

## **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 9<sup>th</sup> 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:

<b>S.No</b>	<b>Chapter or Heading or sub-heading or tariff item</b>	<b>Description of goods</b>
1	9018 or 9019	Artificial respiration or other therapeutic respiration apparatus (Ventilators)
2	63 or any chapter	Face masks and surgical Masks
3	62 or any chapter	Personal protection equipment (PPE)
4	30, 38 or any chapter	Covid-19 testing kits
5	Any Chapter	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.

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

*[Notification No. 20/2020- Customs dated 9<sup>th</sup> 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 9<sup>th</sup> 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 9<sup>th</sup> 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 8<sup>th</sup> April 2020](#) & [Notification No. 1/2020- Union Territory Tax dated 8<sup>th</sup> 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 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2020](#) issued under Central Tax .

*[Notification No. 3/2020- Integrated Tax dated 8<sup>th</sup> April 2020 ]*

*[Notification No. 1/2020- Union Territory Tax dated 8<sup>th</sup> April 2020]*

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*Chairman  
GST & Indirect Taxes Committee*

*Vice- Chairman  
GST & Indirect Taxes Committee*