

[TO BE PUBLISHED IN THE GAZETTE OF INDIA, EXTRAORDINARY, PART II,  
SECTION 3, SUB-SECTION (i)]

Government of India  
Ministry of Finance  
Department of Revenue  
(Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs)

Notification No. 55/2025-**Customs** (N.T.)

New Delhi, the 12<sup>th</sup> September, 2025.

G.S.R.....(E). – In exercise of the powers conferred by clause (d) of section 157 read with section 18 and clause (ii) of sub-section (2) of section 158 of the Customs Act, 1962 (52 of 1962), and in supersession of the Customs (Finalisation of Provisional Assessment) Regulations, 2018, except as respects things done or omitted to be done before such supersession, the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs hereby makes the following regulations, namely:-

**1. Short title and commencement.** – (1) These regulations may be called the Customs (Finalisation of Provisional Assessment) Regulations, 2025.

(2) They shall come into force on the date of their publication in the Official Gazette.

**2. Definitions.** – (1) In these regulations, unless the context otherwise requires, –

(a) ‘Act’ means the Customs Act, 1962 (52 of 1962);

(b) ‘date of assent of the Finance Act, 2025, shall mean the 29<sup>th</sup> day of March, of 2025;

(c) ‘documents or information’ shall include the result of chemical or other test.

(2) Words and expressions used herein and not defined in these regulations but defined in the Act shall have the same meanings respectively assigned to them in the Act.

**3. Application.** – (1) These regulations shall apply to any provisional assessment -

(a) pending as on the date of enforcement of these regulations; or

(b) assessed provisionally after the enforcement of these regulations.

*Explanation.*- For the purposes of these regulations, each bill of entry or shipping bill, as the case may be, that has been assessed provisionally shall be treated as a separate case of provisional assessment.

**4. Time-limit and manner of submission of documents or information for the purpose of finalisation of provisional assessment.** – (1) Where duty leviable on imported or export goods is assessed provisionally by the proper officer for the reasons that, the necessary documents have not been produced or information has not been furnished by the importer or the exporter at the time of provisional assessment, then the proper officer shall within fifteen days from the date of such assessment, inform the importer or the exporter, in writing, the specific details of the information to be furnished or the documents to be produced.

(2) Where any document or information is sought by the proper officer, then such information or documents shall be made available by the importer or the exporter within two months from the date of such requisition by the proper officer.

Provided that the proper officer may, for reasons to be recorded in writing, allow a further period not exceeding two months, on his own or at the request of the importer or the exporter, in case the documents or information are not made available within the specified time of two months.

Provided further that the an officer to whom the proper officer is subordinate, may allow an additional time period as deemed fit, for reasons to be recorded in writing, on request of the importer or the exporter regarding his inability to provide those documents or information as requested by the proper officer.

Provided also that no extension in time under this regulation may be allowed by an officer to whom the proper officer is subordinate beyond fourteen months from the date of provisional assessment.

(3) On submission of all the documents or information under sub-regulation (2), the importer or the exporter shall inform the proper officer in writing that he has submitted all the documents or information to be furnished or requisitioned.

Provided that where the documents or information required to be furnished by the importer or the exporter, as the case may be, or requisitioned by the proper officer are not made available within the time allowed under sub-regulation (2), the proper officer shall proceed to finalise the provisional assessment on the basis of documents or information as available on the record.

**5. Time-limit to conclude enquiry for the purpose of finalisation of provisional assessment.-**

(1) Where duty leviable on the imported or export goods is assessed provisionally by the proper officer for the reason that the proper officer deems it necessary to make further enquiry then the officer of customs shall complete the enquiry and transfer the relevant documents along with the report in writing to the proper officer for finalization of assessment, within fourteen months from the date of provisional assessment.

(2) Where any document or information is required during the enquiry, the proper officer may seek such details within the time prescribed under regulation 2.

**6. Time-limit and manner of submission of documents or information for the purpose of finalisation of provisional assessment pending as on the 29<sup>th</sup> March, 2025.-**

Where duty leviable on imported or export goods is assessed provisionally by the proper officer for the reasons as per sub-section (1) of section 18 the Act and is pending for finalisation as on the 29<sup>th</sup> March, 2025, then time-limit for submission of documents or conclusion of enquiry under regulations 4 or 5, as the case may be, shall be reckoned from such date.

**7. Payment of duty of own ascertainment before finalisation of provisional assessment.-**

Importer or exporter, may pay any amount electronically against the bill of entry or shipping bill, as the case may be, on his own ascertainment, during the pendency of the provisional assessment, which shall be adjusted against the duty finally assessed or re-assessed, as the case may be.

Provided that importer or exporter is also liable to pay interest, on the above amount so paid voluntarily, consequent to the final assessment order or re-assessment order under sub-section (2) in terms of sub-section 3 of the section 18 of the Act.

**8. Time-limit for finalisation of provisional assessment.** – (1) The proper officer shall finalise the duty provisionally assessed, where it is possible to do so, within three months of –

- (a) receipt of documents or information from the importer or the exporter or on the expiry of the time for submission in accordance with regulation 4 of these regulations; or
- (b) conclusion of enquiry in accordance with regulation 5 of these regulations, where the duty leviable was assessed provisionally for that reason.

Provided that any officer to whom the proper officer is subordinate may allow, for reasons to be recorded in writing, a further time period of two months at a time, in case the proper officer is not able to finalise the provisional assessment within the period of three months as specified in sub-regulation (1).

Provided further that the assessment shall be finalised within two years from the date of the provisional assessment under sub-section (1) of section 18 of the Act.

Provided also that for provisional assessment pending under sub-section (1) of section 18 of the Act, as on the 29<sup>th</sup> March, 2025, the said period of two years shall be reckoned from such date.

(2) Where the proper officer is unable to assess the duty finally within the time specified under sub-regulation (1), for the reason that -

- (a) an information is being sought from an authority outside India through a legal process; or
- (b) an appeal in a similar matter of the same person or any other person is pending before the Appellate Tribunal or the High Court or the Supreme Court; or
- (c) an interim order of stay has been issued by the Appellate Tribunal or the High Court or the Supreme Court; or
- (d) the Board has, in a similar matter, issued specific direction or order to keep such matter pending; or

(e) the importer or exporter has a pending application before the Settlement Commission or the Interim Board,

the proper officer shall inform the importer or exporter concerned, the reason for non-finalisation of the provisional assessment and in such case, time of two years for finalisation of assessment done provisionally, specified under sub-regulation (1), shall apply not from the date of provisional assessment but from the date when such reason ceases to exist.

**9. Manner of finalisation of provisional assessment.** – (1) The provisional assessment shall be finalised as provided under of section 18 of the Act.

(2) Where the final assessment is contrary to the provisional assessment, the proper officer shall pass a speaking order following principles of natural justice.

(3) Where the final assessment confirms the provisional assessment, the proper officer shall finalise the same after ascertaining the acceptance of such finalisation from the importer or the exporter on record and inform the importer or exporter in writing of the date of such finalisation.

(4) Where the importer or exporter is to pay the deficiency of the amount finally assessed or re-assessed, as the case may be, after adjustment of the amount already paid, the bill of entry or the shipping bill may be returned for payment of the amount.

Provided that importer or exporter is also liable to pay interest, on the above amount so paid, consequent to the final assessment order or re-assessment order as provided under sub-section (2), of section 18 of the Act.

**10. Manner of closure subsequent to the finalisation of provisional assessment.-** (1) On finalisation of Assessment done provisionally under regulation 9, where -

- (a) the final assessment has confirmed the provisional assessment; or
- (b) the duty along with the interest has been paid in full, in case of home consumption or exportation, where the bill of entry or shipping bill has been returned for payment; or
- (c) the importer has executed appropriate bond binding himself in relation to the excess duty, in case of warehoused goods,

the Bond executed at the time of provisional assessment with security, if any, shall be cancelled or recredited, as the case may be, and the security shall also be returned, if there are no pending dues.

(2) Where the duty, interest, fine, penalty or any other sum due has not been paid for more than ninety days, which is due to be paid after the finalisation of the assessment under sub-section (2) of section 18 of the Act and the sum due has attained finality for recovery, then the sum due which remains unpaid shall be adjusted from the security, if any, obtained at the time of provisional assessment, or shall be recovered as the sum due, including the amount of interest to the Central Government by the proper officer in accordance with the provisions of section 142 of the Act, under intimation to the importer or the exporter.

(3) Where the importer or exporter is entitled to a refund, after the finalisation of provisional assessment, the refund shall be processed in terms of sub-sections (4) and (5) of section 18 of the Act.

**11. Extension of time-limit for provisional assessment.-** Notwithstanding the time-limit provided in regulations 4, 5, 6 or 7, the Commissioner of Customs may, on sufficient cause being shown and reasons to be recorded in writing, extend the period of two years for finalisation of provisional assessment by an additional time of one year in terms of the first proviso to sub-section 1B of section 18 of the Act.

**12. Penalty. -** The importer or exporter or his authorised representative or Customs Broker who contravenes any of the provisions of these regulations or abets such contravention, or fails to comply with any provisions of these regulations, shall be liable to a penalty to an extent of the amount provided under clause (ii) of sub-section (2) of section 158 of the Act, without prejudice to any other action which may be taken under the Act, rules or regulations made thereunder or under any other law for the time being in force.

[F. No.450/76/2018-CusIV]

  
(Anurima Sharma)

Director (Customs)

Circular No 22/2025 -Customs

F. No.450/76/2018-CusIV

Government of India  
Ministry of Finance  
Department of Revenue  
(Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs)

Room No. 229A, North Block,  
New Delhi, 12 th September , 2025

To,

All Principal Chief Commissioners/ Chief Commissioners of Customs/ Customs (Preventive) / Customs and Central Tax

All Principal Commissioners/ Commissioners of Customs/ Customs (Preventive),

All Principal Director Generals/ Director Generals under CBIC

**Subject:- Implementation of Customs (Provisional Assessment) Regulations, 2025 - Reg.**

Madam/Sir,

Attention is invited to the changes in the Section 18 of Customs Act, 1962 dealing with the Provisional Assessment in the Finance Act, 2025, which came into effect from 29<sup>th</sup> March, 2025.

2. In brief, the changes brought through Finance Act, 2025 in relation to Provisional Assessment is summarized as below:

- a. provide time limit of two years for finalisation of provisional assessment which shall be extended by Principal Commissioner of Customs or the Commissioner of Customs, if the sufficient cause is shown.
- b. for pending cases, the time-limit shall be from 29th March 2025, i.e., the date of enactment of the Finance Act, 2025.
- c. provide for certain grounds on which the time limit of two years shall apply not from the date of the order of the provisional assessment, but from the date when the reasons for such ground ceases to exist.

3. Further, Section 18 of Customs Act, 1962 also provides for prescribing timelimit for submission of documents or information by the importer or exporter and the manner of finalisation of the provisional assessment.

4. In view of the above changes in the Finance Act, 2025, the Customs (Provisional Assessment) Regulations, 2025 has been notified vide Notification No. 55/2025-Customs (NT)



dated 12.09.2025, superseding the earlier Customs (Finalization of Provisional Assessment) Regulations, 2018, with following salient features:

- a. Time-limit of fourteen months from the date of finalisation of the provisional assessment for submission of documents or information including the test reports (chemical or otherwise), the reasons for which the provisional assessment was resorted to. The same time limit of fourteen months will apply for completion of enquiry and transferring the relevant documents, along with the report in writing to the proper officer for finalisation of assessment.
- b. In the absence of submission of the required documents or information, Proper Officer will proceed to finalise the provisional assessment based on the documents available and providing opportunity to the importer or exporter by following the principles of natural justice.
- c. These regulations shall also apply to pending cases where the duty payable on goods has not been finally assessed as of 29.03.2025. In this regard, officers shall obtain the pending documents or information, or complete necessary enquiries, within fourteen months from 29.03.2025, i.e., by 29.05.2026, so that provisional assessments can be finalised within the prescribed time limit under Section 18 of the Customs Act, 1962.
- d. Where possible to do so, the proper officer shall finalise the assessment within three months from the obtaining of pending documents or information or conclusion of enquiry, or seek extension from the officer to whom the proper officer is sub-ordinate, but within the prescribed time limit under section 18 of Customs Act, 1962.
- e. Above time limits on sufficient cause being shown, may be extended by Principal Commissioner of Customs or Commissioner of Customs, but within the time-limits provided for finalisation of the assessment.
- f. As clarified earlier through Circular No. 40/2011-Customs dt. 09.11.2011, provision has been incorporated to provide that importer or exporter may make payment of the duty amount ascertained on their own against the bill of entry or shipping bill, anytime during the pendency of provisional assessment, along with the interest till the date of payment as per section 18. This amount shall be adjusted against the duty finally assessed or reassessed, as the case may be.
- g. The regulations have been aligned with the timelimits in the Act for finalisation of the Provisional assessment.
- h. While finalizing the provisional assessment in accordance with Section 18 of the Customs Act, 1962, The proper officer shall pass a speaking order to finalize the assessment. In cases where the final assessment differs from the provisional assessment, the principles of natural justice shall be followed. In cases where the final assessment confirms the provisional assessment, the same shall be finalized after obtaining written acceptance from the importer or exporter. The finalization shall be communicated in writing.
- i. If any differential amount becomes payable after adjustment of the duty already paid, the bill of entry or shipping bill shall be returned for payment. The importer or exporter shall also be liable to pay interest on the differential amount as per sub-section (2) of Section 18 of the Act. Similarly, If the importer or exporter is entitled to a refund after



finalization, the same shall be processed in accordance with sub-sections (4) and (5) of Section 18 of the Act.

- j. Upon finalization of the provisional assessment, the bond and security furnished at the time of provisional assessment shall be cancelled or re-credited, and the security returned, provided there are no pending dues. This applies in cases where the provisional assessment is confirmed, where duty along with interest has been fully paid for home consumption or exportation, or where an appropriate bond has been executed in respect of warehoused goods.
- k. Where any amount due (duty, interest, fine, penalty or other sum) remains unpaid for more than 90 days and has attained finality, it shall be adjusted from the security or recovered under Section 142 of the Act, with due intimation to the importer or exporter.
- l. This regulations shall also apply to the provisional assessment undertaken under Project Imports.

5.1 The provisions for submission of a Single Unified Multi-Purpose Electronic Bond for provisional assessments are outlined in Circular No. 04/2025-Customs dated 17.02.2025. This bond allows importers or exporters to furnish a single, all-India multipurpose bond in lieu of transaction-wise bonds across different ports.

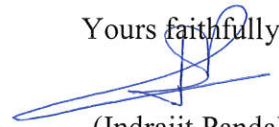
5.2 The assessment pending for finalization for a period beyond 17 Months, from the date of provisional assessment, should be reported to Commissioner of Customs for effective monitoring and to adhere to the timelines. The Commissioner will personally monitor the cases beyond 17 months for finalization or an appropriate decision regarding extension as provided in the regulation 11 of the Customs (Provisional Assessment) Regulations, 2025.

5.3 Provisional assessment under Section 18 is an important facilitative mechanism allowing clearance of goods where final assessment cannot be completed due to lack of full information or documents. The updated legal framework is expected to bring transparency, predictability, and efficiency to the finalization process of provisional assessments. The officers under your jurisdiction may be sensitized on the above changes and to ensure strict compliance with the provisions of Customs (Provisional Assessment) Regulations.

6. Difficulties, if any, in implementation of these regulations may be brought to the notice of the Board for clarification or necessary action.

Hindi version follows.

Yours faithfully,



(Indrajit Panda)

Under Secretary, Customs IV