November 2, 2026

DGFT

SCOMET: star status can replace AEO; GAER valid for 3 years

DGFT Public Notice No. 37/2026-27 lets a 4-Star or 5-Star Status Holder certificate stand in for AEO in SCOMET procedures and makes GAER valid for three years.

THE DIRECTORATE GENERAL of Foreign Trade (DGFT) issued Public Notice No. 37/2026-27 dated November 2, 2026, under paragraphs 1.03 and 2.04 of the Foreign Trade Policy (FTP), 2023. It amends Chapter 10 of the Handbook of Procedures (HBP), 2023 with immediate effect, under the subject "Extension of SCOMET Authorisation-based facilitation to eligible 4-Star and 5-Star Status Holders and extension of validity of General Authorisation for Export after Repair in India (GAER)". It was published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part I, Section 1, No. 332, dated November 3, 2026. Lav Agarwal, Director General of Foreign Trade and Ex-Officio Additional Secretary to the Government of India, signed it. It was issued from File No. 01/91/180/18/AM17/EC.

KEY FACTS

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In five places, a valid 4-Star or 5-Star Status Holder Certificate now works as an alternative to Authorized Economic Operator (AEO) certification. Under "Stock and Sale", para 10.10(c)(vii), the papers for an original equipment manufacturer, electronic manufacturing services provider or contract manufacturer (OEM/EMS/CM) may now be a copy of the AEO certificate or of a valid 4-Star/5-Star Status Holder Certificate. For the GAER, paras 10.12(D)(A)(m) and 10.12(D)(B)(5) now accept AEO certification or the status holder certificate, still with ICP compliance, for re-export to vendors and OEMs. For the "General Authorisation for Export of Telecommunication" (GAET) and the "General Authorisation for Export of Information Security Items" (GAEIS), paras 10.15(I)(1)(b)(vi) and 10.15(II)(1)(b)(vi) now accept AEO T2 certification of CBIC or the status holder certificate.

A GAER is now valid for three years from its date of issue instead of one, in para 10.12(D)(A)(e) and in serial number 4 of the validity table under para 10.17. The reporting rule changes too. The old text asked for post-reporting within 30 days from the date of each export. The new text asks for post-shipment reports within 30 days from the end of each quarter.

The notice says it extends the existing SCOMET authorization-based facilitation under Stock and Sale, GAER, GAET and GAEIS to eligible exporters holding valid 4-Star or 5-Star Status Holder Certificates, subject to the other conditions, and that the longer GAER validity is meant to ease exports of SCOMET items after repair in India. It does not change the other conditions of these procedures. It does not say whether a GAER issued before November 2, 2026 now runs for three years, and it does not set out how an exporter shows that its status holder certificate is valid.

Issued by	Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT), Ministry of Commerce and Industry
Document	Public Notice No. 37/2026-27
Dated	November 2, 2026

Published	Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part I, Section 1, No. 332, November 3, 2026 (CG-DL-E-06112026-277739)
Powers	Paragraphs 1.03 and 2.04 of the Foreign Trade Policy, 2023
Amends	Chapter 10 of the Handbook of Procedures, 2023 (SCOMET)
In effect	Immediately
New alternative to AEO	A valid 4-Star/5-Star Status Holder Certificate, in Stock and Sale, GAER, GAET and GAEIS
GAER validity	Three years from the date of issue, was one year
GAER reporting	Post-shipment reports within 30 days from the end of each quarter, was within 30 days from the date of each export
Signed by	Lav Agarwal, Director General of Foreign Trade
File	01/91/180/18/AM17/EC
Related	FTP 2023 Chapter 10: imported SCOMET goods need an authorization to be exported again
Related	FTP 2023 Chapter 2: merchanting trade is allowed, except for SCOMET and CITES goods

What the notice changes in Chapter 10 of the HBP, 2023

Sl. No.	Provision	Before	After
1	Para 10.10(c)(vii) [Stock and Sale]	Copy of AEO certificate (in case of OEM/EMS/CM)	Copy of AEO certificate or valid 4-Star/5-Star Status Holder Certificate (in case of OEM/EMS/CM)
2	Para 10.12(D)(A)(m) [GAER]	AEO certification, along with ICP compliance, mandatory for re-export to vendors/OEMs	AEO certification or valid 4-Star/5-Star Status Holder Certificate, along with ICP compliance, mandatory for re-export to vendors/OEMs
3	Para 10.12(D)(B)(5) [GAER]	AEO certification along with ICP compliance, for re-export to vendors/OEMs	AEO certification or valid 4-Star/5-Star Status Holder Certificate along with ICP compliance, for re-export to vendors/OEMs
4	Para 10.15(I)(1)(b)(vi) [GAET]	AEO T2 certification of CBIC	AEO T2 certification of CBIC or valid 4-Star/5-Star Status Holder Certificate
5	Para 10.15(II)(1)(b)(vi) [GAEIS]	AEO T2 certification of CBIC	AEO T2 certification of CBIC or valid 4-Star/5-Star Status Holder Certificate
6	Para 10.12(D)(A)(e) [GAER]	Valid for one year from issue, post-reporting within 30 days from the date of each export	Valid for three years from issue, post-shipment reports within 30 days from the end of each quarter

7	S.No. 4 of the table under para 10.17	GAER for imported SCOMET items after repair valid for one year, post-reporting within 30 days from each export	Valid for three years, post-shipment reports within 30 days from the end of each quarter

The public notice (PDF, 578 KB)

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Read online: indusdesk.com/dgft/insights/scomet-star-status-can-replace-aeo-gaer-valid-for-3-years/