



भारत सरकार
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
वित्त मंत्रालय, राजस्व विभाग
Ministry of Finance, Department of Revenue
सीमा शुल्क आयुक्त (निवारक) का कार्यालय
Office of the Commissioner of Customs (Preventive)
पूर्वोत्तर क्षेत्र, North Eastern Region

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Public Notice No. 03/2021
Dated Shillong, the 30th July 2021

Subject: Efforts required to reduce the compliance burden for citizens and business activities

The Government of India has been focussing its efforts to reduce compliance burden for citizens and business activities. With this endeavour, various procedures and requirements stated under various provisions in the Customs Act, 1962 are being revisited so that compliances under these laws can be simplified or dispensed with, in order to enhance ease of doing business and minimize regulatory compliances.

2. CBIC has undertaken a series of next generation reforms under the umbrella of 'Turant Customs' initiative to enable Faceless, Paperless and Contactless clearance leading to enhanced Ease of Doing Business.

3. One key area which imposes compliance is the necessity of seeking periodic renewal of the licenses/registrations issued under the Customs Act. As seen, the period of validity of licenses/registrations under the respective regulations is for a certain period after which such licenses/registrations are required to be renewed. Such renewals are legacy requirement, essentially a ground to review the compliance behaviour of the license holder/registration holder. However, the compliance behaviour is in any case can be confirmed transaction-wise. It can also be checked in a systemic manner by DGARM as already done in several cases. Also, the renewal exercise is an avoidable interface between the licensee and Customs officers which is not in sync with the objective of our 'Contactless Customs' programme. Finally, it is indeed a burden on the licensee/registration holder to get it renewed every time. Thus, for all these reasons there is justification to dispense with the periodic renewals. The implication of this would be that the licenses/registrations once issued would be valid for lifetime.

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4. As aforementioned, the need to reduce compliance burden justifies making the license 'lifetime' but in certain situations say, when the business is wound up, the licensee may wish to surrender the license/registration. Such applications for surrender of license/registration may be accepted once it is confirmed that the licensee/registration holder has paid all dues to the Central Government and no proceedings are pending against the licensee. This is especially needed when the license is valid in perpetuity. Also, it may so happen that the person is not active for a long time, which may be misused. Hence, provision for voluntary surrender of the license/registration as well as automatic invalidation of the Licence/Registration in case of inactivity for a long period (exceeding 1 year) becomes necessary to prevent misuse of licenses/registrations. However, there may arise situations wherein a licensee/registration holder may not make any transactions for a long period due to genuine reasons such as lack of business. These situations are especially applicable in the current pandemic era. In such situations, it seems appropriate to empower the Principal Commissioner or Commissioner of Customs to renew a license/registration which has been invalidated due to inactivity. It is also clarified that there is no change in present procedure undertaken by the field formations to verify the eligibility of license holder for renewal may be continued.

5. Accordingly, the the Centryal Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs has decided to abolish renewals of License/Registration in Customs Brokers Licensing Regulations, 2021 and Sea Cargo Manifest and Transhipment Regulations, 2018 incorporating the following changes:

- a) To provide lifetime validity of the licenses/registrations;
- b) To enable provision for making the licenses/registrations invalid in case the licensee/registration holder is inactive for the period exceeding 1 year at a time;
- c) To empower Principal Commissioner or Commissioner of Customs to renew a license/registration which has been invalidated due to inactivity; and
- d) To provide for voluntary surrender of license/registration.

6. Considering the far implications of these measures, it has been decided that above changes will be reviewed after six months (i.e. January 2022) by the Board for its impact and bring changes, if necessary.

7. Any difficulties faced or doubts arising in the implementation of this Public Notice may please be brought to the notice of Customs Commissionerate (Preventive), NER, Shillong.

[जी. एम. कामेई / G. M. Kamei]
आयुक्त / Commissioner

Authority: CBIC Circular No. 17/2021-Customs dated 23-07-2021 issued vide F. No. 450/58/2015-Cus-IV(Pt)

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स्पीड पोस्ट/ ईमेल SPEED POST/email

पत्राचार संख्या: GEN/TECH/PN/70/2021-Tech-O/o Commr-Cus-Shillong

दिनांक:

Copy for information to:-

1. The Chief Commissioner, CGST & Customs, Guwahati Zone for information.
2. The Deputy/Assistant Commissioner, Customs Division, Agartala/Aizawl/Dhubri/Dimapur/Guwahati/Imphal/Karimganj/Shillong with a request to bring to the notice of all concerned in their jurisdiction and ensure that the prescribed guidelines are followed.
3. North East Federation on International Trade (NEFIT), Neerakunj, Saraswati Vihar, Near NRL Petrol Pump, Guwahati – 781005.
4. Federation of Industry and Commerce of North Eastern Region (FINER), Swahid Dilip Chakravarty Path, H.No. 03, RGB Road, Guwahati – 781005.
5. Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI), North East Regional Advisory Council, H-19, Opp. Bhanu Apartments, Lamb Road, Guwahati – 781024.
6. Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), Ratnapeeth, 59 MG Road, Uzanbazar, Guwahati – 781001.
7. Border Trade & Chamber of Commerce, Moreh, Moreh Town, Chandel District, Manipur- 795131.
8. Meghalaya International Chamber of Commerce, Dawki, Meghalaya – 793109.
9. Meghalaya Mine Owner & Exporter's Association, Borsora, South West Khasi Hills, Meghalaya – 793106.
10. Majai Exporter's Association, Bholaganj, c/o Shri B. Lyngdoh, Lummawbah, Shillong – 793005.
11. Mizoram Chamber of Industries, 2nd Floor, M.U.P. Building, M.G. Road, Khatla (Opp. Raj Bhawan South Gate), Aizawl – 796001.
12. The President, Karimganj District Exporters & Importers Association, New Market Complex, Madrassa Lane, Station Road, Karimganj – 788710.
13. International Chamber of Commerce, Karimganj, Sahid Sarani, Main Road, Opp. SBI Main Branch, Karimganj – 788710.
14. Indo-Bhutan Chamber of Commerce, Esplanade Mansion, 14-16, Government Place (East), Kolkata – 700069.
15. Tripura Chamber of Commerce, Akhaura Road, Tripura (West), Agartala – 799001.
16. India-Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce & Industry, 14, Jaganath Bari Road, Agartala – 799001.
17. Representative of Customs Brokers, Capt. Tridib Phukan, M/s Technotive Eastern Private Ltd., House No. 12, Rajgarh Road, Chandmari, Guwahati – 781003.
18. The Superintendent, Computer Cell, Customs Hqrs Shillong to upload the contents of this Trade Notice to the Commissionerate website.

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19. The Hindi translator, Customs Hqrs, Shillong to get issued Hindi version of this Trade Notice.
20. Guard file.

Deputy Commissioner (Tech)