

## WEEKLY TRADE UPDATE

### Foreign Trade Update

The Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT), Ministry of Commerce and Industry has recently undertaken the following foreign trade measures.

#### **A. Electronic filing and issuance of Preferential Certificate of Origin for India's Exports under several Free Trade Agreements w.e.f. April 7, 2020**

Vide Trade Notice No. 01/2020-2021 dated April 7, 2020, the online platform that is currently used to issue Certificates of Origin (CoO) for exports to Nepal under South Asian Free Trade Area & SAARC Preferential Trading Arrangement, exports from India to Chile under India-Chile Preferential Trade Agreement and exports to Korea under India- Korea Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (the platform URL: <https://coo.dgft.gov.in>), can now be used to issue CoO for exports to other countries under the following Free Trade Agreements/ Preferential Trade Agreements with effect from April 7, 2020:

1. Exports under ASEAN-India Free Trade Agreement to Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam;
2. Exports under India- Japan Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement to Japan;
3. Exports under SAARC Preferential Trading Agreement to Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Maldives, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. (already live for Nepal);
4. Exports under South Asian Free Trade Area Bangladesh, Bhutan, Maldives, Pakistan and Sri Lanka (already live for Nepal);
5. Exports under Asia Pacific Trade Agreement to Bangladesh, China, Lao, Republic of Korea, and Sri Lanka;
6. Exports under India- Sri Lanka Free Trade Agreement to Sri Lanka.

The following are the important components of the process:

1. The application must be made through the platform URL: <https://coo.dgft.gov.in>.
2. A Digital Signature Certificate (Class II or Class III, with the IEC number of the firm embedded) would be required for the purpose of electronic verification and must be the same as in other DGFT applications.
3. On registration at the portal, a password would be sent on the email of the IEC holder. In case the IEC holder desires to update the email on which communication is to be done with the portal, the same may be done by using the 'Online IEC application' module on the DGFT website.
4. Once registration is done, all directors'/partners' details and branch details would be auto-populated in the CoO as available in the DGFTIEC database. It is relevant to ensure that the updated IEC details are available in the DGFT system and necessary steps are taken to modify the IEC details online, whenever required.
5. For further guidance on registration and application, Help Manual & FAQs are present on the main page of the CoO platform. The DGFT may also be contacted through the

Contact@DGFT service on the DGFT website; the Toll Free Helpline number (1800-111-550) and by email at [coo-dgft@gov.in](mailto:coo-dgft@gov.in).

6. Once the CoOs are issued, the designated agencies will issue digitally signed, electronic CoO. The applicant exporter may download the CoO from the online platform and share the e-CoO with the authorities in the FTA partner countries. A CoO issued on this electronic platform can be verified by scanning the QR code available on the CoO or by cross checking the authenticity of the CoO serial number on the platform at <https://coo.dgft.gov.in>.
7. As and when the functioning of the issuing agency offices resumes, the issued CoO will also be made available in hard copy with ink-signature of the issuing officer to the applicant exporter besides the e-CoO. The CoO issuance process will continue to remain online.

The above Trade Notice can be accessed vide the following link:

<http://dgft.gov.in/sites/default/files/Trade%20Notice%201%20eCoO%20go-live%207Apr2020.pdf>

#### **B. Manner of continuation of Merchandise Exports from India Scheme for shipments on or after April 1, 2020 in light of the introduction of the Remission of Duties and Taxes on Exported Products Scheme**

With the approval of the WTO compliant Remission of Duties and Taxes on Exported Products (**RoDTEP**) scheme by the Cabinet on March 13, 2020 to replace the ongoing Merchandise Exports from India Scheme (**MEIS**) scheme as updated vide DGS Weekly Trade Update XIII, the manner the MEIS benefits will be available beyond March 31, 2020 has been clarified by the DGFT vide Trade Notice No. 03/2020-2021 dated April 15, 2020.

It was clarified that the benefits under MEIS for any item/tariff line /HS Code currently listed in the MEIS Schedule (Table 2 in Appendix 3B) will be available up to December 31, 2020. Further, prior to December 31, 2020, as and when an item/tariff line/HS code is notified to be covered under RoDTEP Scheme, it would be removed from coverage under MEIS.

The above Trade Notice can be accessed vide the following link:  
<http://dgft.gov.in/sites/default/files/Trade%20Notice%2003%2015%20April%202020.pdf>

## Trade Remedy Measures Update

The Directorate General of Trade Remedies (**DGTR**), Ministry of Commerce and Industry has recently undertaken the following measures concerning trade remedy investigations.

- **April 15, 2020-** Initiation of Sunset Review investigation concerning imports of “all Fully Drawn or Fully Oriented Yarn/ Spin Drawn Yarn/ Flat Yarn of Polyester” from China PR and Thailand.

Notification link:

<http://www.dgtr.gov.in/sites/default/files/SSR%20FDY%20ENGLISH.pdf>

- **April 13, 2020-** Preliminary Findings have been issued in the anti-dumping investigation concerning imports of "1-Phenyl-3-Methyl-5-Pyrazolone" originating in or exported from China PR.

Notification link:

<http://www.dgtr.gov.in/sites/default/files/NCV%20Signed%20English%20Pyrazolone%20PF%20Notification%2013-04-2020.pdf>

- **April 13, 2020-** Termination of safeguard investigation concerning imports of Phenol.

Notification link:

<http://www.dgtr.gov.in/sites/default/files/Phenol%20Safeguard%20Termination%20Notification.pdf>

- **April 10, 2020-** Temporary changes introduced in the trade remedy investigation process due to the COVID- 19 pandemic including the following:

- **New Investigation-** The DGTR has done away with filing of hard copy of the application and its supporting documents. The applications may be signed, scanned and emailed with supporting documents to [ad11-dgtr@gov.in](mailto:ad11-dgtr@gov.in), with the narrative part in searchable PDF/ MS Word format.
- **Ongoing Investigations-** All questionnaire responses, submissions and any other communications must be done via email.
- **Oral Hearings-** The oral hearings/ consultations will be held vide video conferencing with details in the notice of hearing/ consultation. Written submissions and rejoinders may be emailed to the Authority.
- **Verifications-** Since on-site verifications will not be possible, supporting data/ information like back up documents in the form of accounting and management records, all worksheets used for preparation of application/ questionnaire responses (usually in the form of MS Excel and/ or other extractions from the company's databases), explanation on how worksheets were compiled and reconciliation of data and figures in worksheets with that in the application must be provided.

Notification link:

<http://www.dgtr.gov.in/sites/default/files/Trade%20Notice%20Covid%2019.pdf>

The Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance has implemented the following trade remedy measures.

- **April 15, 2020-** Extension of anti-dumping duty on imports of “Acetone” till October 14, 2020 from Korea RP vide amendment to Notification No. 05/2015- Customs (ADD) dated February 18, 2015 and from Chinese Taipei and Saudi Arabia vide amendment to Notification No. 13/2015- Customs (ADD) dated April 16, 2015.

Notification link:

<http://cbic.gov.in/resources//htdocs-cbec/customs/cs-act/notifications/notfns-2020/cs-add2020/csadd07-2020.pdf>

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