

Government of India
Ministry of Commerce and Industry
Department of Commerce
Directorate General of Foreign Trade

Vanijya Bhawan, New Delhi

Date : August 31, 2026

Trade Notice No. 24/2026-2027

To,

1. All Exporters/Members of Trade & Industry
2. All Export Promotion Councils / Trade and Industry Associations
3. All DGFT Regional Authorities

**Subject: Automated Issuance of Free Sale and Commerce Certificates (FSC)
– regarding.**

In accordance with Paragraph 2.34 of the Handbook of Procedures (HBP), the Directorate issues Free Sale and Commerce Certificates to exporters for items not covered under the Drugs & Cosmetics Act, 1940. At present, upon online application by the exporter, the file is routed to the concerned Regional Authority (RA) for manual analysis, verification, and approval, which involves substantial processing time.

2. DGFT has been continuously striving for digitization and automation of the system to reduce compliance burdens and facilitate frictionless trade. In line with this approach, and as envisaged under Paragraph 1.04 (d) of the Handbook of Procedures (HBP), 2023 for the phased implementation of a rule-based, system-driven workflow with a risk-based management approach, the automated issuance of Free Sale and Commerce Certificates (FSC) is being enabled on the DGFT portal, subject to applicable conditions.

3. Key features of this automated issuance mechanism are as follows:

- a. Eligible applications would be considered for automatic issuance in accordance with the prevailing framework.
- b. Applications requiring verification or those not meeting the automated processing parameters may continue to be routed to the concerned RA for manual processing.
- c. Certain auto-approved applications may subsequently be flagged to the concerned RA for review under the system's risk management parameters.

Effect of this Trade Notice: The automated issuance of Free Sale and Commerce Certificates (FSC) is introduced on the DGFT portal, transitioning from manual verification to a system-driven workflow to enable seamless, paperless processing and expedited turnaround times for trade and industry.

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31/8/2026
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Deputy Director

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