



Export Promotion Council
for EOUs & SEZs
Setup by Ministry of Commerce & Industry
Government of India

Circular No. 476 (Members Advisory)

Exemption from QCO — Hot & Cold Seamless Steel Tubes

Advisory issued by M/o Steel — dated 6 October 2025

Export Promotion Council for EOUs & SEZs (EPCES)

Dear Members,

Various importers in the Domestic Tariff Area have brought to EPCES's attention difficulties in importing **Hot and Cold Seamless Steel Tubes** used for manufacturing high-pressure gas cylinders. With effect from **15 September 2025**, the SIMS (Steel Import Monitoring System) portal requires a **No Objection Certificate (NOC)** before registering on SIMS and importing these steel items.

EPCES took up the matter with the Department of Commerce and the Ministry of Steel. We noted that multiple consignments under the relevant HS codes had already been shipped by sea — some have reached ports and await clearance, while others are in transit. Many of these imports were made against irrevocable letters of credit (LCs) with advance foreign-exchange payments. Any delay in customs clearance would result in demurrage, detention fees and penalties, causing significant financial losses to importers and potentially harming the high-pressure cylinder industry, including factory closures and job losses. This runs contrary to the Transitional Arrangements under Para 1.05(b) of the Foreign Trade Policy, 2023.

The Ministry of Steel, **vide its letter dated 6 October 2025**, has exempted such imports from mandatory QCO compliance where the bill of lading shows a **shipped on board** date on or before **31 October 2025**. A copy of the Ministry's letter is attached below for your reference.

Importers are requested to take advantage of this exemption.

Regards,
EPCES

[Download M/o Steel Letter \(06.10.2025\)](#)

Export Promotion Council for EOUs & SEZs

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