

AEPC Circular No : 141

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AEPC/HO/SG/R&PA/2022
23.12.2022

Dear Members,

Sub: DGFT and DoR takes steps to facilitate implementation of India-Australia Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement

India and Australia have signed the India-Australia Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement (Ind-Aus ECTA) on 2.04.2022, which will come into force on 29.12.2022. The agreement is expected to benefit Indian exports from preferential zero duty market access in Australia for 100% of its tariff lines, which will benefit India's labour-intensive sectors such as gems and jewellery, textiles, leather, footwear, furniture, food, and agricultural products, engineering products, medical devices, and automobiles. India has provided preferential access to Australia on over 70% of its tariff lines, which are primarily raw materials and intermediaries such as coal, mineral ores etc., which are required for our domestic manufacturing industry.

2. India's apparel exports to Australia were US\$ 288.6 mn in 2021, registering a growth of 41.2% as compared to 2020. India's percentage share in Australia's total apparel import was 3.9% in 2021 and it is expected to increase when tariff will be zero. Currently, Australia's average tariff for India is 4.8%. Hence Ind-Aus ECTA provides a huge potential for apparel exports to Australia.

3. Now, DGFT and DoR have taken the following steps to facilitate the implementation of India-Australia Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement (Ind-Aus ECTA). These are given as follows:

A. List of agencies, authorized to issue Preferential Certificate of Origin (CoO):

(i) DGFT vide its Public Notice No 44/2015-20 dated 22.12.2022 has amended Appendix 2B of the FTP and included the list of agencies, authorized to issue Preferential Certificate of Origin (CoO) for India's exports under India-Australia Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement (Ind-Aus ECTA). Copy of the Public Notice is enclosed with this Circular for kind ready reference.

(ii) As per the Public Notice No 44/2015-20 dated 22.12.2022, following agencies have been authorized to issue Preferential Certificate of Origin (CoO) for India's exports under India-Australia Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement (Ind-Aus ECTA):

S. No.	Name of the Agreement	Authorized Agencies	Product Assigned to each agency
18	India-Australia Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement (ECTA)	<u>Export Inspection Council and Export Inspection Agencies</u>	<u>All Products</u>
		Marine Products Export Development Authority and regional offices	Marine Products

Development Commissioner, Handicraft, and regional offices	Handicraft
Spices Board	Spices and Cashew nuts
Coir Board	Coir and Coir products
Textile Committee and regional offices	Textiles and Clothing
Central Silk Board and regional offices	Silk products
MEPZ special Economic Zone	All products by Units in Madras SEZ and EOUs located within the jurisdiction
Kandla Special Economic Zone	All products manufactured by Units in Kandla and Surat SEZs and EOUs located within the respective jurisdiction
SEEPZ Special Economic Zone	All products manufactured by Units in SEEPZ SEZ and EOUs located within the respective jurisdiction.
Cochin Special Economic Zone	All products manufactured by Units in Cochin SEZ and EOUs located within the respective jurisdiction
NOIDA Special Economic Zone	All products manufactured by Units in Noida SEZ and EOUs located within the respective jurisdiction
Vishakhapatnam Special Economic Zone	All products manufactured by Units in Vishakhapatnam SEZ and EOUs located within the respective jurisdiction
Falta Special Economic Zone	All products manufactured by Units in Falta SEZ and EOUs located within the respective jurisdiction
Directorate General Foreign Trade and regional offices	All products
Tobacco Board	Tobacco and tobacco products
Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA)	Agricultural Products

B. Electronic filing and Issuance of Preferential Certificate of Origin (CoO):

- (i) DGFT vide Trade Notice No 23/2022-23 dated 22.12.2022 has expended its electronic platform for Certificates of Origin (eCoO) to facilitate issuance of Preferential Certificates of Origin for exports to Australia under India-Australia Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement (Ind-Aus ECTA) with effect from 29th December 2022. Copy of the Trade Notice is enclosed with this Circular for kind ready reference.
- (ii) On submission and approval of applications online under the above-mentioned Trade Agreement, the e-CoO system shall generate one copy i.e., electronic copy. The electronic copy shall bear the image signature of the issuing officer and stamp of the issuing agency. The authenticity of any eCoO may be verified by scanning the QR code on the certificate, or by keying in the certificate number under the 'Verify Certificate' link on <https://coo.dgft.gov.in>.
- (iii) In this Trade Notice, it has been informed that the Indian Exporter may please take note of the following points regarding the eCoO application process:
- Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) would be required for the purpose of electronic submission. The digital signature would be the same as used in other DGFT applications.
 - The digital signature may be Class III and should have the IEC of the firm embedded in the DSC.

- Any new applicant exporter would be required to initially register at the portal. The password would be sent on the email and mobile number of the IEC holder. In case the IEC holder desires to update their email on which communication is to be sent, the same may be done by using the 'IEC Profile Management' service on the DGFT website <https://dgft.gov.in>.
- Once registration is completed, the IEC branch details would be auto-populated as per the DGFT-IEC database. Applicant is required to ensure that updated IEC details are available in the DGFT system. Necessary steps may be taken to modify the IEC details, when required.
 - (iv) For further guidance on registration and application submission, the Help manual & FAQs may be accessed on the landing page at <https://coo.dgft.gov.in>.
 - (v) For any further assistance, the trade may utilize any of the following channels:
 - Raise a service request/suggestion ticket through the DGFT Helpdesk service
 - Call the toll-free DGFT Helpdesk numbers
 - Send an email to DGFT CoO Helpdesk at coo-dgft@gov.in

C. Customs Tariff Rules 2022:

Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs, DoR has issued NOTIFICATION No. 112/2022-Customs (N.T.) dated 22.12.2022 making rules called Customs Tariff (Determination of Origin of Goods under the India-Australia Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement) Rules, 2022. Copy of the Notification is enclosed with this Circular for kind ready reference.

4. AEPC's Circulars are available on AEPC's Website www.aepcindia.com
5. This is for your information please.

With regards.

Yours sincerely,
Dr. L. B. Singhal