

Highlights of the Foreign Exchange Management (Export and Import of Goods and Services) Regulations, 2026

- **Scope:** The erstwhile regulations governed export of goods and services from India whereas the 2026 Regulations cover both export and import of goods and services.
- **Unified Declaration Form:** The erstwhile regulations required declaration relating to export of computer software and audio/video/ television software to be made in Form SOFTEX. In the current regime, there is a unified Export Declaration Form (EDF) covering both export of goods and services. However, the timelines for submission of the same vary.
- **Timelines to submit EDF:**
 - a) An exporter of goods shall submit EDF specifying the amount representing the full export value of goods at the time of export. Further, it will be deemed to be submitted as part of shipping bill for goods exported through Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) port.

It has also been clarified that a traveler moving personal effects (which are either accompanied or unaccompanied) from India shall not be treated as exporter for the purpose of the Regulations.
 - b) An exporter of services shall submit EDF specifying the amount representing the full export value of services, within 30 days from the end of month in which invoice for services has been raised. Following additional flexibility has been provided:
 - A single EDF may be submitted where the exporter has exported services to one or more recipients in a month.
 - EDF may be submitted on or before the date of receipt of payment by exporter of services other than software
 - The period for submission of the EDF may be extended by the Authorized Dealer after satisfying itself about the reasonableness of the request by the exporter.
- **Realization of Exports :** The amount representing the full export value of goods or software or services exported were required to be repatriated to India within 15 months or within such period as may be prescribed by RBI from time to time. The new Regulations provide for differentiated timelines as follows:
 - The amount representing the full export value or reduced export value in terms of Regulation 6 of goods and services shall be realised including by way of set off in terms of Regulation 7 and repatriated by the exporter within the period specified below:
 - (a) 15 months from the date of shipment in case of goods (other than goods exported to a warehouse outside India) and from the date of invoice in case of services;
 - (b) 15 months from the date of sale of goods from the warehouse in case of goods exported to a warehouse outside India;
 - (c) as per payment terms of the contract, in case of project exports:

Special provision for Rupee invoice has been established where the export of goods and services is invoiced or/and settled in Indian Rupees, the period for realisation and repatriation of full export value shall be 18 months, from the date of shipment in case of goods (other than goods exported to a warehouse outside India), from the date of invoice in case of services, and from the date of sale of goods in case of goods exported to a warehouse outside India.

The Authorised Dealer may on a request by an exporter, allow extension of time for realisation of export proceeds beyond the specified period if the Authorised Dealer is satisfied with the reasons cited.

➤ **Unrealised exports:**

If the export proceeds of an exporter remain unrealised for a period beyond 1 year from the due date of realisation or extended period, if any, allowed by an Authorised Dealer, the exporter shall undertake further exports only against receipt of full advance or an irrevocable Letter of Credit. Such a provision did not exist in the erstwhile regulations.

➤ **Time period for making import payment:**

Payment for imports shall be made within the period specified in the underlying contract. Previously, import payments were to be completed within 6 months from the date of shipment for normal imports.

➤ **Internal Policy and Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for handling transactions**

The new Regulations mandate each Authorized Dealer to put in place a separate, comprehensive, well-documented internal policy and SOP, for handling transactions (including the reporting thereof) related to export and import of goods. There was no such internal policy requirement under the 2015 regulations.

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