

GST CAFÉ

Extension of Foreign Trade Policy 2015-2020

Due to difficulties faced on account of the prevailing COVID-19 pandemic, the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, on 31.03.2020, announced the **extension of the Foreign Trade Policy (FTP) 2015-2020 for another year i.e. up to 31.03.2021**. FTP 2015-2020 was originally set to expire on 31.03.2020.

1. AMENDMENTS TO FOREIGN TRADE POLICY 2015-2020

The Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) has issued Notification No. 57/2015-20 dated 31.03.2020 to notify extension of trade benefits up to 31.03.2021 under the following schemes –

- i. Advance Authorisation (AA);
- ii. Duty Free Import Authorisation (DFIA);
- iii. Export Promotion Capital Goods (EPCG);
- iv. duty exemptions available to units set up under Export Oriented Unit (EOU)/ Electronics Hardware Technology Park (EHTP)/ Software Technology Park (STP) / Bio-Technology Park (BTP) Schemes.

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However, eligible services and rates of reward for FY 2019-20 under Service Exports from India (SEIS) Scheme are to be separately notified, while the continuation of SEIS benefits for FY 2020-21 has not been decided presently.

Automatic extensions of 6 months have been granted for validity of DFIA and EPCG licenses expiring between 01.02.2020 to 31.07.2020.

2. AMENDMENT OF HANDBOOK OF PROCEDURES

Similarly, Public Notice No. 67/2015-20 dated 31.03.2020 notifies the following relevant extensions –

- i. Last date of filing applications for **duty credit scrips (for MEIS)**: Within 15 months of the date of the Let Export Order (LEO), instead of 12 months, where such LEO falls between 01.02.2019 and 31.05.2019;
- ii. Last date of filing applications for **duty credit scrips (for SEIS)**: By 31.12.2020 for FY 2018-19;
- iii. Validity of **Status Holder Certificates** issued under FTP 2015-2020, due to expire: Extended up to 31.03.2021;
- iv. Validity of **imports under AA Scheme**: Automatically extended by 6 months, where such validity expires between 01.02.2020 and 31.07.2020;

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- v. Validity of **export obligation period under AA Scheme**: Automatically extended by 6 months, where such period expires between 01.02.2020 and 31.07.2020;
- vi. Last date for submission of **Installation Certification by EPCG Authorisation holder**: Extended by 6 months, where such last date falls between 01.02.2020 and 31.07.2020
- vii. Validity of **block-wise export obligation period under EPCG Scheme**: Automatically extended by 6 months, where such period expires between 01.02.2020 and 31.07.2020;
- viii. Validity of **Letters of Permission (LOPs)/Letters of Intent (LOIs)** issued to units under EOU/EHTP/STP/BTP Schemes: Extended up to 31.12.2020, where the validity expires on or after 01.03.2020.

3. DEFERMENT OF RCMC REQUIREMENTS

Likewise, Trade Notice No. 60/2019-20 dated 31.03.2020 does away with the requirement to furnish a valid Registration-Cum-Membership Certificate (RCMC) for any incentives/authorisations up to 30.09.2020, in cases where the RCMC has expired on or before 31.03.2020.

The collection of applicable fees for FY 2020-21 has been accordingly deferred to a later date.

The above measures are aimed at supporting trade and industry by continuation of existing trade policies in light of present circumstances.

For any details and clarifications, please feel free to write to:

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