

No. K-43020/1/2020-SEZ
Government of India
Ministry of Commerce & Industry
Department of Commerce
(SEZ Section)

Udyog Bhawan, New Delhi-110011
Dated: 14th August, 2020

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

Subject:-Recommendations of the Group of eminent persons on SEZ policy for Integrated Online portal – regarding.

The undersigned is directed to refer to the subject cited above and to say that the Group of eminent persons constituted by the DoC under the Chairmanship of Shri Baba Kalyani, Chairman, Bharat Forge to study and suggest reforms in the SEZ policy had recommended for an "Integrated Online Portal" for time bound approvals, day-to-day compliances and reducing physical interface.

2. Accordingly, this Department had constituted a Committee under the Chairmanship of Shri M Shanmuga Sundaram, DC, MEPZ to study the report and suggest how the existing SEZ-Online system may be upgraded / modified to facilitate the industry and enhance the single window mechanism in collaboration with the State Governments to expedite operations and procedures and suggest suitable actionable points. The Committee was also to consider the issue of integration across SEZ-Online, DGFT and ICEGATE systems, as also integration with other regulatory jurisdictions to digitize and fully automate the import/export approvals processes related to SEZs.

3. The Committee has submitted their report on 05.08.2020 (copy enclosed) and recommends further upgradation of the existing SEZ-Online system through suitable IT infrastructure, expansion of system functionalities, encompassing the EoUs, facilitating interfaces for DTA Suppliers/Consumers to directly register on the system and perform transactions, Risk Management System, Mobile App, Reports & Dash Boards, API based integrations, etc. to meet the demand of integrated portal. The Committee proposes an eco system connect/integration comprising of Central Government Department/Agencies and State Government:

A. Central Government Department/Agencies :

I. EDI System for Port Connectivity: Suggestive measures are as follows;

- (i) Present system of data exchange is supported by transaction level messages which are exchanged through services supported by secure servers. With advancement of technology, it is proposed that integration be extended using Application Programming Interface (API) protocols.
- (ii) Establishment of Quarterly review mechanism with DG Systems to resolve technical/operational issues.
- (iii) Provision of flowing back of Export General Manifest (EGM) details in case of Shipping Bills.

II. RBI: SEZ-Online is integrated with RBI systems for issuance of EDF numbers, SOFTEX numbers, import transactions, merchandise export transactions and software export transactions. This can further be extended so RBI can be requested to return the details of realisations so that the same can be consumed by the system for its further usage and inputs.

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III. GSTN : The Committee suggests that GSTN can make use of the integrated data to validate the GST returns filed by DTA importers/suppliers and provide electronic approvals/refunds/ITC credits.

IV. DGFT : The Committee suggests that as follows:

(i) SEZ-Online shares Shipping Bill data to DGFT for online verification, validation and issuance of MEIS Scrips. The Committee proposes that the integration may extend to level of generating MEIS Scrips through SEZ-Online. A second line integration of MEIS Scrips so generated should happen with ICEGATE, for registration of the Scrips there. This will facilitate the usage of the Scrips automatically in any port and thereby doing away with the TRA procedure.

(ii) The upgraded portal can have linkage to DGFT portal for generation of Import-Export Code (IEC), submission of MEIS/SEIS applications etc.

V. Agencies involved in Custom Processes: Integration of such agencies with the portal to ensure one-stop approval through SEZ-Online for all Customs related processes. The linkage can be made through existing arrangement of such agencies with ICEGATE.

VI. EPCES: Linkage with portal to issue Registration-cum-Membership Certificate (RCMC) to EoUs, SEZ Units and SEZ Developers including Co-developers.

VII. Regulatory Jurisdictions: All other regulatory jurisdictions involved in pre/post approval stages of setting up of SEZ/SEZ unit shall be mapped and linked to upgraded SEZ online system.

B. State Governments:

I. State Government Integrations: Facility where SEZ constituents can be provided with information and direct links to access relevant applications of respective State Governments/agencies. Creation of a system in sezone where details of applications made to the respective State Portal can be logged by the concerned applicant. DCs office can act as a catalyst and engage with the nodal officers to ensure expeditious disposal.

II. Time bound approvals: Time lines may be defined at various levels of administrative approvals such as LoA, LUT, Lease Deed, APR, Sub-contracting permission, Free forms, etc. The Committee proposes for a provision of deemed to be approved if no action is taken within stipulated time. For Transactional Modules (Customs) it has been recommended to constitute a Committee to develop a Risk Management Framework and set up an ancillary system to define and monitor risk sensitivity of various transactions.

III. Reduction in paper documents: Online submission of documents involving maker-checker and DSC process.

IV. Trade facilitation: The committee further recommends:

(i) Implementation of LoA/Online SOFTEX filing for EoUs.

(ii) Extension of SEZ Online System to DTA units also so that they can file transactions directly into SEZ Online system.

(iii) Comprehensive Information Portal for Users.

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4. It is requested to kindly furnish your comments on the relevant suggestions of the Committee so that the same may be expedited for necessary implementations.

Enclos: As above



(Darshan Kumar Solanki)

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To,

1. DG, Systems
2. ~~Governor~~, Reserve Bank of India
3. CEO, GSTN
4. DGFT, Udyog Bhawan.
5. EPCES

Copy to :

1. All Development Commissioners with the request to deliberate the suggestions of the Committee in consultation with the State Government Authorities and submit their recommendations to DoC.
2. Shri Vijay Gupta, Vice President, NSDL Database Management Ltd. with the request to follow up with other agencies to facilitate speedier integration.

