

OFFICE OF COMMISSIONER OF CUSTOMS (GEN)
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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQs)

on

ELECTRONIC SEALING FOR CONTAINERS UNDER SELF-SEALING PROCEDURE

Disclaimer:

This FAQ on electronic sealing for containers under self-sealing procedure is for training and academic purposes only.

The information is intended only to provide a general overview and is not intended to be treated as legal advice or opinion.

Q.1 What is the new procedure introduced by the Central Board of Excise and Customs (CBEC) for sealing of export goods in containers?

Ans. Central Board of Excise and Customs (herein CBEC) has done away with stuffing/sealing of containers with export goods at factory premises or warehouse (hitherto also known as factory stuffing) under the physical supervision of an officer of department with effect from 01.10.2017. Henceforth, eligible exporters are entitled to self-seal their export containers by using an electronic seal.

Q.2 Who can avail self-sealing procedures of export consignments?

- Ans.*
- i. All exporter AEOs will be eligible for self-sealing.*
 - ii. The exporters who were availing sealing at their factory premises under the system of supervised factory stuffing will be automatically entitled for self-sealing procedure.*
 - iii. Any exporter desirous of availing this procedure shall inform the jurisdictional Custom Officer of the rank of Superintendent or Appraiser of Customs, at least 15 days before the first planned movement of a consignment from his/her factory/ premises, about the intention to follow self- sealing procedure to export goods from the factory premises or warehouse. The jurisdictional Superintendent or an Appraiser or an Inspector of Customs shall visit the premises from where the export goods will be stuffed & sealed for export. The jurisdictional Superintendent or Inspector of Customs shall inspect the premises with regard to viability of stuffing of container in the premises and submit a report to the jurisdictional Deputy Commissioner of Customs or as the case may be the Assistant Commissioner of Customs within 48 hours. The jurisdictional Deputy Commissioner of Customs or as the case may be the Assistant Commissioner of Customs shall forward the proposal, in this regard to the Principal Commissioner/ Commissioner of Customs who would grant permission for self-sealing at the approved premises. Once the permission is granted, the exporter shall furnish only intimation to the jurisdictional Superintendent or Customs each time self-sealing is carried out at approved premises. The intimation, in this regard shall clearly mention the place and address of the approved premises, description of export goods and whether or not any incentive is being claimed. Self-Sealing permission once given by a Principal Commissioner/ Commissioner of Customs shall be valid for export at all the customs stations.*

Q.3 What is RFID e-seal to be used for self sealing of containers by the eligible exporters?

Ans. An e-seal is a sealing device with RFID chip inside it which can be read by enabled devices viz fixed reader, handheld reader or any other mode. Each e-seal has a unique RFID tag which contains electronically stored information. The custom officer at the gateway port would verify the integrity of the seals by using reader-scanners which are connected to the Data Retrieval System of the Vendor.

Q.4 How to use the seal to lock the container?

Ans. E-Seals are designed like the conventional bolt seal (bottle seal) so as to give the same experience and ease of sealing a container, which the exporter has been accustomed to. Just push the bolt into the cap and you are done. Typically, an e-seal is sold with two separate parts (male and female) packed together and care must be taken that parts which are packed together only are used with each other.

Q.5 How data/information will be retrieved from e-seal?

Ans. The reader would be provided at Ports and ICDs for reading the RFID tag in the e-seal and to ascertain whether it is TAMPERED or NOT TAMPERED. Arrangement have also been made to send alerts on registered mobile no. or e-mail id to keep informed about the scanning of the e-seal by customs officer.

Q.6 Who are the vendors from where e-seal can be purchased?

Ans. As on date following four vendors have been shortlisted by the Board for providing RFID Tamper Proof one-time-bolt container seals vide Circular nos. 36/2017-Customs and 37/2017- Customs:

Sl No.	Name of Vendor	Contact details	Declared seal nos. (para (b) of Cir 36/2017 dated 28.08.17	Status
1	M/s Perfect RFID Technologies Ltd, New Delhi	Ritika Mina, Head-Business development, 512, Fifth Floor, Ansal Chamber-II, Bikaji Cama Place, New Delhi 011-410246/62	PERF00000001 TO PERF99999999	Documents Scrutinized
2	M/s ibTrack Solutions Pvt Ltd. Bengaluru	Sudhendra Dankanikote, Director and Chief Operating Officer, 1109, GF, 13 th Cross, 2 nd Stage, Indiranagar, Bengaluru 080-25266786, 25278786	IBTR00000001 TO IBTR99999999	-do-
3	M/s Optiemus Telematics Pvt Ltd, Noida	Apurba Chakraborty, Sr Vice President, Plot No. 2A, wing A, 1 st Floor, Sector 126, Noida 011-49202020, 49202011 helpdesk@lynkseals.com	LYNK00000001 TO LYNK99999999	-do-
4	M/s Infotek Software & systems (P) Ltd., Pune	Santosh Patil, Business Analyst, P-14, Phase 1, I2TT campus, Rajeev Gandhi Infotech Park, Hinjawadi, Pune-411057 Tel: 020-64730029/30 Mobile:+91-8411057733 Santosh.patil@infoteksoftware.com	iTEK00000001 TO iTEK99999999	-do-

Q.7 What are the documents required for applying for self-sealing/factory stuffing permission?

- Ans
- i) Application
 - ii) CHA Authorization
 - iii) Specimen signature with photograph of authorized signatories duly attested by Director/Partner/Proprietor
 - iv) Copy of Board resolution
 - v) Self attested FSP copy
 - vi) Self attested copy of IEC/PAN/GSTIN Registration No.

Q.8 Is there any distributors appointed for the purchase of e-seal for local exporters?

Ans. Due to security considerations and concerns that the identity of the seal should not be compromised, vendors are not allowed to appoint any distributors; all orders will be received online.

Q.9 What is the cost of the e-seal?

Ans. The cost of the e-seal is Rs.300/- approx. excluding Transport, IGST/GST, and other local charges.

Q.10 Is there any minimum or maximum order prescribed for the purchase of e-seal?

Ans. Although there is no minimum or maximum quantity has been prescribed for the purchase of e-seals, but e-seals are generally sold in a box containing 20/30 e-seals. They are not sold in loose condition.

Q.11 Is e-seal GPS enabled?

Ans. As of now, the e-seals are not GPS enabled.

Q.12 What are the standard specifications of the e-seal?

Ans. In terms of Board Circular No. 36/2017-Customs dated 28.08.2017 vide F.No. 450/08/2015-Cus.IV, RFID seals should conform to ISO 17712:2013(H) and ISO/IEC 18000-6 Class 1 Gen 2. This has been prescribed to ensure that RFID seals are compliant with securing requirements and tamper proof.

Q.13 Is IEC compulsory for purchase of e-seal?

Ans. Yes, IEC and Factory stuffing/Self Sealing permission is compulsory for purchasing of e-seal from the vendors.

Q.14 What are the data to be fed in the e-seal and how?

Ans. Following data are to be fed mandatorily in the e-seal through web based module/application provided by the respective vendor to the exporters.

-) IEC (Importer Exporter Code)*
-) Shipping Bill Number*
-) Shipping Bill Date*
-) E-seal number*
-) Date of sealing*
-) Time of sealing*
-) Destinations Customs station for export*
-) Container Number*
-) Trailer-Truck Number*

It is further clarified that the information need not be mounted in the e-seal but tagged to the seal using web/Mobile application to be provided by the vendors of RFID seal. Data once uploaded by the exporters cannot be deleted or edited. Thereafter, container shall be sealed with the same electronic seal before it leaves the premises of the exporter.

Q.15 Is feeding of Shipping Bill number mandatory for submission of details in respects of e-seal?

Ans. Yes, feeding of Shipping Bill Number is mandatory.

Q.16 Is AADHAAR no compulsory for registration of the Exporter?

Ans. Although AADHAAR has not been made a mandatory requirement, however it is strongly advised that the person obtaining user id and password for operating e-seals should have an AADHAAR No. and if required by the vendor/s, the same should be mentioned.

Q.17 What are the transport documents required for the movement of the self sealed container by an exporter from factory or warehouse to port?

Ans. Transport document for movement of self-sealed container by an exporter from factory or warehouse shall be same as the transport document prescribed under the GST Laws. In the case of an exporter who is not a GST registrant, way bill or transport challan or lorry receipt shall be the transport document.

Q.18 What will happen when the container reaches the Port gate / ICD?

Ans. On reaching of export container which has been self sealed with an e-seal at gateway port, the jurisdictional Customs Officer shall verify the e-seal with the help of handheld reader or fixed reader or through any other

mode as prescribed, whether e-seal is intact or not. If e-seal has been read as 'NOT TAMPERED', the export consignment would be processed for the purpose of registration and grant of 'LET EXPORT ORDER' as per established procedures. However, if e-seal has been read as 'TAMPERED', the consignment would be taken up for physical examination as per the procedure.

Q.19 Are vendor/s providing e-seal reader to the exporter to verify the details to counter check?

Ans. Some vendor/s are providing e-seal readers to the exporter for cross check the information corresponding to the e-seal.

Q.20 Can an exporter block the e-seal?

Ans. Yes, exporter can block the e-seal allotted to him, if he does not want to use it.

Q.21 Can an exporter edit the data in case of wrong entry or unwanted circumstances like vehicle breakdown?

Ans. The data once confirmed with e-seal can't be deleted or edited. It is strongly advised that before confirming the data, due precaution should be taken to check the accuracy of the information linked with e-seal.

Q.22 How to enter multiple Shipping Bill or Invoice in the e-seal information?

Ans. As of now single Shipping Bill information can be assigned to the e-seal. But, in the case of multiple shipping bills the dockets can be provided in physical form for all the Shipping Bills for processing the consignment at customs stations/parking plazas.

Q.23 How the information of Customs clearance/rejection will be communicated?

Ans. Information will be seamlessly transmitted to the registered email id of the exporter from the vendor's server.
