

DGFT Registration in 2026: The Business Requirement You Can't Ignore

DGFT registration is the initial step for trading in India for importing and exporting of goods. Either for international trade, DGFT license for gold import or DGFT import license for restricted items, getting a DGFT approval is the essential requirement.

Many Indian businesses are able to get their [Import Export Code](#) (IEC) with the use of DGFT registration, apply to obtain import licenses or import permissions approval, and apply for any other export benefits that may be provided in connection with the exports they have made. Additional DGFT regulations may apply to any of the business sectors dealing with precious metals, electronics, chemicals, or restricted products based on the type of restricted goods being consumed, as well as other categories regulated by the Indian government.

The advertisement features the Corpseed logo at the top left. The main headline reads "DGFT REGISTRATION MADE SIMPLE." followed by the sub-headline "YOUR GATEWAY TO GLOBAL TRADE". Below this, a paragraph states: "Whether you're importing, exporting, or expanding globally, DGFT Registration is the first step towards a legal, compliant and growth-ready business." The ad is divided into several sections: "100% LEGAL Compliant with Indian Laws", "GLOBAL OPPORTUNITIES Expand your business worldwide", "EXPORT BENEFITS Access incentives and schemes", and "FASTER CLEARANCE Smooth customs and trade process". A "WHO NEEDS DGFT REGISTRATION?" section lists "Importers & Exporters", "Traders & Manufacturers", "E-commerce Exporters", and "Startups & Businesses". The "OUR DGFT SERVICES" section includes: "DGFT REGISTRATION & IEC Get your Import Export Code (IEC) hassle-free", "DGFT IMPORT LICENSE For restricted and regulated goods", "DGFT LICENSE FOR GOLD IMPORT For eligible importers and authorized entities", and "END-TO-END COMPLIANCE SUPPORT From documentation to approvals, we handle it all". The background shows a cargo ship, an airplane, and a globe. A "DGFT APPROVED" seal is also present.

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- Importers & Exporters
- Traders & Manufacturers
- E-commerce Exporters
- Startups & Businesses

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For restricted and regulated goods
- DGFT LICENSE FOR GOLD IMPORT**
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- END-TO-END COMPLIANCE SUPPORT**
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DGFT Registration Requirements at a Glance

DGFT Registration : Legal authorization for import-export activities

Import Export Code (IEC) : Mandatory for most international trade transactions

DGFT License for Gold Import : Required for eligible entities importing gold

DGFT Import License : Needed for restricted goods under DGFT rules

Why DGFT Registration Matters for Indian Businesses

Are you thinking of importing/exporting products from/to India? One of the questions most traders will ask is “Do I need to register with DGFT?” The answer is most probably “Yes”.

Being registered with [DGFT](#) is one of the main ways to legally conduct international trade in India. Registration allows exporters and importers to obtain an Import Export Code (IEC), obtain product-specific approvals and comply with India’s Foreign Trade Policy. This knowledge will save manufacturers, traders, startups and established companies time as well as money by knowing what DGFT requirements are prior to commencing with the import process.

What Is DGFT Registration

[DGFT registration](#) means registering with the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) to carry on importing and exporting goods.

The DGFT is a government agency that is part of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry and is responsible for regulating India’s foreign trade through the use of appropriate policies, notices, and a variety of licensing systems.

Most companies begin their DGFT registration process by obtaining an Import Export Code (IEC), which is a unique identifying number for international trade.

Who Needs DGFT Registration

You generally need DGFT registration if you are:

- A. Importing goods into India
- B. Exporting goods from India
- C. Trading through e-commerce exports
- D. Importing restricted products
- E. Applying for export incentives
- F. Engaged in international business transactions

Important

In many cases, customs clearance is not possible without a valid IEC.

Documents Required for DGFT Registration

DOCUMENTS REQUIRED

FOR DGFT REGISTRATION



PAN Card



Business identification



Aadhaar Card



Identity verification



Business registration proof



Legal entity verification



Bank account details



Financial verification



Address proof



Business location verification



Digital Signature Certificate
(if applicable)



Online filing



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How to Apply for DGFT Registration in India—Step-by-Step Process

1. Prepare the required business documents.
2. Create an account on the DGFT portal.
3. Apply for the Import Export Code (IEC).
4. Verify details through OTP or digital signature.
5. Submit the application.
6. Receive the IEC certificate after approval.

Processing Time : Processing times may vary depending on document accuracy and verification requirements.

DGFT License for Gold Import: Who Needs It

Generally, a **DGFT license for gold import** is necessary for the eligible entities who are importing gold in India under the applicable government policies.

Gold imports are regulated because of their economic importance, and only authorized categories of importers may be allowed to import gold subject to conditions notified by DGFT and customs authorities.

Eligible categories may include:

- Nominated agencies
- Banks authorized by the RBI
- Star Export Houses
- Jewellery manufacturers meeting prescribed criteria

Note : The eligibility conditions are updated periodically, so businesses should verify the [latest DGFT notifications](#) before applying.

DGFT Import License for Restricted Goods

A DGFT import license is required when importing goods classified as restricted under India's Foreign Trade Policy.

Examples of restricted imports may include:

- Certain chemicals
- Electronic waste
- Hazardous materials
- Precious metals
- Specific machinery

- Defense-related products

[Importing restricted goods](#) without the required license can lead to shipment detention, penalties, or confiscation.

Benefits of DGFT Registration for Businesses

- Legal Import-Export Operations
- Conduct international trade in compliance with Indian regulations.
- Access to Export Incentives
- Eligible businesses can apply for government export benefits.
- Faster Customs Clearance
- Proper registration helps streamline customs procedures.
- Global Market Expansion
- Expand your business beyond domestic markets.

Common Mistakes to Avoid During DGFT Registration

- Incorrect PAN details
- Mismatched bank information
- Wrong business classification
- Incomplete address proof
- Applying for restricted imports without checking licensing requirements
- Ignoring product-specific DGFT notifications

Quick Self-Check: What Do You Need

What best describes your business need?

- I want to start importing or exporting goods
- I need a DGFT license for gold import
- I am importing restricted products
- I am not sure which approval applies

In most cases:

- Import/export business: DGFT Registration + IEC
- Gold import: IEC + eligibility-based DGFT approval
- Restricted goods: IEC + product-specific DGFT import license

- Unsure: Check the product classification under India's Foreign Trade Policy before importing

Conclusion: Get the Right DGFT Approval with Expert Support

DGFT registration is an essential step for carrying out international trade in a legal and compliant manner in India. It is very important to opt the right kind of approval to avoid delays and regulatory issues. Whether it is an IEC, a DGFT license for gold import, or a DGFT import license for restricted goods.

Corpseed supports businesses across India with DGFT registration, IEC applications, import licensing, document preparation, and compliance support. In case you are willing to get started with importing or exporting, get in touch with Corpseed for the DGFT approval process that is smooth and hassle-free!

Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is an import and export license in India?

The term import and export license refers to the permission a business receives to operate the international trade of goods lawfully. Usually, the business is first granted a DGFT-issued Import Export Code (IEC) But import/export of some restricted goods needs a further DGFT license(s).

2. How to get a DGFT license in India?

Getting a DGFT license in India involves registering yourself on the DGFT portal first. Then, you can apply for an Import Export Code (IEC), submit all the documentary evidence, and finish online verification. For restricted goods or certain regulated imports, additional licenses may be needed.

3. How to apply for a DGFT license?

An application for a DGFT license can be made online by first creating an account on the DGFT website, then going through the application form, and uploading relevant business documents. Finally, after paying the necessary fee and producing verified documents, DGFT either issues a license or requests additional clarifications if there are any discrepancies.

4. What are the DGFT registration fees?

DGFT registration fees are subject to the type of application/license you intend to file. The government fee is fixed for IEC application. Yet there might be other charges for amendments, product-specific licenses, or for hiring the services of a professional.

5. What is an export import license?

An export import license is another name for the Import Export Code (IEC) issued by the DGFT, which permits a company to legally import or export goods and services. Certain restricted products also need separate import or export licenses.

6. What is the DGFT full form?

DGFT full form is Directorate General of Foreign Trade. It is an arm of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry which is charged with the duties of regulating India's foreign trade and enforcing the Foreign Trade Policy.

7. What is the difference between DGFT and IEC?

DGFT is the government authority responsible for the regulation of foreign trade, whereas IEC (Import Export Code) is a one-of-a-kind registration number issued by DGFT to the business entities wanting to carry out international trade activities. DGFT is the issuing authority, whereas the IEC is the registration itself.

8. How to get IEC registration?

For IEC registration, one should submit the application online on the DGFT portal, providing PAN, business details, bank account information, address proof, etc. After the application is verified, the IEC is dispatched electronically.

9. What is a DGFT certificate?

A DGFT certificate mostly stands for any permission, registration, or certificate given by the Directorate General of Foreign Trade, like an IEC certificate or a product-related import or export license, which is required in the Foreign Trade Policy of India.

Also Read: <https://www.corpseed.com/service/scomet-license>