

Chairman's Pen



My dear fellow exporters,

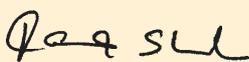
On the occasion of the 60th year of India's Independence on August 15, 2007, I extend my best wishes to you all and do hope that with your commitment and dedication to the cause of India's well being, our country would emerge as a front ranking nation whose products and services will be in demand all over the world.

Meanwhile, the Council takes this opportunity to renew its pledge that it will continue to play a proactive role in representing before various stakeholders the problems and issues that plague our members in carrying out their national task of promoting exports and building the "India Brand" globally. We are gearing up to meet that challenges of the 21st century and the ever changing world of business and commerce. The Council is aware of its role in playing a role of a facilitator and an intermediary so that our members can carry forward their export activities with considerably less hassles and hindrances.

It is in this perspective that we have brought to the notice of DGFT a few procedural as well policy issues that have been creating problems for our members. In particular, with regard to the Focus Market Scheme, we have requested that the proof of landing of the export consignment in the specified market or a self-attested import bill of entry filed by the importer in the specified market or D.O. issued by the port authorities should not be insisted upon, since in landlocked countries of Africa, it is difficult to get these documents. Instead, a certificate from their local steamer agent in case of Export by Sea and certificate of issuing carrier agent in case of Air Shipment be deemed as proof of shipment to the specified destinations.

Similarly, the Council has been receiving a large number of complaints with regard to the filing of DEPB applications, who have reported that EDI system put in place within the offices of DGFT and the Customs Authorities to file the application of the DEPB and Shipping Bills has not been functioning in a smooth manner, leading to inordinate delays extending up to a period of 5 – 6 months. The Port Offices of DGFT does not accept the filing of manual applications. This results in needless delays in filing of the DEPB claims by the exporters and if the exporters do not file their applications within a period of six months, the cuts in their entitlement are applied. Many members of the Council have also reported that their DEPB licences do not get reflected in the ICEGATE website of the Customs Authorities. Since these DEPB licences are not reflected in the ICEGATE website, it is not possible for verification of the same thereby making it difficult for companies to carry out imports. The Council has, therefore, suggested that a viable and quick EDI system should be put in place and the event of any default; the filing of manual applications should be permitted. In any event, no cut should be applied to their entitlement if the delay in filing the application is not on account of the exporters' concerned.

Yours sincerely,



(RAKESH SHAH)