



Director General EPCES <dg@epces.in>

Fwd: TASID_Request for Inclusion of Free Trade & Warehousing Zones (FTWZs) in the list of ports permitted to Import of CBU Motor Vehicles

2 messages

Director General EPCES <dg@epces.in>

24 September 2025 at 13:19

To: DG DGFT <dgft@nic.in>, VIMAL ANAND <vimal.anand@nic.in>, hanif.queeshi@gov.in

Cc: csoffice@nic.in, ss.lss-doc@gov.in, OSD cum Special Secretary Commerce <rajesh.agrawal@nic.in>, Gaurav Pundir <gaurav.pundir@gov.in>, shioff@nic.in

Dear Sir(s)

This is regarding including Free Trade Warehousing Zones in the list of ports allowed for import of new cars.

Please refer to the EPCES trailing email dated 12.8.2025 regarding a representation from Tamil Nadu Association of SEZ Infrastructure Developers (TASID) regarding inclusion of notified Free Trade Warehousing Zones (FTWZs) under DGFT Notification No 59/2023 dated 12.2.2024 (copy attached) for import of new vehicles.

In this regard, a background note on FTWZs and a list of testing and homologation facilities in India are also attached for proper understanding of the proposal.

In brief, FTWZs are SEZs governed under the SEZ Act and are ports under the Customs Act and have excellent world class warehousing facilities. Operational FTWZs, by virtue of their legal status under the SEZ Act, already function as fully notified Customs stations. However, despite being equipped to handle high-value cargo, including automobiles, they are not presently included in the designated list of 18 Ports/ICDs for import of new cars.

Inclusion of operational FTWZs in this list will provide the following benefits:

1. **Integrated Infrastructure:** FTWZs offer on-site Customs processing, Grade A and world-class, ultramodern warehousing, Pre-Delivery Inspection (PDI) zones, and multimodal evacuation facilities, enabling seamless handling of imported vehicles.
2. **Regional Distribution Capability:** Their strategic locations will encourage overseas vehicle manufacturers to set up regional distribution centres within FTWZs, facilitating re-exports to neighbouring countries while also enabling direct access to domestic tariff area (DTA) markets.
3. **Operational Efficiency:** Vehicle clearance and processing can be completed expeditiously, with duty exempted until such time as the vehicles are cleared into the DTA, allowing importers flexibility in inventory management and regional dispatch planning.
4. **Testing & Homologation Accessibility:** FTWZs are located close to MoRTH-notified testing and homologation facilities under Rule 126 of CMVR, such as:

- a. GARC (Chennai) – EV labs, crash and passive safety, proximity to Chennai/Ennore Ports.
 - b. ARAI (Pune) – homologation, EV battery safety, ADAS validation aligned with Mumbai/JNPT.
 - c. ICAT (Manesar) – homologation, EV testing, aligned with Delhi ICDs.
 - d. NATRAX (Indore) – proving grounds for high-speed and durability testing. This ensures compliance with Indian standards without burdening existing ports.
5. Decongestion of Ports: Shifting vehicle imports to FTWZs will reduce pressure on traditional ports and support just-in-time logistics.

In view of the above , it is requested that FTWZs may kindly be allowed to import and customs clearance of new vehicles through by amending the policy condition 2(II)(d) of Chapter 87 of ITC(HS) 2022 , Schedule 1(Import Policy).

With regards,



(Alok Chaturvedi)



Alok V Chaturvedi, IAS(Retd)

Director General,

Export Promotion Council for EOUs and SEZs,

A101, 10th Floor Himalaya House 23, KG Marg, New Delhi, Delhi 110001

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website : <https://www.epces.in/>

twitter : @dgepces (<https://twitter.com/dgepces>)

Export Promotion Council for EOUs (Export Oriented Units) and SEZs (Special Economic Zones) (EPCES) is a multi-product Export Promotion Council set up by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, representing the interests of SEZ units, SEZ developers and Export Oriented Units. It has 5971 members with 4629 SEZ units, 384 SEZ developers and 958 EOUs. In FY 2023-24, total exports of goods and services from SEZs were recorded at US \$ 163.69 billion and export of goods from EOUs at 17.2 billion.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Director General EPCES** <dg@epces.in>

Date: Tue, 12 Aug 2025 at 10:21

Subject: Fwd: TASID_Request for Inclusion of Free Trade & Warehousing Zones (FTWZs) under Notification No. 59/2023-DGFT for Import of CBU Motor Vehicles

To: VIMAL ANAND <vimal.anand@nic.in>, Gaurav Pundir <gaurav.pundir@gov.in>, DG DGFT <dgft@nic.in>

Cc: <csoffice@nic.in>, <ss.lss-doc@gov.in>, OSD cum Special Secretary Commerce <rajesh.agrawal@nic.in>

Dear Sir

Please refer to the trailing mail from Tamil Nadu Association of SEZ Infrastructure Developers (TASID) regarding inclusion of notified FTWZs under DGFT Notification No 59/2023 dated 12.2.2024 (copy attached) for import of new vehicles.

They have stated that notified FTWZs are fully equipped Custom stations with demonstrated capacity to handle high-value cargo such as automobiles. The

inclusion of FTWZs would allow automotive OEMs and importers to leverage the integrated infrastructure within FTWZs, which includes on-site Customs processing, bonded warehousing, Pre-Delivery Inspection (PDI) zones, and multimodal evacuation. FTWZs enable clearance and processing typically within 48 hours, support duty deferment, and offer flexibility in inventory and regional dispatch management. Moreover, using FTWZs would help decongest traditional ports, support just-in-time logistics, and align with national infrastructure goals under Gati Shakti. Their strategic location and capability also position them to act as transshipment hubs and regional distribution centers for re-exports to neighbouring countries.

In view of the above, they have requested that import and customs clearance of new vehicles through FTWZs may also be allowed by amending the policy condition 2(II) (d) of Chapter 87 of ITC(HS) 2022, Schedule 1(Import Policy). This will strengthen supply chain efficiency, reduce logistics costs, and ensure best use of the SEZ ecosystem developed for international trade.

It is requested that their proposal may kindly be examined and considered.

With regards,



(Alok Chaturvedi)



Alok V Chaturvedi, IAS(Retd)

Director General,

Export Promotion Council for EOUs and SEZs,

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----- Forwarded message -----

From: <jmftzkishen@gmail.com>

Date: Fri, 8 Aug 2025 at 14:03

Subject: TASID_Request for Inclusion of Free Trade & Warehousing Zones (FTWZs) under Notification No. 59/2023-DGFT for Import of CBU Motor Vehicles

To: <piyush.goyal@gov.in>

Cc: <csoffice@nic.in>, <ss.lss-doc@gov.in>, <dgft@nic.in>, <gaurav.pundir@gov.in>, <vimal.anand@nic.in>, <dc@mepz.gov.in>, <dg@epces.in>

Respected Sir,

Greetings from TASID (Tamil Nadu Association of SEZ Infrastructure Developers).

We, TASID enclose herewith a pdf file with our request to your good office for Inclusion of Free Trade & Warehousing Zones (FTWZs) under Notification No. 59/2023-DGFT for Import of CBU Motor Vehicles

You are kindly requested to look into the representation and do the needful.

Thanking you,

Warm Regards,

Sunil Rallan

President

Tamil Nadu Association of SEZ Infrastructure Developers (TASID)

HP# 98840 91955 / 73587 98326

4 attachments



TASID_Representation to The CIM_08.08.2025.pdf
555K



notification No. 59.pdf
416K



Testing_Homologation_India 2.docx
28K



Free Trade Warehousing Zones in India.docx
22K

Director General EPCES <dg@epces.in>

24 September 2025 at 13:23

To: jmfzkishen@gmail.com

Cc: Srikanth Badiga <badigasrikanth@phoenixindia.net>, Chairman EPCES <chairman@epces.in>, Sunil Rallan <sunilrallan@gmail.com>, ddg ddg <ddg@epces.in>

Dear Sir

Please see email below from DG, EPCES to D/o Commerce and Ministry of Heavy Industries regarding including Free Trade Warehousing Zones in the list of ports allowed for import of new cars.

With regards

Govind Yadav

EA to DG, EPCES



Export Promotion Council for EOUs and SEZs,

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[Quoted text hidden]

4 attachments



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