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Subject: Enabling Voluntary Payment Electronically on ICEGATE e-Payment Platform

In line with Government's commitment to digitize the remaining services and to make it paperless, ICEGATE e-Payment Platform has been enabled with electronic collection of Voluntary Self-Initiated Payments (SIP).

2. This new functionality has been envisaged to replace the existing TR-6 payments which are currently being done manually at various Customs Stations. This functionality shall enable the users to generate a self-initiated challan for voluntary payments and then make payments through the ICEGATE e-payment platform without any further approval by officers of Customs.

3. Users are requested to take note of the following guidelines while using the voluntary payment facility on ICEGATE:

- a. The Voluntary Payment module will be accessible as a post-login functionality. Users must be registered on ICEGATE to access this feature.
- b. This facility is enabled with payments which are primarily meant for imports/export consignments cleared in the past. In other words, the facility is not a replacement for challans generated by ICES/ECCS SEZ online/ACES applications. Therefore, it should not be used for payment of customs duties for clearance of any live consignments;
- c. The various purposes for which the payment can be made are provided in Annexure-A. It is advised to select the same carefully while making payment.
- d. The proof of payment may be submitted to the concerned field formations for taking further action.

e. The officer may verify the payment details using <https://foservices.icegate.gov.in/epayment/enquiry>. Detailed advisory for verification will be made available by DG (Systems).

4.1 Currently, ICEGATE users can make voluntary payments as a debit from the Electronic Cash Ledger (only available for IEG holders and Customs Brokers).

4.2 In case, users wish to initiate challan-wise payment, the ICEGATE platform also allows users to make transaction-wise payment on the platform, whereby the system design takes care of routing the payment instantaneously through Electronic Cash Ledger before accounting for duty payment. On completion of testing for voluntary payment acceptance, at present, the following modes are enabled for such challan-wise payments:

- a. Nine (9) banks under internet banking through authorized bank mode
- b. NEFT RTGS through RBI
- c. Payment Aggregator mode

4.3 Remaining banks shall be enabled as and when the testing is complete. In all other modes, users already have an option to deposit the amount in the Electronic Cash Ledger through remaining authorized modes and use the same for making voluntary payment using Electronic Cash Ledger.

5. Since the above facility is aimed at replacing the current procedure of making Over-The-Counter (OTC) payment using TR-6 challan, the officers under your jurisdiction may be sensitized not to accept any payments through manual TR-6 challan after 31st December 2024 unless the same is approved by the concerned Pr. Commissioner/Commissioner of Customs. The approval must clearly spell out the reasons for resorting to the manual method of payment. The field officers can view the voluntary challans through the 'Payment Status - Voluntary Payment' option available in 'Service' section of ICEGATE portal (<http://www.icegate.gov.in>).

6. A user manual on the Voluntary Self-Initiated Payment (SIP) facility to handhold and onboard the users has been uploaded on the ICEGATE platform (<http://www.icegate.gov.in/guidelines/voluntary-payment>).

7. Hindi version follows.

(KESAVAN ENGINEER)

PRINCIPAL COMMISSIONER

Annexure-A

One of the following purpose to be selected while using Voluntary Payment Facility at ICEGATE:

- i. Payment pursuant to an Investigation;
- ii. Payment pursuant to Audit;
- iii. Payment pursuant to Internal Compliance, EPCG (Payment of Duty, interest, penalty);
- iv. EODC (Payment of Duty, interest, penalty);
- v. Advanced License/Authorization (Payment of Duty);
- vi. IGCR (Payment of Duty);
- vii. Payment at the time of Pre-Notice Consultation;
- viii. Payment for notices under section 28(2) and 28(4) of Customs Act, 1962;
- ix. Payment for closure of proceedings in terms of section 28(5) of the Customs Act, 1962;
- x. Payment of interest;
- xi. Payment of penalty;
- xii. Pre-Deposit against appeals;
- xiii. Amounts arising out of proceedings before Settlement Commission;
- xiv. Fines imposed by any order;
- xv. Payment of outstanding demands/Arrear payments;
- xvi. Amounts arising out of disposal of Uncleared/Unclaimed Goods;
- xvii. Amounts arising out of disposal of seized goods;
- xviii. Amounts arising out of disposal of confiscated goods;
- xix. Amounts arising out of Court Attachment orders;
- xx. Advance ruling (CAAR) fees;
- xxi. Cost recovery charges;
- xxii. Transshipment fees;
- xxiii. Merchant overtime charges;
- xxiv. Bill of Entry (BE) amendment fees;
- xxv. Shipping bill (SB) amendment fees;
- xxvi. Payments not mentioned above;

List of Nine (09) Participating Banks:

1. Punjab National Bank (PNB)
2. Kotak Mahindra Bank
3. IDBI Bank
4. Karnataka Bank
5. Canara Bank
6. Karur Vysya Bank (KVB)
7. South Indian Bank (SIB)
8. Federal Bank
9. IndusInd Bank