

TAX FLASH NEWS

23 July 2020



Customs Update | Crowd Sourcing of Suggestions

The Hon'ble Finance Minister in Budget 2020 expressed the need of reviewing the existing Customs Exemption Notifications to identify those Notifications which may have outlived their utility or have become outdated.

To implement the same, the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) has issued Instruction No. 14/2020¹, to institute the facility of "crowdsourcing of suggestions" on certain matters related to Customs. The suggestions may include the following aspect:

- Need for review of a Notification
- Amendment in wording of Notification for clarity
- Consolidation of similar entries
- Extent of use of Notification, etc.

It shall be noted that requests for routine merit-based change of duty rates considered usually as part of the Budget proposals are not covered under this review exercise and the same need not be furnished.

The last date for the submission is **21 August 2020**.

Our comments

The Hon'ble Finance Minister during Budget speech highlighted that as a result of measures taken on Customs side, India's ranking in ease of doing business improved from 146 to 80 in 2018 and further to 68 in 2019. The participation of the trade and industry will further elevate India's ranking in "ease of doing business" and promote investments in India.

Post introduction of Goods and Service Tax, the Government of India is having a huge focus on improving Indian Customs' processes and has embarked on multiple steps including automation, digitization, pilot e-assessment etc. It's the need of the hour to consolidate multiple Notifications, Circulars, practices and procedures to bring objectivity and transparency in the Customs.

This is a great opportunity for Trade and Industry to convey their concerns, suggestions, issues faced to the Government and bring the resolution to the same.

In order to get better understanding and representation before the Government, please contact:

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¹ Instruction No. 14/2020-Customs dated 21 July 2020

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