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Secretary General, AEPC

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CIRCULAR _252

Subject: Application Process for Availing Financial Assistance under the Trade Regulations, Accreditation & Compliance Enablement (TRACE) Scheme of the Export Promotion Mission (EPM) – NIRYAT DISHA

Dear Member Exporter,

This has reference to DGFT [Trade Notice No. 26/2025-26](#) dated 20.02.2026 and DGFT Trade Notice No. [Trade Notice No. 09/2026-27](#) dated 01.07.2026 regarding the Trade Regulations, Accreditation & Compliance Enablement (TRACE) Scheme under the Export Promotion Mission (EPM) – NIRYAT DISHA. With a view to facilitating member exporters in availing financial assistance under the Scheme, the application process and other salient features are provided below for ready reference.

Application Flow under TRACE (Trade Regulations, Accreditation & Compliance Enablement) - Export Promotion Mission (EPM) – NIRYAT DISHA

Step 1: Identify the Requirement

- Identify the certification, testing, inspection or audit required by the importing country or overseas buyer.
- Ensure that the certification is covered under the TRACE Scheme.

Step 2: Submit Intent-to-Claim (IC)

- Log in to the Trade Connect Portal using your IEC credentials.
- Submit the online Intent-to-Claim (IC) before initiating the certification/testing/audit process.

Step 3: Obtain Certification

- Engage an accredited Conformity Assessment Body (CAB).
- Complete the certification, testing, inspection or audit.
- Obtain the certificate/report.

Step 4: Submit First Reimbursement Claim (RC-1)

Upload the following on the Trade Connect Portal:

- Certificate/Test/Audit Report
- Invoice(s)
- Proof of payment
- Documents establishing the requirement of certification for the target export market
- Other prescribed documents

Step 5: Receive First Instalment

- Upon approval, receive up to 50% of the approved eligible reimbursement.

Step 6: Export Certified Products

- Export the products covered under the certification.
- Preserve export-related documents such as Shipping Bills, e-BRCs, invoices, etc.

Step 7: Submit Final Claim (RC-2)

- Submit the final reimbursement claim through the Trade Connect Portal.
- Upload export documents and other prescribed documents demonstrating utilisation of the certification.

Step 8: Receive Final Reimbursement

- Upon verification, receive the balance eligible reimbursement.

Financial Assistance

Category	Assistance
Micro & Small Enterprises	Up to 95% of eligible certification cost
Medium Enterprises	Up to 80% of eligible certification cost

Maximum Assistance ₹50 lakh per IEC per financial year

Key Points

- Intent-to-Claim (IC) must be submitted before obtaining the certification.
- Only eligible certifications and eligible expenditures are reimbursable.
- The final claim (RC-2) requires evidence of exports of the certified products within the prescribed time under the TRACE guidelines.
- All applications (IC, RC-1 and RC-2) are submitted online through the Trade Connect Portal.

Members have to apply for intent at the following link: <https://www.trade.gov.in/pages/Trade-Regulations-Accreditation-and-Compliance-Enablement>

To see the list of eligible testing, inspections, and certifications, refer to the Annexure-V of DGFT [Trade Notice No. 26/2025-26](#) dated 20.2.2026 and Annexure-1 of Trade Notice [Trade Notice No. 09/2026-27](#) dated 1.7.2026.

Members are advised to carefully follow the prescribed procedure and timelines while submitting their applications to avoid delays in processing of claims.

Complete Flow

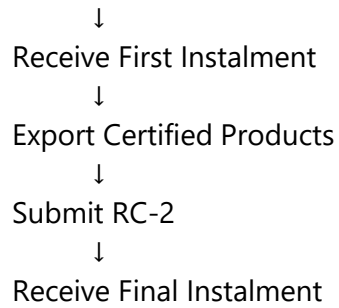
Intent-to-Claim (IC)



Obtain Certification



Submit RC-1



Why Two Claims?

The two-stage reimbursement mechanism was introduced through DGFT Trade Notice No. 09/2026-27 dated 01.07.2026. Instead of reimbursing the entire amount immediately after certification, the scheme:

1. Provides partial financial support once the certification is obtained (RC-1); and
2. Releases the balance reimbursement only after the exporter demonstrates actual exports of the certified products (RC-2).

This ensures that the financial assistance under TRACE is linked not only to obtaining certifications but also to their effective utilisation for export promotion.

With regards,

(Mithileshwar Thakur)
Secretary General