

[TO BE PUBLISHED IN THE GAZETTE OF INDIA, EXTRAORDINARY, PART II SECTION 3, SUB-SECTION (i)]  
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA MINISTRY OF FINANCE (DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE)  
**Notification No. 16/ 2015 - Customs**

New Delhi, the 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2015.

G.S.R. 252 (E) -In exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (1) of section 25 of the Customs Act, 1962 (52 of 1962), the Central Government, being satisfied that it is necessary in the public interest so to do, hereby exempts goods specified in the Table 1 annexed hereto, from,-

(i) the whole of the duty of customs leviable thereon under the First Schedule to the Customs Tariff Act, 1975 (51 of 1975) (hereinafter referred to as the said Customs Tariff Act), and

(ii) the whole of the additional duty leviable thereon under section 3 of the said Customs Tariff Act, when specifically claimed by the importer.

2. The exemption under this notification shall be subject to the following conditions, namely:-

(1) that the goods imported are covered by a valid authorisation issued under the Export Promotion Capital Goods (EPCG) Scheme in terms of Chapter 5 of the Foreign Trade Policy permitting import of goods at zero customs duty;

(2) that the authorisation is registered at the port of import specified in the said authorisation and the goods, which are specified in the Table 1 annexed hereto, are imported within validity of the said authorisation and the said authorisation is produced for debit by the proper officer of customs at the time of clearance:

Provided that the goods imported should not fall under clause (f) of paragraph 5.01 of Foreign Trade Policy:

Provided further that the catalyst for one subsequent charge shall be allowed, under the authorisation in which plant, machinery or equipment and catalyst for initial charge have been imported, except in cases where the Regional Authority issues a separate authorisation for catalyst for one subsequent charge after the plant, machinery or equipment and catalyst for initial charge have already been imported;

(3) that the importer is not issued, in the year of issuance of zero duty EPCG authorisation, the duty credit scrips under the erstwhile Status Holder Incentive Scrip (SHIS) scheme. In the case of applicant who is Common Service Provider (herein after referred as CSP), the CSP or any of its specific users should not be issued, in the year of issuance of the zero duty EPCG authorisation, the duty credit scrips under SHIS. This condition shall not apply where already availed SHIS benefit that is unutilised is surrendered or where benefits availed under SHIS that is utilised is refunded, with applicable interest, before issue of the zero duty EPCG authorisation. SHIS scrips which are surrendered or benefit refunded or not issued in a particular year for the reason the authorisation has been issued in that year shall not be issued in future years also;

(4) that the goods imported shall not be disposed of or transferred by sale or lease or any other manner till export obligation is complete;

(5) that the importer executes a bond in such form and for such sum and with such surety or security as may be specified by the Deputy Commissioner of Customs or Assistant Commissioner of Customs binding himself to comply with all the conditions of this notification as well as to fulfill export obligation on Free on Board (FOB) basis equivalent to six times the duty saved on the goods imported as may be specified on the authorisation, or for such higher sum as may be fixed or endorsed by the Regional Authority in terms of Para 5.16 of the Handbook of Procedures, within a period of six years from the date of issue of Authorisation, in the following proportions, namely :-

S. No.	Period from the date of issue of Authorisation	Proportion of total export obligation
(1)	(2)	(3)
1.	Block of 1 <sup>st</sup> to 4 <sup>th</sup> year	Minimum 50%
2.	Block of 5 <sup>th</sup> and 6 <sup>th</sup> year	Balance

Provided that in case the authorisation is issued to a CSP, the CSP shall execute the bond with bank guarantee and the bank guarantee shall be equivalent to 100% of the duty foregone, and the bank guarantee shall be given by CSP or by anyone of the users or a combination thereof, at the option of the CSP:

Provided further that the export obligation shall be 75% of the normal export obligation specified above when fulfilled by export of following green technology products, namely, equipment for solar energy decentralised and grid connected products, bio-mass gassifier, bio-mass or waste boiler, vapour absorption chillers, waste heat boiler, waste heat recovery units, unfired heat recovery steam generators, wind turbine, solar collector and parts thereof, water treatment plants, wind mill and wind mill turbine or engine, other generating sets - wind powered, electrically operated vehicles - motor cars, electrically operated vehicles - lorries and trucks, electrically operated vehicles - motor cycle and mopeds, and solar cells:

Provided also that for units located in Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Jammu and Kashmir, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim and Tripura, the export obligation shall be 25% of the normal export obligation specified above:

Provided also that where a sick unit holding EPCG authorisation is notified by the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) or where a rehabilitation scheme is announced by the concerned State Government in respect of sick unit holding EPCG authorisation for its revival, the export obligation may be fulfilled within time period allowed by the Regional Authority as per the rehabilitation package prepared by the operating agency and approved by BIFR or rehabilitation department of State Government. In cases where the time period is not specified in the rehabilitation package, the export obligation may be fulfilled within the period specified in paragraph 5.05 of the Foreign Trade Policy;

(6) that if the importer does not claim exemption from the additional duty leviable under section 3 of the Customs Tariff Act, 1975, the additional duty so paid by him shall not be taken for computation of the net duty saved for the purpose of fixation of export obligation provided the Cenvat credit of additional duty paid has not been taken;

(7) that the importer, including a CSP, produces within 30 days from the expiry of each block from the date of issue of authorisation or within such extended period as the Deputy Commissioner of Customs or Assistant Commissioner of Customs may allow, evidence to the satisfaction of the Deputy Commissioner of Customs or Assistant Commissioner of Customs showing the extent of export obligation fulfilled, and where the export obligation of any particular block is not fulfilled in terms of the condition (5), the importer shall within three months from the expiry of the said block pay duties of customs equal to an amount which bears the same proportion to the duties leviable on the goods, but for the exemption contained herein, which the unfulfilled portion of the export obligation bears to the total export obligation, together with interest at the rate of fifteen per cent. per annum from the date of clearance of the goods;

(8) that where the importer fulfills 75% or more of the export obligation as specified in condition (5) [over and above 100% of the average export obligation] within half of the period specified for export obligation as mentioned in condition (5), his balance export obligation shall be condoned and he shall be treated to have fulfilled the entire export obligation;

(9) that the capital goods imported, assembled or manufactured, are installed and put to use, after their import, in the importer's factory or premises and a certificate from the jurisdictional Deputy Commissioner of Central Excise or Assistant Commissioner of Central Excise or from an independent Chartered Engineer, is produced within a period of six months from the date of completion of imports before the Deputy Commissioner of Customs or Assistant Commissioner of Customs at the port of import confirming such installation and use of the capital goods in the importer's factory or premises:

Provided that where the Regional Authority grants extension of the said period beyond six months from the date of completion of imports, the said overall period shall be extended by the Deputy Commissioner of Customs or Assistant Commissioner of Customs as the case may be:

Provided further that an importer (including an importer who is a CSP) registered with the Central Excise opting for the independent Chartered Engineer's certificate shall send a copy of the certificate, upon its issuance, to the jurisdictional Deputy Commissioner of Central Excise or Assistant Commissioner of Central Excise, as the case may be, as intimation or record:

Provided also that in case of import of spares, the installation certificate shall be produced within three years from the date of import:

Provided also that in the case of manufacturer exporter and merchant exporter having supporting manufacturer(s) or in the case of import of irrigation equipment for use in contract farming for export of agricultural products or in the case of importer rendering services, the capital goods may be installed at the factory or premises of such other person whose name and address is endorsed, prior to installation, by the Regional Authority on the authorisation referred to in condition (1). This would apply even when Regional Authority endorses a change in the factory or premises or person. The name and address of such other person shall also be mentioned on the relevant shipping bills. This shall not apply to a CSP:

Provided also that agro units located in Agri Export Zones or service providers in Agri Export Zones may move the capital goods within the Agri Export Zones under intimation to the jurisdictional Deputy Commissioner of Central Excise or Assistant Commissioner of Central Excise, as the case may be, subject to the condition that the importer shall maintain accurate record of such movement;

(10) that the imports and exports are undertaken through the seaports, airports or through the inland container depots or through the land customs stations as mentioned in the Table 2 annexed hereto or a Special Economic Zone notified under section 4 of the Special Economic Zones Act, 2005 (28 of 2005):

Provided that the Commissioner of Customs may, by special order or a public notice and subject to such conditions as may be specified by him, permit import and export through any other sea-port, airport, inland container depot or through a land customs station within his jurisdiction;

(11) that notwithstanding anything contained in condition (5) above, where the Regional Authority grants extension of block-wise period for any block(s) or overall period of fulfillment of export obligation up to a period of two years or regularization of shortfall in export obligation, not exceeding five percent of such export obligation, the said block-wise period or overall period of export obligation shall be extended or condoned by the Deputy Commissioner of Customs or Assistant Commissioner of Customs, as the case may be:

Provided that in respect of sick units referred to in the fourth proviso to condition (5) above, extension of overall period of export obligation shall not be allowed.

3. Where the goods specified in the Table 1 are found defective or unfit for use, the said goods may be re-exported back to the foreign supplier within three years from date of clearance of said goods:

Provided that at the time of re-export, the goods are identified to the satisfaction of the Deputy Commissioner of Customs or Assistant Commissioner of Customs, as the case may be, to be the same as the goods which were imported.

**Explanation** - For the purpose of this notification, -

(A) "Capital goods" has the same meaning as assigned to it in paragraph 9.08 of the Foreign Trade Policy;

(B) "Common Service Provider" (CSP) means a service provider who is designated or certified as a Common Service Provider by the Director General of Foreign Trade, Department of Commerce or State Industrial Infrastructural Corporation in a Town of Export Excellence;

(C) "Export obligation", -

(I) means obligation on the importer to export to a place outside India, goods manufactured or capable of being manufactured or services rendered by the use of capital goods imported in terms of this notification and the export obligation shall be over and above the average level of exports achieved by the importer in the preceding three licensing years for the same and similar products within the overall export obligation period including the extended period, if any and such average shall be the arithmetic mean of export performance in the last three years for the same and similar products:

Provided that in case of export of goods relating to handicraft, handlooms, cottage, tiny sector, agriculture, animal husbandry, floriculture, horticulture, pisciculture, viticulture, poultry, sericulture, carpet, coir and jute, the importer shall not be required to maintain the average level of exports:

Provided also that in case of export of goods relating to aquaculture (including fisheries), the importer shall not be required to maintain the average level of exports subject to the condition that EPCG authorisation has been obtained for goods other than fishing trawlers, boats, ships and other similar items:

Provided also that the goods, excepting tools, imported under this notification by the aforesaid sectors, shall not be allowed to be transferred for a period of five years from the date of imports even in cases where export obligation has been fulfilled:

Provided also that exports made to such countries as notified by Director General of Foreign Trade, shall not be counted for fixing the average level of exports:

Provided also that exports against only such shipping bills which mention the authorisation number and date of the authorisation shall be counted for the fulfillment of the export obligation:

Provided also that in the case of authorisation issued to a CSP, -

(i) the reference to 'importer' in this Explanation shall be taken to mean a reference to 'CSP and specific users whose details are informed prior to export by CSP to the Regional Authority';

(ii) for the exports by users of the common service to be counted towards fulfilment of export obligation of CSP, the respective shipping bills of the users of common service shall contain the authorisation details of the CSP and the concerned Regional Authority shall be informed about the details of the users prior to such export; and

(iii) the exports counted against the authorisation in terms of this notification shall not be counted towards fulfilment of specific export obligations against all other authorisations issued to the CSP or user under Chapter 5 of the Foreign Trade Policy, including para 5.28 of Handbook of Procedures;

(II) shall be fulfilled through physical exports and the export proceeds realised in freely convertible currency. However, the following categories of supplies, shall also be counted towards fulfilment of export obligation:

(a) deemed exports, namely:

(i) supply of goods against Advance Authorisation or Advance Authorisation for annual requirement or Duty Free Import Authorisation Scheme;

(ii) supply of goods to Export Oriented Units or Software Technology Parks or Electronic Hardware Technology Parks or Biotechnology Park;

(iii) supply of goods to projects financed by multilateral or bilateral agencies or funds as notified by Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance under International Competitive Bidding (ICB) in accordance with the procedures of those agencies or funds, where legal agreements provide for tender evaluation without including customs duty;

(iv) supply and installation of goods and equipment (single responsibility of turnkey contracts) to projects financed by multilateral or bilateral agencies or funds as notified by Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance under ICB in accordance with the procedures of those agencies or funds, where bids may have been invited and evaluated on the basis of Delivered Duty Paid (DDP) prices for goods manufactured abroad;

(v) supply of goods to any project or purpose in respect of which the Ministry of Finance, by Notification No. 12/2012- Customs dated 17-3-2012, as amended from time to time, permits import of such goods at zero customs duty subject to conditions specified in the said Notification and the supply is made under ICB procedure;

(vi) supply of goods required for setting up of any of the mega power projects specified in the list 32A at Sl. No. 507 of Notification No. 12/2012- Customs dated 17.03.2012, as amended from time to time, provided the mega power project conforms to the threshold generation capacity specified in the said Notification. The supply should be made under ICB procedure. The ICB condition shall not be mandatory if the requisite quantum of power has been tied up through tariff based competitive bidding or if the project has been awarded through tariff based competitive bidding;

(vii) Supply of goods to nuclear power projects through National Competitive Bidding (NCB) or through ICB as provided in clause(h) of para 7.02 of Foreign Trade Policy:

(b) supply of ITA-1 items to Domestic Tariff Area, provided realization is in free foreign exchange;

(c) royalty payments received in freely convertible currency and foreign exchange received for Research and Development (R&D) services; and

(d) payments received in Rupee terms for such services as are specified in paragraph 5.04(h) of the Foreign Trade Policy.

(D) "Foreign Trade Policy" means the Foreign Trade Policy, 2015-2020, published by the Government of India in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry vide notification No. 01/2015-2020, dated the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2015 as amended from time to time;

(E) "Handbook of Procedures" means the Handbook of Procedures 2015-20 published by the Government of India in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry vide public notice No. 01/2015-2020, dated the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2015 as amended from time to time;

(F) "Manufacture" has the same meaning as defined in clause (f) of section 2 of the Central Excise Act, 1944 (1 of 1944);

(G) "Regional Authority" means the Director General of Foreign Trade appointed under section 6 of the Foreign Trade (Development and Regulation) Act, 1992 (22 of 1992) or an officer authorised by him to grant an authorisation including a duty credit scrip under the said Act.

**Table 1**

S. No.	Description of goods
(1)	(2)
1.	Capital goods for pre-production, production and post-production
2.	Capital goods in Semi Knocked Down (SKD) / Completely Knocked Down (CKD) conditions to be assembled into capital goods by the importer
3.	Spare parts of goods specified at Serial Nos.1 and 2 as actually imported and required for maintenance of capital goods so imported, assembled, or manufactured
4.	Spare parts required for the existing plant and machinery of the importer

**Table 2**

S. No.	Port, ICD, LCS	Located at
1.	Seaports	Bedi (including Rozi-Jamnagar), Chennai, Cochin, Dahej, Dharamtar, Haldia (Haldia Dock complex of Kolkata port), Kakinada, Kandla, Kattupalli (Tamil Nadu), Kolkata, Krishnapatnam, Ennore (Tamil Nadu), Karaikal (Union territory of Puducherry), Magdalla, Mangalore, Marmagao, Muldwarka, Mumbai, Mundra, Nagapattinam, Nhava Sheva, Okha, Paradeep, Pipavav, Porbander, Sikka, Tuticorin, Visakhapatnam and Vadinar.
2.	Airports	Ahmedabad, Bengaluru, Bhubaneswar, Calicut, Chennai, Cochin, Coimbatore, Dabolim (Goa), Delhi, Hyderabad, Indore, Jaipur, Kolkata, Lucknow (Amausi), Mumbai, Nagpur, Rajasansi (Amritsar), Srinagar, Trivandrum, Varanasi and Visakhapatnam.
3.	Inland Container Depots	Agra, Ahmedabad, Anaparthi (Andhra Pradesh), Melpakkam Village (Arakkonam Taluk, Vellore District), Babarpur, Bengaluru, Bhadohi, Bhatinda, Bhilwara, Bhiwadi, Bhusawal, Chettipalayam (Tamil Nadu), Chheharata (Amritsar), Coimbatore, Dadri, Dappar (Dera Bassi), Daulatabad (Wanjarwadi and Maliwada), Delhi, Dhannad Rau (District Indore), Dighi (Pune), Durgapur (Export Promotion Industrial Park), Faridabad, Garhi Harsaru, Gauhati, Guntur, Hyderabad, Irugur Village (Tamil Nadu), Irungattukottai (SIPCOT Industrial Park, Kattrambakkam Village, Sriperumbudur Taluk, Kanchipuram District, Tamil Nadu), Jaipur, Jalandhar, Jamshedpur, Jodhpur, Kanpur, Karur, Kheda (Pithampur, District Dhar), Kota, Kundli, Loni (District Ghaziabad), Ludhiana, Madurai, Malanpur, Mandideep (District Raisen), Marripalem Village (in Edlapadu Taluk of District Guntur), Miraj, Moradabad, Nagpur, Nasik, Patli (Gurgaon), Pimpri (Pune), Pitampur (Indore), Pondicherry, Raipur, Rewari, Rudrapur (Nainital), Salem, Singanalur, Surat, Surajpur, Talegaon (District Pune), Thudiyalur (Tamil Nadu), Tirupur, Tondiarpet (TNPM) in Chennai, Tuticorin, Udaipur, Vadodara, Varanasi, Veerapandi (Tamil Nadu) and Waluj (Aurangabad).
4.	Land Customs Stations	Agartala, Amritsar Rail Cargo, Attari Road, Changrabandha, Dawki, Ghojadanga, Hilli, Jogbani, Mahadipur, Nepalganj Road, Nautanva (Sonauli), Petrapole, Ranaghat, Raxaul, Singhabad and Sutarkhandi.

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