

**DEPARTMENT OF SCIENTIFIC & INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH  
MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY  
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**

**PRESS NOTE**

**Sub: Customs Duty/Central Excise Duty Exemption on Goods imported/indigenously procured by public funded research institutions or IITs or Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore or Regional Engineering Colleges or universities, other than a hospital**

The Union Budget 1996-97 has notified rationalisation of the exemption from customs duty for import of equipment and consumables, etc. for R&D institutions, as per Notification No. 51/96-Customs dated 23 July 1996. As per the notification, customs duty exemption on scientific & technical instruments, apparatus and equipment (including computers), as also accessories & spare parts thereof, consumables and computer software, Compact Disc Read-Only Memory (CD-ROM), recorded magnetic tapes, micro-films and micro-fiches, is available to : "public funded research institutions or IITs or Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, or Regional Engineering Colleges or universities other than a hospital" (without any ceiling on the aggregate value of imports except prototypes in which case the limit is Rs. 50,000/- in a financial year) (hereinafter called INSTITUTIONS).

The Union Budget 1997-98 has extended the above provision to allow purchase of indigenous equipment and consumables by the above institutions free of central excise duty in terms of Government Notification No. 10/97-Central Excise dt. 1 March 1997. As per the Notification, central excise duty exemption on scientific and technical instruments, apparatus and equipment (including computers), as also accessories & spare parts thereof and consumables, computer software, Compact Disc Read-Only Memory (CD-ROM), recorded magnetic tapes, micro-films, micro-fiches and prototypes is available to : "public funded research institutions or IITs or Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, or Regional Engineering Colleges or universities other than a hospital" (without any ceiling on the aggregate value of indigenous purchases for all items except prototypes in which case the limit is Rs. 50,000/- in a financial year) (hereinafter called INSTITUTIONS).

To be eligible for such customs/central excise duty exemption, the INSTITUTION should have a valid registration with the Department of Scientific & Industrial Research (DSIR) for availing of the customs/central excise duty exemption facility. Such DSIR-registered institutions can import/procure indigenously customs/central excise duty-free goods for R&D based on a certificate from the Head of Institution concerned in each case, certifying that the said goods are required for research purposes only. All INSTITUTIONS should, for this purpose, also submit to DSIR half-yearly statements of all duty-free imports/indigenous purchases made by them under this provision.

INSTITUTIONS other than hospitals, desirous of seeking registration with DSIR for purposes of availing of such customs duty exemption under Notification No. 51/96-Customs dated 23 July 1996 and Central Excise Duty Exemption under Notification No. 10/97-

Central Excise dated 1 March 1997, may apply to Scientist-G & Head (RDI), Department of Scientific & Industrial Research, in the prescribed proforma for making registration application and then submit the completed proforma to the same authority.

Request for application proformae for seeking registration of an INSTITUTION other than a hospital, and any other information relating to this matter may be addressed to: Scientist-G & Head (RDI), Department of Scientific & Industrial Research, Technology Bhavan, New Mehrauli Road, New Delhi –110 016. Tel: 26960171,26863805 ,26567373 (EPABX); Fax: 01126960629, 26868607.

The application should be submitted in the enclosed proforma, signed by the Director/ Registrar/ Head of the institution/university, to DSIR along with all relevant enclosures, like:

- (i) Latest annual report of the institution,
- (ii) A note on the R&D activities of the institution, highlighting the on-going & proposed research activities, details of past achievements/ completed research projects,
- (iii) Details of scientific personnel working in the institution and details of infrastructure available for research,
- (iv) Details of composition of Research Advisory Committee (RAC) for guiding & monitoring the research activities of the institution,
- (v) A copy of the Pass-Book for imports issued to your institution earlier,
- (vi) A copy of the Act./Gazette notification establishing the institution/university,
- (vii) A copy of notification issued by UGC under section 3 of UGC Act, 1956,
- (viii) A notification of approval under section 2-F of UGC Act.
- (ix) Audited statement of accounts,
- (x) A letter from the Government Department concerned regarding the commitment to meet at least 50% of the recurring expenses of your institution and
- (xi) Statement of receipts & recurring expenditure of the institution to establish that it is a public funded research institution and copies of few sanction orders issued by the concerned Government Department for release of grants for recurring expenditure of the institution.