



OFFICE OF THE DEVELOPMENT COMMISSIONER
MEPZ-SEZ
MINISTRY OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY
DEPARTMENT COMMERCE
TAMBARAM, CHENNAI 600 045

MEPZ-DC00/7/2026-SEZ Chennai

Date: 08.04.2026

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

The Central Board of Excise and Customs has issued Customs Notification No. 11/2026 dated 31.03.2026 (copy enclosed), introducing a one-time relief measure permitting Manufacturing Units in Special Economic Zones (SEZs) to effect clearances of their manufactured goods into the Domestic Tariff Area (DTA) at concessional rates of Customs duty. The benefit of the said exemption Notification shall be available only to those SEZ Manufacturing Units which had commenced production on or before 31.03.2025 and which are able to demonstrate, to the satisfaction of the Proper Officer, that the goods in respect of which the exemption is claimed duly fulfil all conditions prescribed therein. The principal conditions, inter alia, are as follows:

- i. Filing of a Bill of Entry on ICEGATE, to be duly assessed by the Proper Officer;
- ii. Achievement of a minimum value addition of 20%, computed in accordance with the formula prescribed under the Notification;
- iii. Adherence to the prescribed ceiling on DTA clearances, such that the benefit shall not exceed 30% of the highest annual FOB value of exports of the manufactured goods in any of the three preceding financial years;
- iv. Non-availment of duty drawback or any other export incentives/benefits under the Foreign Trade Policy in respect of inputs used in the manufacture of such goods, whether procured by the SEZ Unit or by the supplier of such inputs, as the case may be;
- v. Production, at the time of removal of goods to the DTA, of a Certificate issued by the Jurisdictional Development Commissioner certifying, inter alia, the date of commencement of production (DCP), the annual FOB value of

exports for the three preceding financial years, and the extent of value addition achieved; and

- vi. Furnishing of a declaration by the Unit, undertaking to discharge the applicable duty, but for the exemption under the Notification, in the event of non-fulfilment of any of the stipulated conditions

2. The Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs, vide Circular No. 18/2026 dated 01.04.2026 (copy enclosed), has reiterated the provisions and conditions stipulated under the aforesaid Customs Notification. The Circular further clarifies that Bills of Entry filed by SEZ Manufacturing Units for clearances to the DTA shall be subjected to Faceless Assessment, thereby obviating the requirement for assessment by officers stationed in the SEZ. It is, accordingly, clarified that the jurisdictional Authorised Officers in the SEZ shall cease to undertake assessment functions in respect of such Bills of Entry and shall, instead, continue to discharge post-assessment responsibilities, including examination (where so directed), grant of Out of Charge, and all other functions incidental thereto, excluding the assessment of the consignment.

3. DG Systems has issued a comprehensive set of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) (copy enclosed) pertaining to the said Notification, elucidating various provisions and clarifying operational aspects arising from the relevant Customs Notification and Circular, for the benefit of SEZ Manufacturing Units. In view of the foregoing, all Authorised Officers are hereby directed to duly apprise the eligible SEZ Manufacturing Units under their jurisdiction of the benefits accruing under the aforesaid Notifications. They shall also ensure that such Units are appropriately guided with regard to the applicable conditions and the procedural compliances requisite for availing the said benefits. Additionally, the SEZ Units shall be suitably sensitised to the clarifications and responses issued by DG Systems through the aforesaid FAQs, so as to ensure that all stakeholders are fully conversant with, and apprised of, the entire scope, intent, and implications of the said Customs Notification.

4. Further DG (Systems) have also issued an Advisory vide No.17/2026 (Copy enclosed) on the said matter and narrating the sequence of procedures to be followed by the SEZ Officer and also by the SEZ Unit.

5. In view of the stipulation that one of the principal conditions for availing the benefits under the aforesaid Customs Notification is the production of a Certificate from the Jurisdictional Development Commissioner at the time of removal of manufactured goods to the DTA, this Office has devised a draft format of application to be submitted by Units to the Development Commissioner. The said application shall be routed through the concerned Authorised Officer. The Authorised Officer, on the basis of the self-declarations furnished in the application, shall examine and process the same through the E-Office system, record appropriate recommendations in the file, prepare a draft of the requisite Certificate, and place the same in the e-Office file for scrutiny and approval. Before placing the Draft Certificate, the concerned AO shall contact a Nodal Officer in MEPZ (who will be appointed shortly) to ascertain the Running Certificate ID and incorporate the same in the Draft. Thereafter, the file shall be forwarded to the Development Commissioner through the SO, DCC, and JDC, after duly capturing the Unit's email ID & the E Mail ID of the Authorised Officer & Specified Officer in the designated field to facilitate electronic dispatch. The Development Commissioner, upon due consideration of the file and, where deemed appropriate, shall issue the digitally signed Certificate and transmit the same directly to the Unit through e-Office to the email ID specified by the Authorised Officer & also to the mail ID of the Authorised Officer & Specified Officer.

6. Further, with a view to ensuring uniformity in the application to be submitted by SEZ Manufacturing Units for availing the concession standardised template has been prepared and enclosed with this Memorandum.

7. In respect of the format for the Certificate to be issued by the Development Commissioner, TRU has forwarded a Format Template which shall be duly filled by the AO and made as a Draft in the E Office file as detailed above. All Authorised Officers shall adhere to the above procedure while forwarding requests for the grant of concessional rate of duty.

//Attested//

Sd/8.4.2026

Digitally signed by
V Karthikeyan

(ALEX PAUL MENON)
DEVELOPMENT COMMISSIONER

Encl:

Date: 09-04-2026

- a. Copy of ~~2018-35~~ ~~2018-35~~ on 11/2026 dated 31.3.2026
- b. Copy of CBIC Circular 18/2026 dated 1.4.2026
- c. FAQ issued by DG Systems.
- d. Advisory No.17/2026 issued by DG Systems.

- e. Format for application by the Unit
- f. Format of the Certificate to be issued by DC as per TRU Format

To

All Authorised Officers of MEPZ.

Copy to

- i. The Deputy Commissioner of Customs, MEPZ
- ii. The Deputy Development Commissioner(s), MEPZ
- iii. The Specified Officer(s), MEPZ
- iv. The Assistant Development Commissioner(s), MEPZ