

Directorate General of Systems and Data Management

CENTRAL BOARD OF INDIRECT TAXES & CUSTOMS

Dept. of Revenue, Ministry of Finance, Government of India

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Category: SCMTR

Issued by: DGoS, ICES

Subject: - Operational Advisory: FAQs for Trade Stakeholders – Guidance on Filing of Import Transshipment (ITP) Message by CFS for LCL Cargo reg.

Trade stakeholders have sought a simple, non-technical guide on how a Custodian / Container Freight Station (CFS) should file the Import Transshipment (ITP) message for LCL cargo. This advisory explains, in question-and-answer form, what the ITP message is, what information is needed, how to file it and what to do after filing.

Q1: What is the ITP message and who files it?

The Import Transshipment (ITP) message (message code CFCHI51) is filed electronically by the CFS of gateway port to inform Customs about LCL cargo that is being moved from the CFS station to a destination Inland Container Depot (ICD) under transshipment. It is submitted by custodian using ITP message in json format via API functionality available in ICEGATE. For FCL Cargo, already SMTP number is getting generated by the system.

For every ITP message filed, ICES sends back an acknowledgement – positive (accepted) or negative (rejected) on approval by the officer.

Q2: What are the parts of an ITP message and what does each part contain?

One ITP filing consists of three parts that are filed together and are linked by the same ITP Job Number and ITP Job Date:

Part	What it covers	Details to be furnished
Part 1 – Job & Transport details	Who is sending, how and where the cargo is going	ITP Job No. and Date; CFS Code; ICEGATE ID; Mode of Transport (R – Road, T – Train); Vehicle / Train No.; New Container No.; Seal No.; Destination ICD Code; Bond No. and Agency Code of the CFS (Custodian)
Part 2 – SMTP / Old container details	The original container(s) from which cargo is being moved	ITP Job No. and Date; IGM Rotation No. and Date; Line No.; Subline No.; SMTP No. and Date; Old Container No.
Part 3 – Import Report (IRN) details	The Import Report linked to the job	ITP Job No. and Date; IRN Number; ICEGATE ID; Document Code

Detailed MIG is available in advisory section of ICEGATE website.

Q3: What information should be kept ready before filing?

To avoid rejection, the CFS should have the following ready before preparing the message:

- **CFS identity:** CFS Code and ICEGATE ID of the CFS.
- **Custodian Transshipment Bond:** Bond Number and Agency Code of the CFS Custodian.
- **Movement details:** Mode of transport (Road or Train), Vehicle / Train number, destination ICD code, new container number and seal number.
- **Old container details:** For each old container – IGM Rotation Number and Date, Line and Subline Number, SMTP Number and Date, and the Old Container Number.

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- **Import Report details:** IRN Number and Document Code.

Q4: How is an ITP message filed? (Step-by-step)

- **Step 1** – Collect the CFS, bond/agency, movement, old-container and Import Report details listed in Q3.
- **Step 2** – Prepare the ITP message with all three parts. Use the same ITP Job Number and ITP Job Date in every part.
- **Step 3** – Check that all mandatory fields are filled and that dates are in DDMMYYYY format.
- **Step 4** – Transmit the message through your VAN service provider to ICEGATE (in API) mode.
- **Step 5** – ICEGATE forwards the message to ICES, which validates it.
- **Step 6** – The concerned Customs officer reviews the message in ICES and approves or rejects it.
- **Step 7** – Wait for the acknowledgement, which is generated after officer approval. If positive, proceed with the transshipment. If negative, correct the errors and file again (see Q6).

A flowchart showing the complete process is given at the Annexure for ease of understanding.

Q5: Which fields are mandatory and what are the limits for each?

All fields in the message are mandatory; the ITP Job Number and ITP Job Date act as the common reference that ties the three parts together. Please observe the following limits:

Detail	Maximum size	Remarks
ITP Job Number	7 digits	Numeric; same in all three parts
ITP Job Date / all dates	DDMMYYYY	Same job date in all three parts
CFS Code	10 characters	
ICEGATE ID	25 characters	Of the CFS
Mode of Transport	1 character	R – Road; T – Train
Vehicle / Train No.	20 characters	
New Container No. / Seal No.	15 characters each	
Destination ICD Code	6 characters	ICD Customs location code
Bond Number	20 characters	Transshipment bond of CFS (Custodian)
Agency Code	15 characters	Of the CFS Custodian
IGM Rotation No. / Line No. / Subline No.	7 / 4 / 4 digits	Numeric
SMTP Number	7 digits	Numeric, with SMTP Date
Old Container No.	15 characters	
IRN Number / Document Code	16 / 6 characters	

Q6: What happens after filing and what if the message is rejected?

Every ITP message received by ICES is validated and then placed before the concerned Customs officer for approval. On the officer's action, ICES generates an acknowledgement for the message. A positive acknowledgement means the ITP has been approved and accepted. A negative acknowledgement means one or more details were found incorrect or missing; the CFS should read the error indicated, correct the particulars and file the ITP message again through ICEGATE. List error codes are available in ICEGATE website and the same is attached herewith as Annexure.

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Q7: What are the common points to watch out for?

- Use the same ITP Job Number and Date in all three parts of the message.
- Furnish the Bond Number and Agency Code of the CFS Custodian in Part 1.
- Enter Mode of Transport only as R (Road) or T (Train).
- Ensure old container details (IGM, line, subline, SMTP) match the newly filed IGM/SMTP records.
- Do not exceed the field lengths given in Q5 and use DDMMYYYY for dates.
- Check acknowledgements regularly and re-file promptly in case of rejection.

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ANNEXURE – FLOWCHART: HOW TO FILE AN ITP MESSAGE

