, Chief Commissioners, Principal Commissioners and Commissioners of Customs; Principal Directors General and Directors General under CBIC
Applies to	Imports of any substance in the Schedule to the Insecticides Act, 1968 for non-insecticidal purposes, acrylonitrile included
Basis	Insecticides Third (Amendment) Rules, 2026 (G.S.R. 597(E), July 8, 2026), as conveyed by DPPQ&S on September 21, 2026; Registration Committee, 474th meeting, July 30, 2026
Takes effect	The instruction gives no date; the Rules came into force on publication in the Official Gazette, dated July 8, 2026
Application	Form IA, to the Registration Committee
Fee	Rupees five thousand
Time to decide	Preferably within forty-five days, "which may further extend to a period not later than fifteen days" (rule 8A(4)); Form IA's notes: preferably 30 days (4-6 weeks as per Registration Committee meeting)
Permit valid for	One year; three years if the applicant holds a certificate of registration for the pesticide the imported goods are raw material for
No permit needed	Unit packs of 5 gm or less of Certified Reference Material or Reference Standards of insecticides/pesticides (Form IA, note 6)
Pending applications	Pending with the Secretariat of CIB&RC: "dealt in accordance with revised guidelines with the then application form"; already received in the CROP portal: scrutinized as per the guidelines (public notice of August 6, 2026)
Acrylonitrile	Included (instruction, paragraph 5); the attached letter records the Gujarat High Court order of November 19, 2025 that had set aside the requirement for acrylonitrile
Interim relief	CBIC Instruction No. 23/2026-Customs (F. No. 450/51/2018-Cus.III), November 10, 2026: release on an end use bond for 90 days from October 1, 2026, the date of Instruction No. 18/2026-Customs
Conditions of the relief	An undertaking that the goods are for non-insecticidal use and will not be used, sold or supplied for insecticidal use, with the name and

	address of the actual users; not where any other violation is noticed or there is specific intelligence of diversion
Held consignments	The relief also covers consignments declared for non-insecticidal use held only for want of the import permit
Signed by	Anshuman Yadav, OSD, Customs Policy Wing, CBIC

The instruction (PDF, 2.1 MB)

Source: CBIC's own copy.

Checked against the official copy on October 27, 2026.

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Read online: indusdesk.com/customs/insights/insecticides-imported-for-non-insecticidal-use-need-a-permit/