



THE INSTITUTE OF
Company Secretaries of India

भारतीय कम्पनी सचिव संस्थान

IN PURSUIT OF PROFESSIONAL EXCELLENCE

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SUPPLEMENT

EXECUTIVE PROGRAMME

for

June, 2026 Examinations

(Amendments covering June 01, 2025 to November 30, 2025)

TAX LAWS AND PRACTICE

PART II - INDIRECT TAX (GST & Customs)

Group 2 - Paper 7

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PART II- INDIRECT TAX (GST & CUSTOMS)

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Students appearing in Examination shall note the following:

Students appearing in June, 2026 Examination are also required to update themselves on all the relevant Rules, Notifications, Circulars, Clarifications, etc. issued by the CBIC on or before 30th Nov, 2025 pertaining to GST & Customs.

The students are advised to acquaint themselves with the monthly and Regulatory updates published by the Institute.

This supplement is to be read with the Tax Laws & Practice study material (Syllabus 2022) updated up to 31st May, 2025.

Lesson 16 – Levy and Collection of GST

1. Notification 09/2025 Central Tax (Rate) in supersession to Notification No 01/2017 Central Tax (Rate) consolidating all HSN wise GST rates into a single comprehensive framework.

This notification provides a complete HSN-wise schedule of GST rates applicable on goods. It has been issued in supersession of the earlier Notification No. 01/2017-CT (Rate), dated 28th June 2017.

This is effective from September 22, 2025.

All GST rates applicable on intra state supply of goods are given in schedules of this notification. Similar notification vide Notification No. 09/2025 on inter- state supply of goods is also issued by the department.

For details: <https://taxinformation.cbic.gov.in/view-pdf/1010436/ENG/Notifications>

2. Central Government exempted certain category of goods vide Notification no 10/2025 Central Tax (Rate) dated September 17, 2025

In supersession to earlier notification 2/2017, Notification no 10/2025 exempted intra-State supplies of goods. Goods like live trees, drugs, etc., mentioned in Annexure I of this notification.

For details: <https://taxinformation.cbic.gov.in/view-pdf/1010437/ENG/Notifications>

3. Withdrawal of Circular 212/06/2024-GST relation to Clarification on mechanism for providing evidence of compliance of conditions of Section 15(3) (b) (ii) of the CGST Act, 2017 by the suppliers vide Circular No. 253/10/2025 dated October 01,2025

Vide Circular No.212/6/2024 dated June 26,2024, clarified mechanism for providing evidence of compliance of conditions of Section 15(3)(b)(ii) of the CGST Act, 2017, relating to provide a suitable mechanism for enabling the suppliers as well as tax officers to verify fulfilment of the condition of section 15(3)(b)(ii) of the CGST Act regarding proportionate reversal of input tax credit by the recipients in respect of such discounts given by the supplier by issuing tax credit notes after the supply has been effected.

However, further this circular is withdrawn vide circular no 253/10/2025 dated October 01, 2025.

For details: <https://taxinformation.cbic.gov.in/view-pdf/1003292/ENG/Circulars>

4. Central Government exempted GST on life Insurance Premiums, Health Insurance Premiums vide notification no. 16/2025-Central Tax (Rate) dated September 17, 2025

Previously 18% GST was levied on individual life and health insurance policies.

In Serial no 36C -Services of life insurance business provided by an insurer to the insured, where the insured is not a group is exempted.

Explanation: For the removal of doubts, it is hereby clarified that:

a. This exemption shall apply to a contract of insurance where the insured is an individual, or an individual and family of the said individual.

b. For the purposes of (a) above, family shall include all individuals insured as family in the contract of insurance.

Further, In Serial no 36D-Services of health insurance business provided by an insurer to the insured, where the insured is not a group is also exempted.

Explanation: For the removal of doubts, it is hereby clarified that:

a. This exemption shall apply to a contract of insurance where the insured is an individual, or an individual and family of the said individual.

b. For the purposes of (a) above, family shall include all individuals insured as family in the contract of insurance.

Reinsurance of the insurance services specified in serial numbers 36C or 36D mentioned above is also exempted.

Brief Analysis: Life Insurance and health insurance policies of individuals or family members are exempted from GST. For the purposes of entries at serial numbers 36C and 36D in the table above, ‘group’ means group of persons who join together with a commonality of purpose or for engaging in a common economic activity, other than availing insurance, and includes: a. Employer– employee groups, where an employer-employee relationship exists between the master/group policyholder and the members of the group in accordance with the applicable laws; b. Non employer– employee groups, where a clearly evident relationship exists between the master/group policyholder and the members of the group, for services/ activities other than insurance. ‘health insurance business’ means the effecting of contracts which provide for sickness benefits or medical, surgical or hospital expense benefits, whether inpatient or out-patient, travel cover and personal accident cover.

These changes are effective from September 22, 2025.

For details: <https://taxinformation.cbic.gov.in/view-pdf/1010454/ENG/Notifications>

5. Amendments in the list of notified services tax on which is paid by the electronic commerce operator (ECO) if such services are supplied through it vide Notification No 17/2025 Central Tax (Rate) dated September 17, 2025.

The Central Government, on the recommendations of the Council, made amendments in the notification no No.17/2017- Central Tax (Rate), dated the 28th June, 2017,

In the said notification, after clause (iv), the following clause is inserted,

“(v) services by way of local delivery except where the person supplying such services through electronic commerce operator is liable for registration under sub section (1) of section 22 of the Central Goods and Services Tax Act, 2017.”.

This notification shall come into force with effect from the 22nd day of September 2025

Brief analysis: The ECO (platform) becomes liable to pay GST under reverse charge mechanism (RCM) at 18% (with ITC available) on the value of such services.

Exception: If the actual supplier (delivery person/agent) is mandatory registered under Section 22(1) CGST the supplier pays the GST themselves, no shift to the ECO.

For details: <https://taxinformation.cbic.gov.in/view-pdf/1010455/ENG/Notifications>

6. Under Notification No. 16/2025-Central Tax (Rate) dated September 17, 2025 the government has redefined Goods Transport Agency (GTA) to distinguish it from the growing e-commerce delivery sector.

A GTA is any person providing road transport services for goods who issues a Consignment Note. This notification explicitly excludes the following from being a GTA:

- Local Delivery by ECOs: Services provided directly by an Electronic Commerce Operator (e.g., a platform's own delivery fleet).
- Local Delivery through ECOs: Services provided by third-party delivery partners through an e-commerce platform (e.g., food or grocery delivery apps).

These services are now classified as "Local Delivery Services" and attract GST on such services.

For details: <https://taxinformation.cbic.gov.in/view-pdf/1010454/ENG/Notifications>

Lesson 18 – Input Tax Credit and Computation of GST Liability

1 Clarification on various doubts related to treatment of secondary or post-sale discounts under GST(Circular No 251/08/2025 dated September 12, 2025)

The CBIC on its Circular No 251/08/2025 dated September 12, 2025, provided clarity on issues on availing ITC to recipient, or treatment of post-sale discount etc.,

Issue: Whether the full input tax credit is available to the recipient of supply when the recipients make discounted payments to the supplier of goods on account of financial/ commercial credit notes issued by the said supplier?

Clarification: Section 16 (1) of the CGST Act, 2017 provides that every registered person shall be entitled to take credit of input tax charged on any supply of goods or services or both, which are used or intended to be used in the course or furtherance of his business. It has been clarified vide circular No. 92/11/2019-GST dated 7th March 2019 that the supplier of goods can issue financial/ commercial credit notes and in such cases, he will not be eligible to reduce his original tax liability. As the transaction value is not allowed to be reduced on account of issuance of financial/ commercial credit note, accordingly the tax charged from the recipient would also not get reduced.

Thus, it is clarified that the recipient will not be required to reverse the Input Tax Credit attributed to the discount provided on the basis of financial/ commercial Credit notes issued by the supplier, as there is no reduction in the original transaction value of the supply and accordingly the corresponding tax liability would also not get reduced.

Issue: Whether a post-sale discount offered by a manufacturer to its dealer/ distributor, would be treated as a consideration paid by the manufacturer for the dealer's supply of the same goods to the end customer as a monetary value of the inducement to supply of goods manufactured by him to the end customer?

Clarification: Section 2 (31) of the CGST Act, 2017 defines consideration as to include the monetary value of any act for the inducement of the supply of goods or services, whether by the recipient or by any other person. 2. In cases where there is no agreement between the manufacturer and the end customer, there are two independent sale transactions, one from the manufacturer to the dealer and the other from the dealer to the end customer. The essence of the matter is that in a contract of sale, the sale is completed on the transfer of title to the goods to the buyer. Once this happens, the buyer becomes the owner of the goods, and the seller has no vestige of the title or claims therein. The dealer takes ownership of the goods purchased from the manufacturer and subsequently sells them to the end customer and transaction between the manufacturers to dealer operates on a principal-to-principal basis. These discounts are simply given for competitive pricing to push sales and merely reduce the sale price of the goods and are not linked to any independent activity rendered to the manufacturer. Therefore, it is clarified that such a discount cannot be included in consideration as the monetary value of the inducement of further supply of these goods. However, in cases where the manufacturer has some agreement with an end customer to supply goods at a discounted price, the manufacturer may issue commercial or financial credit notes to the dealer, enabling such dealer to provide the goods at the agreed discounted rate to the end consumer. Therefore, it is clarified that such a post-sale discount, given by the manufacturer to the dealer for supplying goods to the end customer at a discounted

rate, should be included in the overall consideration as it is an inducement towards the supply of goods by the dealer to the end customer.

Issue: Whether a post-sale discount extended by the manufacturer to the dealer can be treated as a consideration in lieu of the activities performed to promote the sale of the goods?

Clarification: The matter has been examined. When dealers receive such post-sale discounts, they may engage in promotional activities to boost sales. However, these activities ultimately enhance the sale of goods that the dealers themselves own, thereby increasing their own revenue. In this context, the discount merely reduces the sale price of the goods and is not linked to any independent service rendered to the manufacturer. Therefore, it is clarified that post-sale discounts offered by manufacturers to dealers in such cases shall not be treated as consideration for a separate transaction of supply of services. However, GST would be leviable in cases where a dealer undertakes specific sales promotional activities, such as advertising campaigns, co-branding, customization services, special sales drives, exhibition arrangements, or customer support services, etc., only when such services are explicitly stated in the agreement with a clearly defined consideration payable for such a supply. In such cases, the dealer provides a distinct service to the supplier, and accordingly, GST would be chargeable.

For details: <https://taxinformation.cbic.gov.in/view-pdf/1003287/ENG/Circulars>

Lesson 19 – Procedural Compliances under GST

1. **Generation and quoting of Document Identification Number (DIN) on any communication issued by the officers of the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) to tax payers and other concerned persons- [Circular no. 249/06/2025-GST dated June 06, 2025]**

It is clarified that the documents and summary generated through the common portal of GST always bear a Reference No. (RFN), which is verifiable through the portal (at <https://services.gst.gov.in/services/verifyRfn>). On verification, the portal provides details of the document such as Date of RFN generation, Date of issuing the Document, Module, Type of Communication and Name of the Office issuing the Document. It is therefore, further clarified that for communications via common portal (in compliance with Section 169 of the CGST Act, 2017) having verifiable Reference Number (RFN), quoting of Document Identification Number (DIN) is not required and such communication bearing RFN is to be treated as a valid communication.

For details: <https://taxinformation.cbic.gov.in/view-pdf/1003281/ENG/Circulars>

2. **Reviewing authority, Revisional Authority and Appellate Authority in respect of orders passed by Common Adjudicating Authority (CAA) for show cause notices issued by Directorate General of GST Intelligence (DGGI). [Circular No. 250/07/2025 dated June 24 , 2025]**

Vide Circular no 250/07/2025 dated 24th June, 2025 CBIC has drawn attention to notification No. 02/2017 dated June 19, 2017 (as amended) read with circular No. 239/33/2024-GST dated December 04,2024, wherein Joint/Additional Commissioners posted in specified Commissionerates have been designated as Common Adjudicating Authority (CAA) in respect of show cause notices issued by Directorate General of GST Intelligence (DGGI). The said circular has specified the procedure to be followed in case of assigning such show cause notices to the Common Adjudicating Authority along with their territorial jurisdiction. However, it does not specify the procedure related to review, revision, and appeals for such Orders-in -Original (O-I-Os) passed by CAA.

It is therefore clarified that has clarified that section 107 of the CGST Act, 2017 provides a detailed mechanism for handling the appeals by the Appellate authority and by exercising the same power, the rules have also been framed with regard to appeal and review. Similarly, the Reviewing Authority also has the power under the said section to review adjudication orders passed by a CAA who is posted under the said reviewing authority. Similarly, section 108 of the CGST Act, 2017, provides a detailed mechanism for revision of such orders. Vide notification No. 05/2020-Central tax dated 13th January, 2020, the jurisdictional Principal Commissioner or Commissioner, as the case may be, has been authorized as revisional authority for decisions or orders passed by Additional or Joint Commissioner of Central Tax who are subordinate to him.

Therefore, to ensure uniformity in procedure for review, revision, and appeal against the Orders-in-Original (O-I-Os) adjudicated by Common Adjudicating Authorities, it is hereby clarified that:

- a) **Review under Section 107 of the CGST Act, 2017:** The Principal Commissioner or Commissioner of Central Tax under whom the Common Adjudicating Authority (Additional/ Joint Commissioner) is posted shall be the reviewing authority in respect of such O-I-Os.

- b) **Revisional Power under Section 108 of the CGST Act, 2017:** The Principal Commissioner or Commissioner of Central Tax under whom the Common Adjudicating Authority (Additional/ Joint Commissioner) is posted shall be the revisional authority in respect of such O-I-Os.
- c) **Appeal Procedure under Section 107 of the CGST Act, 2017:** Appeals against the order of Common Adjudicating Authority (Additional/Joint Commissioner) shall lie before the Commissioner (Appeals) corresponding to the territorial jurisdiction of the Principal Commissioner or the Commissioner of Central Tax, under whom the said Common Adjudicating Authority (Additional/ Joint Commissioner) is posted, as specified in Table III of notification No. 02/2017-Central tax dated 19th June, 2017.
- d) **Department's Representation in Appeals:** The Principal Commissioner or Commissioner of Central Tax of such Commissionerate under whom the Common Adjudicating Authority (Additional/Joint Commissioner) is posted shall represent the department in appeal proceedings against the O-I-Os passed by such Common Adjudicating Authority (Additional/ Joint Commissioner) and accordingly may appoint any officer subordinate to him to be the designated officer for filing departmental appeals.
- e) The reviewing or revisional authority for such orders may seek comments on the O-I-O from the concerned DGGI formation before proceeding to decide on the order passed by the CAA.

For further details: <https://taxinformation.cbic.gov.in/view-pdf/1003283/ENG/Circulars>

3. **Communication to taxpayers through e-Office - requirement of Document Identification Number (DIN) (Circular No 252/09/2025 dated September 23, 2025)**

CBIC clarified that communication issued through e office of CBIC bear an automatically generated unique 'Issue Number'. However, no online utility was available to verify the authenticity of such communications through Issue number, hence DIN was required to be generated and quoted on such communications. Now an online utility has been developed and made functional (URL<https://verifydocument.cbic.gov.in>), where the taxpayers and other concerned persons can verify online the electronically generated unique "Issue number" borne on communications dispatched using public option in e-Office application by CBIC officers.

It is further clarified that quoting separate DIN on such communications dispatched using public option in e-Office application, which already bear issue number, will result into two different electronically generated verifiable unique numbers namely Issue No. & DIN on the same communication, which renders quoting of separate DIN on such communication unnecessary. It is therefore decided that for communications dispatched using public option in CBIC's e-Office application, the verifiable e-Office 'Issue number' shall be deemed to be the Document Identification Number and such communication shall be treated as a valid communication. The Document Identification Number generated through DIN utility shall continue to be mandatorily quoted on all other communications which have either not been dispatched using public option in CBIC's e-Office application or which do not bear the verifiable Reference Number (RFN) generated on GST common portal.

For details: <https://taxinformation.cbic.gov.in/view-pdf/1003290/ENG/Circulars>

4. Central Board of Indirect Taxes has amended Central Goods and Services Tax Rules, 2017 vide Notification No 13/2025 dated September 17, 2025

The Central Board of Indirect Taxes notified the Central Goods and Services Tax (Third Amendment) Rules, 2025 effective from September 22, 2025. Vide Notification no 13/2025, dated September 17, 2025, the CBIC has also amended Central Goods and Services Tax Rules, 2017 (CGST Rules).

Brief Analysis: These Changes primarily include change in Rule 31A (2), Valuation of supply especially in case lotteries the factor used in the formula is substituted with 140 from 128. This increases the deemed value of supply for lotteries (impacting the taxable value when tax is included in the price).

Rule 91(2) - Provisional refunds: The proper officer shall issue a provisional refund order in FORM GST RFD-04 within 7 days (based on system-driven risk evaluation). The officer may opt to skip provisional refund and proceed directly to final refund under Rule 92. No revalidation of RFD-04 allowed, effective from 1st October 2025.

Rules 110 & 111- Appellate Tribunal procedures: Updates to handling appeals, including provisions for single-member benches in certain cases, provisional acknowledgements, and related processes.

Rule 39(1A)-Distribution of ITC by Input Service Distributor (ISD): Clarifies references to reverse charge under sections 9 of CGST Act and 5(3)/5(4) of IGST Act, effective from 1st April 2025. Head offices receiving common services (IT, Legal for branches must register as an ISD. Reverse Charge (RCM) ITC Distribution: ISDs can now distribute ITC for services where GST is paid under RCM (Sections 9(3), 9(4) of CGST Act & 5(3), 5(4) of IGST Act).

For details: <https://taxinformation.cbic.gov.in/view-pdf/1010462/ENG/Notifications>

5. Specific categories of registered persons who shall not be allowed refunds on a provisional basis vide Notification No. 14/2025 –Central Tax dated September 17, 2025

As per the notification the Government, under section 54(6) of the CGST Act, has notified specific categories of registered persons who shall not be allowed refunds on a provisional basis.

Provisions are as under: Any person who has not undergone Aadhaar authentication under Rule 10B of the CGST Rules, 2017 will not be eligible for refunds. Persons engaged in the supply of the following goods will not be eligible for refunds: Areca Nuts, Pan Masala, Tobacco and manufactured Tobacco substitutes, Essential Oils. The notification shall come into force from October 01, 2025.

For details: <https://taxinformation.cbic.gov.in/view-pdf/1010464/ENG/Notifications>

6. Exemption in Filing of annual return vide Notification No. 15/2025 – Central Tax dated September 17, 2025.

The notification mentioned above exempts registered persons under the GST regime whose aggregate turnover in any financial year is up to ₹2 crore from the requirement of filing the annual return (Form GSTR-9) for that financial year. This exemption applies from the financial year 2024-25 onwards (i.e., starting with FY 2024-25 and continuing in subsequent years unless changed).

For details: <https://taxinformation.cbic.gov.in/view-pdf/1010465/ENG/Notifications>

7. **Amendments in Anti-Profitteering measures, definition of Local Authority, Omission of Sections 12(4) and 13(4) of the CGST Act, 2017 relating to Vouchers vide Notification No. 16/2025–Central Tax, September 17, 2025.**

The Central Government appointed October 01, 2025, as the date on which the provisions of clauses (ii) and (iii) of section 121, sections 122 to 124 and sections 126 to 134 of the Finance Act, 2025 Act, shall come into force. These sections relate to anti-profitteering measures under GST, amendments to definition of local authority and other compliance measures.

For details: <https://taxinformation.cbic.gov.in/view-pdf/1010466/ENG/Notifications>

8. **Amend notification No. 26/2018- Central Tax (Rate) dated 31.12.2018 vide notification no 18/2025- Central Tax (Rate) dated October 24, 2025.**

The Central Government introduced an amendment to existing notification no 26/2018 which relates to concessional rates or exemptions in GST. Vide this notification definition of nominated agency will be streamlined with definition given in Customs notification no 45/2025 dated 24th October, 2025. This notification shall come into effect from November 01, 2025.

For details: <https://taxinformation.cbic.gov.in/view-pdf/1010490/ENG/Notifications>

9. **Assigning proper officer under section 74A, section 75(2) and section 122 of the Central Goods and Services Tax Act, 2017 Circular no 254/11/2025 dated October 27, 2025**

The Board in exercise of powers under clause (91) of section 2 of the CGST Act, read with relevant provisions of the IGST Act assigns the following officers as proper officers:

Additional/Joint Commissioner of Central Tax

Deputy/Assistant Commissioner of Central Tax

Superintendent of Central Tax

Monetary thresholds (limits on tax/penalty amounts) is also mentioned in circular which will determine which level of officer can issue show cause notices (SCNs) and pass orders.

For details: <https://taxinformation.cbic.gov.in/view-pdf/1003295/ENG/Circulars>

10. **Central Government notifies Central Goods and Services Tax (Fourth Amendment) Rules 2025, introduces Rule 9A relating to grant of registration and Rule 14A Option for taxpayers having monthly output tax liability below threshold limit vide notification no 18/2025– Central Tax dated October 31, 2025.**

The Central Government brings Central Goods & Service Tax (Fourth Amendment) Rules 2025 to further amend CGST rules, 2017. These rules pertain to 9A Grant of Registration electronically- any person who has applied for registration under rule 8 or rule 12 or rule 17, shall, upon identification on the common portal based on data analysis and risk parameters, be granted registration electronically by the common portal, within three working days from the date of submission of application.”.

Rule 14A shall be inserted after rule 14 namely- Option for taxpayers having monthly output tax liability

below threshold limit. Any person who has made application for registration under rule 8 and who determines that his total output tax liability on supply of goods or services or both made to registered persons on account of central tax and State tax or Union territory tax and integrated tax and compensation cess, does not exceed ₹2,50,000 shall have an option to get registration electronically, in accordance with the provisions of this rule, Aadhaar authentication is mandatory for getting registration under this rule.

In rule 11, a person registered under this rule in a State or Union territory shall not be eligible to obtain another registration in the same State or Union territory under this rule against the same Permanent Account Number. Upon Successful authentication of Aadhaar number, the applicant shall be granted registration within 3 working days from submission of application. This notification shall come into effect from November 01, 2025.

For details: <https://taxinformation.cbic.gov.in/view-pdf/1010504/ENG/Notifications>

Lesson 20 - Overview of Customs Act

- 1. With reference to earlier circular on use of ICETABs ,Circular No /10/2024 dated 20.08.2024,CBIC has decided to extend the use of ICETABs in export examination and clearance from 19.06.2025 onwards.[Circular No 17/2025 dated June 17,2025]**

With the launch of ICETAB for exports examination, examining Officer can seamlessly view the details of Shipping Bill including the examination order, RMS Instructions, supporting documents etc. on ICETAB. Accordingly, there will be no requirement for any paper documents for the purpose of carrying out export examination. Similarly, ICETAB enables examining officer to enter examination report promptly on the ICETAB and also upload four images of the cargo being examined covering its key aspects. These images will also be available in e-sanchit repository for subsequent viewing. A detailed advisory for the use of ICETAB will be issued by DG Systems. In cases of exigencies, where the report cannot be given using ICETAB, prior permission from concerned Assistant Commissioner is required and same may be recorded in the system while providing examination report as well. The Commissioner of Customs having jurisdiction over the export shed, on the weekly basis review and resolve any difficulties, if needed in consultation with DG Systems.

For details: <https://taxinformation.cbic.gov.in/view-pdf/1003282/ENG/Circulars>

- 2. Customs (Finalisation of Provisional Assessment) Regulations, 2025 was issued vide notification no 55/2025 dated September 12, 2025**

In supersession of the Customs (Finalisation of Provisional Assessment) Regulations, 2018, the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs made following regulations namely Customs (Finalisation of Provisional Assessment Regulations, 2025.This regulation applies to any provisional assessment pending as on date of enforcement of these regulations; or assessed provisionally after the enforcement of these regulations.

Explanation: For the purposes of these regulations each bill of entry or shipping bill, as the case may be that has been assessed provisionally shall be treated as a separate case of provisional assessment.

This regulation prescribes time limit and manner of submission of documents or information for the purpose of finalisation of provisional assessment, time limit to conclude enquiry for the purpose of finalization of provisional assessment, time limit and manner of submission of document or information for the purpose of finalisation of provisional assessment as on March, 2025, payment of duty of own ascertainment before finalization of provisional assessment, time limit for finalization of provisional assessment, etc.,

For details:<https://taxinformation.cbic.gov.in/view-pdf/1010429/ENG/Notifications>

3. Strengthening Trade Facilitation through Institutionalised Consultation Mechanisms [Circular No 21/2025 dated September 12, 2025]

With evolving trade patterns, increasing reliance on digital processing, and a growing emphasis on measurable service delivery, CBIC has reviewed the composition and functioning of Permanent Trade Facilitation Committees (PTFCs) and Customs Clearance Facilitation Committees (CCFCs). This Master Circular consolidates and supersedes earlier guidelines to realign these committees besides taking measures keeping in view current priorities of consultative decision making, stakeholders' engagement and grievance redressal, and integration with national trade facilitation objectives, CBIC has decided that PTFCs shall now meet fortnightly, while CCFCs shall meet once in two months. Revised composition and ToRs for PTFC and CCFC are annexed as Annexures 1 and 2 respectively.

The composition of PTFCs has been significantly broadened to include representatives from DGFT, custodians, PGAs, shipping lines, logistics service providers, trade councils, and Customs Brokers, besides existing trade participants. Similarly, CCFCs now include, in addition to senior Customs officers, representatives from Ministries of Shipping, Railways, Highways, Civil Aviation, and senior functionaries from PGAs operating under SWIFT. The inclusion of representatives from DG Systems (ICES/ICEGATE), NCTC, and Directorate of Logistics aims to strengthen systemic improvement and inter-agency coordination.

The Terms of Reference (ToR) of both committees have been revised to further include: Ensure timely resolution of grievances and bottlenecks Monitor performance of digital grievance tools like TSKs, AEM and ICEGATE helpdesk Escalate unresolved issues to NACs.

Faceless Assessment has brought standardisation and uniformity in Customs processing. To address delays in clearance of live Bills of Entry, a trilayered grievance redressal mechanism comprising the Anonymised Escalation Mechanism (AEM) [Circular 14/2021 & 23/2022-Customs], Turant Suvidha Kendras (TSKs) [Circular 45/2020], and National Assessment Centres (NACs) [Circulars 13/2023 & 40/2020] has been institutionalised.

The AEM allows ICEGATE-registered users to raise online grievances after filing the Bill of Entry. These are auto-routed to the concerned Additional/Joint Commissioner in the FAG, with anonymised identities and real-time tracking. Board has further directed DG Systems to revamp AEM mechanism and a suitable advisory will be issued on revamped AEM by DG Systems with suitable MIS to be available with senior Customs management.

The TSKs, established in each Customs Zone, serve as the physical and operational interface for facilitating Customs processes under Faceless Assessment. They facilitate clearance process of the trade by tracking of local grievances, coordination with assessment groups, and provide support to the trade in any procedural aspects. Officers posted at TSKs must proactively assist the trade in identifying delays and liaising with assessment officers for swift resolution. A consolidated list of all TSK is enclosed as Annexure-3. Further in order to ensure efficiency in functioning of TSK, a digital portal is being created to monitor timely resolution of grievances or any procedural requirement of trade.

For details: <https://taxinformation.cbic.gov.in/view-pdf/1003289/ENG/Circulars>

4. Implementation of Customs (Provisional Assessment) Regulations, 2025 [Circular No 22/2025 dated September 12, 2025]

The changes in the Section 18 of Customs Act, 1962 dealing with the Provisional Assessment in the Finance Act, 2025, which came into effect from March 29, 2025 the changes brought through Finance Act, 2025 in relation to

Provisional Assessment is summarized as below:

- a. provide time limit of two years for finalisation of provisional assessment which shall be extended by Principal Commissioner of Customs or the Commissioner of Customs, if the sufficient cause is shown.
- b. for pending cases, the time-limit shall be from 29th March 2025, i.e., the date of enactment of the Finance Act, 2025.
- c. provide for certain grounds on which the time limit of two years shall apply not from the date of the order of the provisional assessment, but from the date when the reasons for such ground ceases to exist. Further, Section 18 of Customs Act, 1962 also provides for prescribing time limit for submission of documents or information by the importer or exporter and the manner of finalisation of the provisional assessment.

In view of the above changes in the Finance Act, 2025, the Customs (Provisional Assessment) Regulations, 2025 has been notified vide Notification No. 55/2025-Customs (NT) dated 12.09.2025, superseding the earlier Customs (Finalization of Provisional Assessment) Regulations, 2018, with following salient features:

- a. Time-limit of 14 months from the date of finalisation of the provisional assessment for submission of documents or information including the test reports (chemical or otherwise), the reasons for which the provisional assessment was resorted to. The same time limit of fourteen months will apply for completion of enquiry and transferring the relevant documents, along with the report in writing to the proper officer for finalisation of assessment.
- b. In the absence of submission of the required documents or information, Proper Officer will proceed to finalise the provisional assessment based on the documents available and providing opportunity to the importer or exporter by following the principles of natural justice.
- c. These regulations shall also apply to pending cases where the duty payable on goods has not been finally assessed as of 29.03.2025. In this regard, officers shall obtain the pending documents or information, or complete necessary enquiries, within fourteen months from 29.03.2025, i.e., by 29.05.2026, so that provisional assessments can be finalised within the prescribed time limit under Section 18 of the Customs Act, 1962.
- d. Where possible to do so, the proper officer shall finalise the assessment within three months from the obtaining of pending documents or information or conclusion of enquiry, or seek extension from the officer to whom the proper officer is sub-ordinate, but within the prescribed time limit under section 18 of Customs Act, 1962.
- e. Above time limits on sufficient cause being shown, may be extended by Principal Commissioner of Customs or Commissioner of Customs, but within the time-limits provided for finalisation of the assessment.
- f. As clarified earlier through Circular No. 40/2011-Customs date 09.11.2011, provision has been incorporated to provide that importer or exporter may make payment of the duty amount ascertained on their own against the bill of entry or shipping bill, anytime during the pendency of provisional assessment, along with the interest till the date of payment as per section 18. This amount shall be adjusted against the duty finally assessed or reassessed, as the case may be.
- g. The regulations have been aligned with the timelimits in the Act for finalisation of the Provisional assessment.
- h. While finalizing the provisional assessment in accordance with Section 18 of the Customs Act, 1962, The proper officer shall pass a speaking order to finalize the assessment. In cases where the final assessment differs from the provisional assessment, the principles of natural justice shall be followed. In cases where the final assessment confirms the provisional assessment, the same shall be finalized after obtaining written acceptance from the importer or exporter. The finalization shall be communicated in writing.
- i. If any differential amount becomes payable after adjustment of the duty already paid, the bill of entry or shipping bill shall be returned for payment. The importer or exporter shall also be liable to pay interest on the differential amount as per sub-section (2) of Section 18 of the Act. Similarly, If the importer or exporter is entitled to a refund after finalization, the same shall be processed in accordance with sub-sections (4) and (5) of Section 18 of the Act.

j. Upon finalization of the provisional assessment, the bond and security furnished at the time of provisional assessment shall be cancelled or re-credited, and the security returned, provided there are no pending dues. This applies in cases where the provisional assessment is confirmed, where duty along with interest has been fully paid for home consumption or exportation, or where an appropriate bond has been executed in respect of warehoused goods.

k. Where any amount due (duty, interest, fine, penalty or other sum) remains unpaid for more than 90 days and has attained finality, it shall be adjusted from the security or recovered under Section 142 of the Act, with due intimation to the importer or exporter.

1. This regulations shall also apply to the provisional assessment undertaken under Project Imports.

The provisions for submission of a Single Unified Multi-Purpose Electronic Bond for provisional assessments are outlined in Circular No. 04/2025-Customs dated 17.02.2025. This bond allows importers or exporters to furnish a single, all-India multipurpose bond in lieu of transaction-wise bonds across different ports. 5.2 The assessment pending for finalization for a period beyond 17 Months, from the date of provisional assessment, should be reported to Commissioner of Customs for effective monitoring and to adhere to the timelines. The Commissioner will personally monitor the cases beyond 17 months for finalization or an appropriate decision regarding extension as provided in the regulation 11 of the Customs (Provisional Assessment) Regulations, 2025.

Provisional assessment under Section 18 is an important facilitative mechanism allowing clearance of goods where final assessment cannot be completed due to lack of full information or documents. The updated legal framework is expected to bring transparency, predictability, and efficiency to the finalization process of provisional assessments.

For details: <https://taxinformation.cbic.gov.in/view-pdf/1003288/ENG/Circulars>

5. Communication to taxpayers through e-Office - requirement of document Identification Number (DIN) [Circular No 23/2025 dated September 23, 2025]

The Central Board of Indirect Taxes & Customs CBIC clarified that communications issued through e Office of CBIC bear an automatically generated unique 'Issue number'. However, no online utility was available to verify the authenticity of such communications through Issue number, hence DIN was required to be generated and quoted on such communications. Now an online utility has been developed and made functional (URL <https://verifydocument.cbic.gov.in>), where the taxpayers and other concerned persons can verify online the electronically generated unique "Issue number" borne on communications dispatched using public option in e-Office application by CBIC officers. Upon verification, this utility confirms the Issue number, and other details and provides information to authenticate the document, like, -i. File number ,ii. Date of issuing the document. Type of communication. Name of Office issuing the document, v. Recipient name (masked),vi. Recipient address (masked),vii. Recipient email (masked). The name of the office issuing the document is captured from the data available within eOffice, while the document type, recipient name, recipient address, recipient email are entered in the metadata by the officers creating the document. Officers responsible for issuing communications via CBIC's eOffice must mandatorily fill and ensure correctness of this information in the metadata while creating the draft before its approval.

It is further clarified that quoting separate DIN on such communications dispatched using public option in e Office application, which already bear issue number, will result into two394/39(14)/2018-Commr.(Inv.-Cus.)I/126784/2025 different electronically generated verifiable unique numbers namely Issue No. & DIN on the same communication, which renders quoting of separate DIN on such communication unnecessary. It is therefore decided that for communications dispatched using public option in CBIC's e-Office application, the

verifiable e-Office 'Issue number' shall be deemed to be the Document Identification Number and such communication shall be treated as a valid communication. The Document Identification Number generated through DIN utility shall continue to be mandatorily quoted on all other communications which have not been dispatched using public option in CBIC's e-Office application.

For details: <https://taxinformation.cbic.gov.in/view-pdf/1003291/ENG/Circulars>

6. Consolidation of earlier custom notifications into single framework for ease of doing business vide notification no 45/2025-dated October 24, 2025

The Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) has consolidated 31 separate customs duty notifications into one, unified legal text. As per the new notification, exemption and concessional duty provisions previously scattered across multiple older documents will now be merged. It creates a single point of reference for customs exemptions, making it easier for importers, exporters, and customs officials to comply with regulations. Importers and customs brokers are now required to cite Notification No. 45/2025-Customs in all relevant documents and submissions for imports made on or after November 1, 2025.

For Details: <https://taxinformation.cbic.gov.in/view-pdf/1010489/ENG/Notifications>

7. Amendment in AIDC, Health Cess and SWS notification to align them with notification no. 45/2025 vide notification no 44/2025 dated October 24, 2025

Amendments to other existing customs exemption notifications to align them with the major consolidation exercise carried out by the comprehensive notification No. 45/2025 dated October 24, 2025.

It specifically updates references in notifications related to: • Health Cess (Notification No. 8/2020-Customs) • Social Welfare Surcharge (SWS) (Notification No. 11/2018-Customs) • Agriculture Infrastructure and Development Cess (AIDC) (Notification No. 11/2021- Customs) Effective duty of goods under Chapter 27 (Notification No. 52/2017-Customs) While Notification No. 45/2025- Customs consolidated many primary duty exemptions into one master document, Notification No. 44/2025- dated 24th October, 2025 ensures that all related cess and surcharge notifications correctly refer to the new, unified framework.

For Details: <https://taxinformation.cbic.gov.in/view-pdf/1010493/ENG/Notifications>

8. CBIC has notified Customs (Voluntary revision of entries Post clearance) Regulations, 2025 vide notification 70/2025 customs (Non-Tariff) dated October 30, 2025

Provisions under section 18A inserted vide the section 93 Finance Act, 2025 providing a facility of revision of entries already made in relation to the goods, after customs clearance has been given. This provision will enable importers or exporters after clearance of goods, to voluntarily declare material facts and pay duty with interest but without penalty.

For details: <https://taxinformation.cbic.gov.in/view-pdf/1010502/ENG/Notifications>

9. Electronic Application under Customs (Voluntary Revision of Entries Post Clearance) Regulations, 2025 –Rs. 1,000” vide notification no 69/2025 Customs (Non-Tariff) dated October 30, 2025

The Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC), amends the Levy of Fees (Customs Documents) Regulations, 1970. It introduces a fee of ₹1,000 for each electronic application filed under the “Customs (Voluntary Revision of Entries Post Clearance) Regulations, 2025.

For details: <https://taxinformation.cbic.gov.in/view-pdf/1010501/ENG/Notifications>

10. Launch of SWIFT 2.0 and onboarding of AQCS, PQMS and FSSAI on SWIFT 2.0 as Single Touch Point for Trade for NOC Processing [Circular No 29/2025 dated November 21, 2025]

To strengthen trade facilitation and enhancement of ease of doing business, is developing Single Window Interface for Facilitating Trade (SWIFT 2.0), an upgraded, unified, and fully digital Single Window platform designed to provide a single touch point for importers, exporters, other stakeholders and all Partner Government Agencies in relation to all EXIM processes. SWIFT 2.0 brings enhanced automation, seamless data exchange, and end-to-end digital processing for EXIM clearances involving Partner Government Agencies (PGAs). The earlier version of SWIFT functioned as a document-repository-based NOC clearance system, whereas SWIFT 2.0 is an advanced, fully digital, data-driven platform designed to serve a wide range of trade stakeholders.

The following features will be available to importers, exporters, and other trade stakeholders under SWIFT 2.0:

- Importers and exporters can submit additional data fields and documents which are necessary to obtain No Objection Certificates (NOC) from the PGAs directly in SWIFT 2.0 thereby reducing physical touch point of interaction with PGAs.
- Users can view all their details in a unified dashboard and track responses to queries, as well as review their previous transaction history with any PGA.
- Trade members will receive real-time SMS and email alerts on the status of their NOC applications, ensuring they are promptly informed about any required action.
- Users can make online payments for PGA fees through the system and can obtain digital receipts for their records.
- Trade Stakeholders will be notified of the scheduled date and time of visual inspections by PGAs and can track confirmations directly through the SWIFT2.0 platform.
- Importers and exporters can digitally view and download the approved NOCs issued by PGAs.
- The trading community will benefit from a seamless experience as all NOC-issuing PGAs are gradually integrated into a single platform, eliminating the need to navigate multiple PGA systems.³As a background, reference is invited to Board Circular No. 09/2015-Cus dated 31.03.2015, Circular 03/2016-Cus dated 03.02.2016, and Circular 10/2016-Cus dated 15.03.2016 regarding the earlier version of SWIFT. These Circulars, in the earlier version of SWIFT, provided integration for NOC/ test report for six PGAs viz. Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI), Plant Quarantine (PQ), Animal Quarantine and Certification Services (AQCS), Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO), Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB), and a lab module for the Textile Committee (TC) to provide test related NOC, for live consignments. This SWIFT platform enabled importers to lodge their clearance documents online through ICEGATE at a single point, facilitated risk- based inspection and an Online NOC from the PGAs. However, importers were still required to upload additional documents on respective PGA portals if so desired by PGAs for processing NOCs.⁴ SWIFT 2.0 is proposed to onboard over 60 PGAs in a phased manner, incorporating the above features as indicated above. Under the first phase of the SWIFT 2.0 rollout, consolidated lists of data fields/values and mandatory documents required by the following PGAs have been finalised for implementation as given in circular.

For details: <https://taxinformation.cbic.gov.in/view-pdf/1003299/ENG/Circulars>