

GOODS & SERVICES TAX / IDT UPDATE – 90

Extensions in Import Validity period and Export obligation period in Advance authorizations/DFIA

The Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) vide [Policy Circular No.35/2015-20 dated 23rd April, 2020](#) has issued the following circular regarding the following procedural formalities may be followed by DGFT RAs and Trade in relation to extension in the import validity period and the export obligation Period for existing Advance Authorizations (AAs)/DFIA expiring from February to July 2020:-

A) Automatic Extension of Import Validity period and EO period by 6 months for AAs under HBP Para 4.41 (e) and Para 4.42(h) where no revalidation/EO Period extension has been granted till date:

i In all such cases where the facility of first or second extension in the import validity period or the EO extension period has not been availed by the exporter earlier, the revised or the extended import validity/EO period, as per the relaxations permitted would be updated in the ICEGATE/Customs System automatically based on a defined protocol between the DGFT-NIC/Customs in this regard.

ii Once the bulk updation and transmission of authorisations have been done by NIC Division, NIC would send RA-wise list of such authorisations to individual RAs with an update script to be run on the local server (available in the Downloads section of the local server). All RAs are required to run this script immediately so that any further extensions/re-validations on the authorizations would take into account this change in the local RA sever also.

iii In case of some individual cases, where the revised updated import validity or EO extension is not available in the ICEGATE, the exporter may approach the DGFT RA with a email/letter request for carrying out an amendment in the AA/DFIA. DGFT RA will accordingly examine the request expeditiously and endorse the extended validity/EO as per the provisions of FTP/HBP and transmit the amendment message electronically to DGFT/ICEGATE server.

B) Extension of Import Validity period and EO period by 6 months for AAs under HBP Para 4.41 (e) and Para 4.42(h) where revalidation/EO period extension has been granted till date:

For those AAs where 1st or the 2nd re-validation or EO extension has been granted under the respective paras of HBP, automatic transmission of extended dates is not possible due to system architecture issues. In such cases, the exporters shall make an amendment request through email/letter to the concerned Regional Authority providing the details of the case. RAs, upon receiving such requests from the exporters, shall expeditiously verify the eligibility of the request, and then carry out the amendments for Revalidation / EOP Extension in the local server.

C) Extension of Validity/EO by 6 months for AAs under HBP Para 4.41(e) and Para

4.42(h) where authorizations are Physical (non-EDI) in nature:

For such authorisations, the procedure to be adopted would be similar to amendment requests as given in para (B) above. The authorizations need to be produced physically at the concerned Regional Authority with a request for extension in EO/re-validation. The concerned RA shall examine the request and endorse the extended validity/EO based on eligibility as per provisions of FTP/HBP.

D) Same procedure, as given in Para A, B & C shall apply for extension of validity of the DFIA's for import.

[Policy Circular No.35/2015-20 ,dated 23rd April, 2020]

Review of Circular No. 17/2020 dated 03.04.2020 --Measure to facilitate trade during the lockdown period- section 143AA of the Customs Act, 1962

In view of extension in the lockdown period, **The Central Board of Indirect Taxes & Customs** vide [Circular No.21/2020-Customs,dated 21st April, 2020](#) has extended the **relaxation of the requirement to submit bonds** as specified in [Circular No.17/2020-Customs,dated 3rd April, 2020](#) & has decided to further extend the facility of accepting undertaking in lieu of bond for the period till **15.05.2020**. Consequently, the date for submission of proper bond in lieu of which the undertaking is being temporarily accepted is extended till **30.05.2020**. This relaxation will be reviewed by the Board at the end of the lockdown period.

Furthermore, in reference to para 3.3 (ii) of the circular, the undertaking in lieu of bond is to be submitted by the registered email ID of the IEC holder or their authorised Customs Broker. In addition to this requirement, but not in substitution, customs zones may prescribe **uploading of the undertaking on e-Sanchit**.

[Circular No.21/2020-Customs,dated 21st April, 2020]

IGST refunds on exports-extension in SB005 alternate mechanism

The Central Board of Indirect Taxes & Customs vide [Circular No.22/2020-Customs ,dated 21st April, 2020](#) has **decided to extend the facility of SB005 error correction** in the Customs EDI system for Shipping Bills with date **upto 31.12.2019**. The above decision has been taken considering the unprecedented challenges that the entire country is facing due to the COVID 19 pandemic, and that the exporters are facing genuine hard-ships due to the SB005 errors & resulting in blocking of the IGST refund disbursement, which is otherwise fully automated, except for the refund scroll generation.

[Circular No.22/2020-Customs ,dated 21st April, 2020]

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