

No. M-25013/16/2017-MUC
Ministry of Information & Broadcasting
(Media Unit Cell)

MOST IMMEDIATE

Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi
Dated : 16 June, 2017

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

Subject: Submission of Self-Declaration Certificate by the publications registered with RNI for import of newsprint - Discontinuation of process of issuance of Eligibility Certificate by RNI - reg.

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The undersigned is directed to refer to RNI's communication No.601/01/2014-NPCS dated 18.5.2017 forwarding their comments regarding the Eligibility Certificate (EC) being issued by RNI for import of newsprints.

2. The matter has been examined by this Ministry in light of the existing notification of DGFT dated 3.6.2016 vis-à-vis the existing procedure being followed by RNI for determining the quantum of newsprint to be imported by a publication / enhancement of the allocation etc. through issuing of EC.

3. Issuance of EC by RNI is not covered under the Press and Registration of Books (PRB) Act, 1867. Hence, it is not a statutory activity and originates from the EXIM policy of Ministry of Commerce & Industry / DGFT. The existing notification of DGFT dated 3.6.2017 states that -

"Item covered under Exim Code heading 4801 shall however be permitted without an import license subject to Actual User condition to those who hold 'Registration Certificate' issued by the RNI on submission of necessary documentary evidence, duly authenticated by the RNI, to the satisfaction of the customs authorities at the time of import of goods. In addition, importer shall also be required to submit an annual audited statement reflecting the total quantity and value of the newsprint consumed and quantity of newsprint imported by them in the preceding (Licensing) year to the Registrar of Newspapers for India, by 30th April of each year. The format of the declaration and the annual statement and other guidelines in this regard shall be as announced by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting from time to time".

On examination of the above mentioned notification of DGFT, this Ministry is of the considered view that RNI is only required to authenticate that the publisher proposing to import newsprint is registered with RNI and holds a valid RNI registration certificate as on the date of application. As regards the annual audited statement, the same is furnished online nowadays as per section 19D and Rule 6(1) of PRB Act/Rules.

5. In view of the above it has been decided to do away with the practice of RNI issuing an EC to a publication specifying the quantum of import of newsprint. This practice is proposed to be replaced by authentication on demand of the Self-declaration by the publisher / owner of the newspaper / journals by RNI, New Delhi or by the designated officer in concerned regional / branch offices of PIB (conferred with power of RNI). O/o the RNI, New Delhi / designated officer in regional and branch offices of PIB would be required only to certify that the publication holds registration certificate from RNI in terms of DGFT's notification dated 3.6.2017. In this connection, format of the Self-declaration required to be furnished by publisher of newsprint is enclosed.

*Most Immediate
PL take
act as
accordingly
by 19.6.2017
Compliance
Report is to be
sent to
the Mo-IB
by 21.6.17
DPR (R)
CNC (S)*

AB

F. No. 613/2/2017-18(NP&CS)
Government of India
Office of the Registrar of Newspapers for India
(Ministry of Information & Broadcasting)
West Block-8, Wing No.2, R.K. Puram, New Delhi-110 066.

19th June,2017

OFFICE ORDER

In compliance of the Ministry of I &B's OM No. M-25013/16/2017-MUC dated 16th June, I hereby authorise officers of Regional/Branch Units of PIB designated as Additional Press Registrar, Deputy Press Registrar and Assistant Press Registrar (as the case may be) to carry out authentication of the self-declaration certificate submitted by the publisher /owner for the import of Newsprint thereof under the general superintendence and control of the Press Registrar.



(S.M. KHAN) 19.6.2017
Press Registrar

To,

PPS to Secretary, Ministry of Information & Broadcasting.

Copy to:-

1. Principal DG, PIB, New Delhi
2. Principal DG, DAVP, New Delhi
3. SO (MUC), M/o (I&B), New Delhi
4. All Regional/Branch Units Of PIB
5. Joint Secretary (P), M/o (I&B)

No. M-25013/16/2017-MUC
Ministry of Information & Broadcasting
(Media Unit Cell)

Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi
Dated : 30 June, 2017

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

Subject: Proposal for discontinuation of process of issuance of Eligibility Certificate by RNI for import of Newsprint – reg.

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The undersigned is directed refer to PMO's ID Note No.4609035/2017-ES.2 dated 11.5.2017 forwarding therewith the representation made by Shri Vivek Gupta, Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha) on the subject mentioned above.

2. Under the Press and Registration of Books (PRB) Act, 1867 the statutory function of the Office of the Registrar of Newspapers for India (RNI), a media unit of this Ministry, is to verify the titles of newspapers and periodicals published in India and issue Certificate of Registration to those publications. Issuance of Eligibility Certificate (EC) to the newspapers / periodicals by RNI specifying the quantum of import of newsprint is not covered under the provisions of PRB Act, 1867. In fact, it is a non-statutory activity performed by RNI which originated from the Exim Policy of Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT), Ministry of Commerce & Industry issued from time to time since 1992 when newsprint import was de-canalised from the ambit of State Trading Corporation (STC).

3. The existing newsprint import notification of DGFT dated 3.6.2016 states that –
“Item covered under Exim Code heading 4801 shall however be permitted without an import license subject to Actual User condition to those who hold ‘Registration Certificate’ issued by the RNI on submission of necessary documentary evidence, duly authenticated by the RNI, to the satisfaction of the customs authorities at the time of import of goods. In addition, importer shall also be required to submit an annual audited statement reflecting the total quantity and value of the newsprint consumed and quantity of newsprint imported by them in the preceding (Licensing) year to the Registrar of Newspapers for India, by 30th April of each year. The format of the declaration and the annual statement and other guidelines in this regard shall be as announced by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting from time to time”.

4. The proposal of Shri Vivek Gupta, Hon'ble MP for discontinuation of issuance of EC has been examined by this Ministry vis-à-vis the existing policy condition of DGFT mentioned above. This Ministry has decided that RNI may no longer issue Eligibility Certificates determining the extent of import, as it is not a 'requirement'

Contd./-

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under the existing policy condition of DGFT dated 3.6.2016. As per the policy condition, RNI is only required to authenticate that the publisher proposing to import newsprint is registered with RNI and hold a valid RNI registration certificate to be considered as 'Actual User' so that they could import newsprint without any import license and assessed at 0% customs duty by the customs authorities for their import.

5. For ease of doing business, it has also been decided that the existing practice of issuance of EC by RNI, Delhi, for import of newsprint should be replaced by submission of a self-declaration certificate by the publisher / owner of the newspaper before importing the newsprint. The self-declaration certificate can now be submitted to RNI or to the nearest regional / branch offices of PIB as per the convenience of the publisher / owner or it may even be submitted through an authorized representative. A self-declaration format has been devised (copy enclosed), which is available in the website of RNI. The new procedure has come into force w.e.f. 19.6.2017.

6. Further, Press Registrar, RNI has delegated the powers to all officers of Regional / Branch units of PIB designated as Additional Press Registrar, Deputy Press Registrar and Assistant Press Registrar (as the case may be) to carry out authentication of the self-declaration certificate and also that such certification will be done within three working days of receipt of the document.

7. This issues with the approval of the Competent Authority.

Encl: as above

Vijay Kaushik
(Vijay Kaushik)

Under Secretary to the Government of India
Tele:23385795

Prime Minister's Office
(Shri Mayur Maheshwari, Deputy Secretary)
South Block, New Delhi

Copy to :

- 1) D/o Industrial Policy & Promotion, Paper Section (Shri Gokul Chand, Under Secretary), Udyog Bhavan, New Delhi w.r.t. their OM No.15(18)/2017-Paper dated 8.5.2017.
- 2) Dte. General of Foreign Trade, M/o Commerce & Industry (Shri S.K. Mohapatra, Dy. Director General), Udyog Bhavan, New Delhi w.r.t. their OM No.M-6238/AM-04/PC-2(A)/Part-III/68 dated 11.5.2017.
- 3) D/o of Revenue (CBEC), Ministry of Finance (Shri Piyush Bhardwaj, STO – Tariff Unit), North Block, New Delhi w.r.t. their OM No.528/17/2014-S.T.O (T.U) dated 23.5.2017.
- 4) RNI (Shri S.M. Khan, Press Registrar), R.K. Puram, New Delhi

F. No. 613/02/2017-18(NP&CS)
Government of India
Office of the Registrar of Newspapers for India
(Ministry of Information & Broadcasting)
West Block-8, Wing No.2, R.K. Puram, New Delhi-110 066.

18th August, 2017

Office Memorandum

Subject: Discontinuation of process of issuance of Eligibility Certificate by RNI for import of Newsprint-reg.

In compliance of the Ministry of I&B's OM No. M-25013/16/2017-MUC dated 30th June, 2017 (Copy enclosed), RNI/ Regional PIB unit is to only authenticate that the publisher proposing to import newsprint is registered with RNI and holds a valid RNI registration certificate to be considered 'Actual user'. As per the OM RNI/ Regional PIB will no longer issue Eligibility Certificate determining the extent of import.

2. A self-declaration format has been devised, which is available in the website of RNI. The new procedure has come into force w.e.f. 19.6.2017.

This issues with the approval of PR.



(Himani Sarad)

Deputy Press Registrar

Copy to:-

1. O/o Principal DG, PIB, New Delhi
2. O/o Principal DG, DAVP, New Delhi
3. SO(MUC), M/o (I&B), New Delhi
4. All Regional / Branch Units of PIB
5. Joint Secretary (P), M/o (I&B)