

SUPPLEMENT TO REGULATORY NEWSLETTER

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Extension of Foreign Trade Policy 2015-2020 till 31.03.2021 and Extension of Hand Book of Procedures 2015-2020

Notification No. 57/2015-2020 and Notice No. 67/2015-2020

Dated 31st March, 2020

The Foreign Trade Policy (FTP), 2015-20 was notified by the Central Government on 1st April, 2015. The corresponding Handbook of Procedures (HBP) 2015-20 was notified by the Director General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) on 1st April, 2015

Vide this notification, the Central Government has made certain changes in the FTP, 2015-20 due to COVID 19 pandemic

The DGFT has also made corresponding changes in the Handbook of Procedures.

A. Following is the gist of amendments made in the FTP

1. Duration

FTP, 2015-20 was valid till 31.03.2020. The validity has now been extended till 31.03.2021.

2. Eligibility

The service categories eligible under the scheme and the rates of reward on such services as rendered w.e.f. 1st April, 2019 to 31st March, 2020 will be notified separately **Decision on continuation of SEIS will be taken and notified subsequently.**

3. Details of Duties exempted

Exemption from payment of IGST (Integrated Goods and Service Tax) and Compensation Cess on imports made against Advance Authorisations for physical exports has been extended up to 31.03.2021.

4. Validity & Transferability of DFIA (Duty Free Import Authorisation)

Validity period for making imports under various duty-free import authorizations expiring between 01.02.2020 and 31.07.2020, have been allowed automatic extension for another six months from the date of expiry.

5. EPCG Scheme

Exemption from payment of IGST (Integrated Goods and Service Tax) and Compensation Cess on Capital goods imported under EPCG Authorisation for physical exports has been extended up to 31.03.2021. Previously, it was upto 31.03.2020.

In case the validity period for import is expiring during 01.02.2020 to 31.07.2020, the validity stands automatically extended by further 6 months from the date of such expiry.

6. Export and Import of Goods

Exemption from payment of IGST (Integrated Goods and Service Tax) and Compensation Cess on imports and/ or procurement from bonded warehouse in DTA or from international exhibition held in

India has been extended up to 31.03.2021. Previously, it was upto 31.03.2020.

[FTP 2015-20](#)

B. Following is the gist of amendments made in the Handbook of Procedure

1. Duration

The Handbook of Procedure was previously valid till 31.03.2020. The validity has been extended till 31.03.2021.

2. Import of Metallic Waste and Scrap

The existing designated sea ports namely Chennai, Cochin, Ennore, JNPT, Kandla, Mormugao, Mumbai, New Mangalore, Paradeep, Tuticorin, Vishakhapatnam, Pipava, Mundra and Kolkata were allowed to import unshredded scrap till 31st March, 2020 . This facility is now extended till 30th September, 2020.

Such sea ports which fail to meet the deadline will be de-recognised for the purpose of import of unshredded metallic scrap w.e.f. 01.10.2020 (Previously 01.04.2019).

3. Recognition as Pre-shipment Inspection Agency (PSIA) and issuance of Pre- shipment Certificate (PSIC)

The recognition granted to PSIA extended validity of which was upto 31st March, 2020 or in case originally valid upto 29th June, 2020 would be deemed to be valid upto 30th June, 2020.

4. Last date of filing of application for Duty Credit Scrips

In respect of shipping bills where the Let Export Order (LEO) date falls during the period 01.02.2019 to 31.05.2019, application may be filed within a period of 15 months instead of 12 months.

The last date for filing of SEIS applications for FY 2018-19 will be 31.12.2020. Previously, it was 12 months from the end of relevant financial year of claim period.

5. Validity of status certificate

Validity period of the Status Holder Certificates is extended to enable the Status Holders to continue to avail the specified facilities/benefits. Status certificate will be valid for five years from the date of filing of application or 31 March 2021, whichever is later.

6. Entitlement

Norms ratified by any Norms Committee (NC) in respect of any Advance authorization obtained under Self-Ratification Scheme will be valid till the extended period of FTP i.e. upto 31.03.2021.

7. Validity period for import and Revalidation of Authorisation

For all Advance Authorisations where the validity for import is expiring between 01.02.2020 and 31.07.2020, the validity period stands automatically extended for another six months from the date of expiry, without requirement of obtaining such endorsement on these authorizations.

8. Export Obligation (EO) Period and its Extension

For all Advance Authorisations where the export obligation period is expiring between 01.02.2020 and 31.07.2020, the validity period stands automatically extended for another six months from the date of expiry, without requirement of obtaining such endorsement on these authorizations.

9. Application for Replenishment Authorisation

For the Replenishment Authorisation applications where the last date of filing the application falls between 01.02.2020 and 31.07.2020, the last date stands extended by six months.

10.Import of Diamonds for Certification/Grading & re-export and Export against Supply by Foreign Buyer

For such cases where the last date of exports falls between 01.02.2020 and 31.07.2020, the last date stands extended by six months.

11.Export through Exhibitions / Export Promotion Tours / Export of Branded Jewellery

For all cases where the last date calculated as per the durations mentioned under various sub-paras of aforesaid clause is expiring between 01.02.2020 and 31.07.2020, the last date stands extended by six months.

12.Exports against Advance Authorisation

For those cases where the last date for exports/replenishment/exports/drawal of precious metals as calculated under various sub-paras expires between 01.02.2020 and 31.07.2020, the last date stands extended by six months.

However, relaxation in the period for repatriation/forex realization would be equal to the period as allowed plus six months or as per RBI guidelines, whichever is less.

13.Procedure to apply for the Scheme for Rebate of State and Central Levies and Taxes (RoSCTL)

The last date for filing online claims is amended to read as 31.12.2020 in place of 30.06.2020.

14.Certificate of Installation of Capital Goods

The period of submission of Installation Certificate is extended by further 6 months from the original due date in cases where the six months period expires during 01.02.2020 to 31.07.2020.

15.Block-wise Fulfilment of EO (Export Obligation)

For the authorisations covered under sub-clauses (a), (c) and (d) of block-wise fulfilment of EO (Export Obligation), if the block wise export period expires during 01.02.2020 to 31.07.2020, such period is deemed to be automatically extended by further 6 months from the date of expiry.

16.Extension in Export Obligation Period

For the authorisations covered under sub-clauses (a), (c) and (d) of extension in export obligation period, if the export obligation period expires during 01.02.2020 to 31.07.2020, such period is deemed to be extended by further 6 months from the date of expiry.

17.Application / Approval / Renewal of approval

All Letters of Permission (LoP) / Letters of Intent (LoI) whose original or extended validity expires on or after 31.03.2020 may be deemed to be valid upto 31.12.2020.

18.Conditions of Import

In case where export obligation period against import of tea, items {covered by Chapter 9 of ITC (HS)} and coconut oil expires during 01.03.2020 to 30.06.2020, it would be deemed to be valid upto 30.09.2020.

19. Frequency of application and time period for claiming Terminal Excise Duty (TED) / Drawback

Last date of filing applications for refund of TED/Drawback where the dates of filing application falls on or after 1 March 2020 has been extended to 30th September 2020.

20.Procedure for claiming Transport and Marketing Assistance

Application for refund of claims for the quarter ended 31.03.2019 and 30.06.2019 can be filed upto 30.09.2020.

21.Late Cut

Timelines for imposing late cuts, on the applications which are filed after the prescribed dates, have been relaxed.

Necessary changes have been made in the Appendices and Aayat Niryat Forms in line with the changes made in the Hand Book of Procedures as stated above.

[HBP, 2015-20](#)