



Federation of Indian Export Organisations

Major Reforms of DGFT & CBIC in their digital initiatives

1. **DGFT has undertaken an initiative to revamp its services delivery mechanisms to promote and facilitate foreign trade. As a step in that direction, the first phase of a new digital platform of DGFT is scheduled to Go-Live on 13th July 2020.** The platform will become accessible through the existing website: <https://www.dgft.gov.in>

In the first phase, the website will be catering to the services related to the IEC issuance, modification, amendments etc. processes along with a Chatbot (a virtual assistant) catering to queries of users.

Other online modules relating to Advance Authorisation, EPCG, and Exports Obligation Discharge which are part of next phase will be rolled out subsequently after the first phase stabilizes.

The following important points may be noted with regard to the new platform design:

- Access to the services would be through a username and password based system. The first time logins/user ID may be created through a registration process on the new platform.
- For user ID creation, registered mobile number/email ids of the IEC holders will be a mandatorily required. The same will be authenticated by the process of OTP/email based authentication process.
- Users would have to link their login IDs to their specific IECs. The process of linking would be available post login through Digital Signature/Aadhaar based e-Sign.
- Digital Signature (DSC)/Aadhaar based e-Sign will be required for applying and modifying IEC or adding or updating the IEC-linked users. Users may take necessary actions for procuring/updating their information etc. on the DSC/Aadhaar.

The user profile can be then used by the IEC holders to engage with DGFT and its services. This will enable the user to electronically file their application related to IEC, Advance Authorisation, EPCG, including amendments & redemption, monitoring the status of the



application, raising queries, replying to the deficiencies etc. among other services related to the Foreign Trade policy.

The new platform is also designed for smooth migration of legacy (older) data of DGFT and its stakeholders. The existing data will be used for the online processing of the previous applications henceforth. The users will be able to monitor the status of their applications and the pending obligations thereof. Users are requested to familiarize themselves about the new platform and its features.

2. **CBIC has enabled with effect from 06.07.2020 certain functionalities in ICEGATE which would reduce the need for physical interaction between Customs and trade and also speed up the Customs clearance process.**

These new functionalities are:

(i) **Registration of Authorised Dealer Code, Bank Accounts through ICEGATE:.**

- Exporters are presently required to register their Authorised Dealer (AD) Code and Bank Account(s) for purposes of remittances and availing export benefits like Duty Drawback, IGST refund etc, respectively at every Customs station. This requires physical interaction between the Customs and the trade and submission of physical documents by the latter. Being a manual process, it causes delays impacting exports besides requiring the exporters or their representatives to personally visit the Customs Houses. Same is the case for the process of updation of Bank Account details. On review, this procedure has been done away with.
- The Directorate General of Systems, CBIC **has now enabled a functionality within ICEGATE login which allows the exporters to make an online request for registration/modification of their AD Code/Bank Account(s) and also electronically submit the Passbook copy or Bank Authorisation letter through e-Sanchit.** The exporters would also have access to a Dashboard to view the status of approval and acceptance at PFMS, for quick rectification at their end.
- The detailed step-by-step guide is available on the ICEGATE portal at: <https://www.icegate.gov.in/Download/Bank Account Management Advisory.pdf>.



- The Principal Commissioner/Commissioner of Customs have been advised to ensure that the concerned Customs officer **completes the approval process for registration/ update of the Authorised Dealer (AD) Code and Bank Account(s) details in ICES within the same working day of receiving the applications, if all requirements are submitted in ICEGATE.** Further, if any deficiencies are noticed, the same shall be communicated to the exporter via the Customs Automated system, who would then make required rectification through ICEGATE portal.

(ii) **Automated debit of bond after Assessment:**

Presently, importers are required to physically visit Customs House for physical debit of Bonds after the Bill of Entry is returned (to the importer) for the payment of duty. On review, it has been decided to do away with this requirement. Instead, ICES would automatically debit the Bond and reflect the same in the first copy of the Bill of Entry, provided the details of the Bond are provided during submission of the Bill of Entry. We suggest to our Members to use a continuity bond to avoid procedures related to repeat submission of Bonds.

(iii) **Simplified Registration of Importers/Exporters in ICEGATE:**

Although simplified Registration module for importers / exporters based on verification provided in associated GSTIN has been provided without the requirement of digital signature, since many importers/exporters have not availed the same, various functionalities available in the ICEGATE portal cannot be accessed by them. These functionalities are useful to the importers / exporters and would help them in their management of imports and exports. Some of these functionalities are Management of Bank Accounts, Ledger View, IGST Refund status, Query Reply etc. Therefore, importers / exporters are advised to register on ICEGATE and conduct their Customs clearances through electronic interface.

- The simplified registration on ICEGATE can be done by following the steps given in the link at <https://www.cbic.gov.in/resources//htdocs-cbec/customs/cs-circulars/cs-circulars-2020/Circular-No-32-2020.pdf>



3. **Turant Suvidha Kendra (TSK)**

TSK will be set up in all Customs stations by 15.07.2020. The TSK facility would cover

- (i) The document verification by Customs officers at Assessment and Customs Compliance Verification (CCV) stages would normally be based on the documents uploaded in the e-Sanchit, not requiring physical submission of documents. However, if in any exceptional situation the physical submission of documents is required by Customs, for defacement or validation, such submission would be made only at the TSKs. However, documents requiring verification during examination for validation with goods would continue to be done during examination, as at present.
- (ii) Other facilities may be added in due course.
