

EXPORT PROMOTION COUNCIL FOR EOUS AND SEZs

(Setup by Ministry of Commerce, Government of India)
8G, Hansalaya Building, 15, Barakhamba Road, New Delhi-110001
Tel: 23329766-69 Fax No.011-23329770, Email :epces@epces.in

AnandGiri
Dy. Director General

EPC/SEZ/AM18/F-4
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EPCES CIRCULAR NO.339 DATED 13.03.2020

Sub: (1) Steps taken by CBIC to facilitate clearances in view of situation arising due to Corona Virus
(2) Steps taken by Department of Finance Services (DFS) with regard to disruption on account of Corona Virus.

Due to ongoing shutdown in China on account of Corona Virus outbreak, there is an apprehension of disruption in supply of raw materials/inputs to industrial units which were dependent on these raw materials. There could also be a dip in offtake in exports to China and likelihood of an immediate surge in the imports from and export to China once the spread of the virus is brought fully under control.

(1) Steps taken by CBIC to facilitate clearances in view of situation arising due to Corona Virus

Keeping the above in view CBIC has issued instructions to facilitate clearances in view of situation arising due to Corona virus. CBIC has requested Chief Commissioners to immediately workout the arrangement and deployment sufficient number of officers on 24x7 basis at sea ports/air cargo stations/ICDs/CFs etc. Further JNCH Public Notice No. 24 dated 20.2.2020 issued stating that the Bill of Entry filed late for clearance of import consignments from China will not attract any late fee charges based on a letter submitted by the importer/custom broker that the delay in filing the BOE was on account of non-receipt of documents from China. These CBIC instructions were circulated vide DGFT Trade Notice No. 52 dated 2/3/2020. The Trade Notice No. 52 is available at the below link:-

http://dgft.gov.in/sites/default/files/Trade%20Notice%20No.%2052-2019-20%20%2802-03-2020%29-1_0.pdf

(2) Steps taken by Department of Finance Services (DFS) with regard to disruption on account of Corona Virus.

Further, kindly see the accompanying DGFT Trade Notice No. 55/2019-20 dated 12.3.2020 regarding the steps taken by the Department of Financial Services (DFS) with regard to "Disruption on account of Corona Virus" DGFT Trade Notice No. 55/2019-20 dated 12.3.2020 is available at the below link:-

<http://dgft.gov.in/sites/default/files/Trade%20Notice%20No.%2055%20%282019-20%29.pdf>

As may be seen from the same, the DFS has advised all Public Sector Banks to immediately setup Special Cell to provide full assistance to industry segments and MSME units effected by CORONA VIRUS, to process the requests of the said units for assistance with requisite sensitivity and also to inform the Bank's customers about documents/procedural requirement in "ONE GO" and to accept self-certification wherever possible so as to expeditiously remit their funds without any problems due to procedural delays. The Banks are also advised to identify opportunities for import substitution/ ramping up of production as a fallout the epidemic and to provide the requisite HAND HOLDING support to the concerned units. Similarly, Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDA) is also requested to assess/review the existing insurance products/policies to ensure risk cover against loss due to abnormal delay in delivery of shipments in the prevailing situation and to suitably modify the terms and conditions of such policies wherever necessary.

This being an important step in the current scenario, members are requested to take note of the above.
