

SUGGESTIONS ON MID TERM REVIEW ON FOREIGN TRADE POLICY

1. Online filing of application:

Online filing of application for grant of Status certificate, clubbing of exports from different EDI ports takes time due to the non- functioning of the system. Hence members from the trade and industry are unable to avail this facility.

Suggestion:

The department may look into the matter for smooth functioning.

2. HS Codes

The proposed GST scheme requires all invoices to mention HS Codes even for domestic transactions. There is no awareness & guidance available on this front.

Suggestion:

It is suggested a special cell can be set up for guiding the members from the trade and industry, exporters/importers in all regional offices of DGFT.

3. Rejection of Merchandise Exports from India Scheme (MEIS) applications on account of name mismatch

There are several cases of MEIS rejection due to mismatch of name specially in "others" category. It might be appreciated that members from trade and industry cannot mention product name as "others" in shipping bill and export. They generally mention the brand name. Such cases face rejection on account of name mismatch.

Suggestion:

It is suggested since, MEIS is allowed on a particular HS code, the applications be accepted if members from trade and industry mention the brand name or chemical name etc.

4. Eligibility under MEIS, due to change in HS Codes of some items w.e.f. 01/01/2017

Since 01/01/2017, HS codes of some items have been changed/ modified. It is due to this change, these items which were earlier under MEIS are not covered in MEIS as per new HS codes.

Suggestion:

It is suggested suitable clarification may be issued by the department so that the concerned HS codes continue to be eligible for the members to get their required benefits.

5. Doing away with Printing of Documents for Customs Clearance:

All efforts by the Government with regard to ease of doing business by reducing the use of papers, the CBEC by its Circulars dated 23.11.2016 and 24.11.2016 eliminated print out of various documents for customs clearance, including Mate Receipts, E.P. Copy of Shipping Bills, Exchange Control Copy etc. However, this is creating problems at the ground level as the EP copy of Shipping Bill is required for discharging the Bonds under A.R.E. -1 and the Central Excise Authorities as well as the Banks who are still not aware of these instructions and the documents are still required to be submitted to the departments, adding to time consumption and transaction cost.

Suggestion :

It is suggested, the DGFT may kindly direct the concerned agencies including the RAs, Banks and Central Excise Authorities so that the above Circulars can be implemented at the ground working level.

6. Non- functioning of DGFT Server :

It has been observed by some of the members from the trade and industry that when IEC has been applied online the DGFT & the ICEGATE site does not reflect the IEC, in spite of receiving the confirmation of the online filing.

In some cases after the amendment of IEC code, data is not transmitted to custom immediately. If the transmission is done immediately it will help the IEC Holder.

Suggestion:

It is suggested the functioning of the server maybe looked into so as to ease the business activity of the members from trade and industry.

7 Advance Ruling Facility:

There should be a facility of an Advance Ruling in DGFT as provided by customs, excise and income tax so that an exporter/foreign supplier who wish to be clear on any provision of the Foreign Trade Policy before venturing into exports activity under a particular Scheme can obtain a statutory ruling in the form of Advance Ruling.

Suggestion:

This will give push to technology transfer as well since, Indian importers of technology can obtain ruling which will be binding on DGFT. This will be a step in Ease of Doing Business.