**GOODS & SERVICES TAX / IDT UPDATE – 87**

*Exemption of customs duty on ventilators, personal protection equipments, covid-19 testing kits and inputs for these goods.*

The Central Government vide Notification No. 20/2020- Customs dated 9th April 2020 has exempted the following goods from whole of the duty of customs leviable thereon under the First Schedule to the said Customs Tariff Act and the whole of health cess leviable thereon under section 141 the said of Finance Act, 2020:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S.No</th>
<th>Chapter or Heading or sub-heading or tariff item</th>
<th>Description of goods</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>9018 or 9019</td>
<td>Artificial respiration or other therapeutic respiration apparatus (Ventilators)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>63 or any chapter</td>
<td>Face masks and surgical Masks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>62 or any chapter</td>
<td>Personal protection equipment (PPE)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>30, 38 or any chapter</td>
<td>Covid-19 testing kits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Any Chapter</td>
<td>Inputs for manufacture of items at S. Nos. 1 to 4 above, subject to the condition that the importer follows the procedure set out in the Customs (Import of Goods at Concessional Rate of Duty) Rules, 2017.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This notification shall remain in force upto and inclusive of the 30th September, 2020.

*[Notification No. 20/2020- Customs dated 9th April 2020]*

*Special Refund and Drawback Disposal Drive –*

*Implementation of decision to expedite pending refund and drawback claims*

In line with the decision to release all pending refunds in order to provide immediate relief to the business entities, especially MSMEs, communicated vide *Press Note dated 08th April 2020* issued by the Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance, the Central
Government vide Instruction No. 03/2020- Customs dated 9th April 2020 has issued instructions regarding “Special Refund and Drawback Disposal Drive” with the objective of priority processing and disposal of all pending refund and drawback claims.

The key features of this Special Drive is as under:-

- This Special Drive shall be in place till 30.04.2020 & it is expected that during this period all refund and drawback claims that are pending as on 07.04.2020 shall be disposed

- The Principal Chief Commissioners/ Chief Commissioners shall monitor the performance on this front closely on a daily basis.

- The focus on refunds and drawback is aimed at providing immediate relief to the business entities, especially MSMEs, which makes it an imperative to ensure that there are no delays.

- Though the decision to process pending refund claims has been taken with a view to provide immediate relief to the taxpayers, due diligence is to be done before granting the refunds and drawback. All the relevant legal provisions, notifications, circulars and instructions must be followed while processing these claims.

- For facilitation of exporters, all communication should be done over email, wherever email id of the applicant is available.

- All deficiency memos may be reviewed and refund / drawback may be considered on merit.

[Instruction No. 03/2020- Customs dated 9th April 2020]

Conditional Waiver/Lowering of interest rate for delay in furnishing of FORM GSTR-3B for tax periods of February, 2020 to April, 2020

Central Government has issued Notification No. 3/2020- Integrated Tax dated 8th April 2020 & Notification No. 1/2020- Union Territory Tax dated 8th April 2020 so as to waive/lower the interest payable for the class of registered persons ,who are required to furnish the returns in FORM GSTR-3B, but fails to furnish the said return along with payment of tax for the months of February, March & April , 2020 , subject to conditions of filing the said return within the dates as specified in the said notifications in line with Notification No. 31/2020- Central Tax dated 3rd April 2020 issued under Central Tax.

[Notification No. 3/2020- Integrated Tax dated 8th April 2020 ]

[Notification No. 1/2020- Union Territory Tax dated 8th April 2020]
**GST Knowledge Sharing**

For Previous updates, GST articles, GST webcasts, publications, GST Legal Updates & E-Newsletter, Upcoming GST Events etc. please visit

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Chairman
GST & Indirect Taxes Committee

Vice-Chairman
GST & Indirect Taxes Committee