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The SIMS System

Q1. What does SIMS stand for? Why was it created?

- SIMS is a Steel Importing Monitoring System instituted by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India to provide advance information about steel imports to both, the government as well as relevant stakeholders.

Q2. What do you do with this information?

- The purpose of the licensing system is to provide statistical data on steel imports entering India prior to arrival of the imports. Once a week, the data submitted on the steel licenses are compiled, checked and published on the Ministry of Steel website for the public to analyse.

Q3. Who is required to fill out the license?

- Any business importing steel products covered under the licensing program is required to create a license for concerned imports. Importers, importing agents, or brokers, may apply for this license. Please ensure that the contact person named on the license is knowledgeable about the license, should we reach out for queries/ clarifications.

Q4. Do I need license for each shipment?

- Yes, a license is required for each customs entry. You may include multiple products on one license as well.

Q5. May foreign filers apply for a license?

- Yes, foreign filers may apply for a license as long as they have a valid Indian IEC (Importer Exporter Code) number.

Q6. What is the application fee?

- A registration fee of Rs 1 per thousand subject to a minimum of Rs.500/- and a maximum of Rs 1 Lakh on aggregate CIF value of imports will need to be paid through electronic mode in the online system for each import registration.

Q7. What products are covered?

- There are over 524 steel tariff lines (8-digit HS Code) that require registration for imports into India. A detailed list of these HS codes is available in the dropdown of the "HS Code and Description" field in the Items Details section of the application.

Q8. Do Indian origin goods processed in a foreign country need a license when re-entering India?

- Yes, all steel products that are entering into India require prior registration before imports

Q9. At what point in the importation process should the license be filled?

- The license must be filled out prior to submitting the Bill of Entry with Customs. It should be filled out between 15 days to 60 days before the expected arrival of the imports into India.

Q10. How long is the license valid for?

- The automatic registration number granted shall be valid for a period of 75 days.

Information about SIMS License**Q1. What is the technical requirement for an applicant for applying for SIMS license?**

- Should be a registered user of DGFT website. (For more details please see IEC section FAQ's)
- Valid linked IEC (For more details please see IEC section FAQ's)
- Valid Digital Signatures Token

Q2. How do I apply for a license?

- After logging in to the DGFT website, please select "Apply for SIMS" and start filling the relevant information for the concerned imports. Post the payment of the fee, the license will be created.

Q3. How exactly is 'Exporter' defined?

- Exporter is defined in-line with the The Customs Act, 1962. It is broadly defined as the person, country or company that is sending the goods into India.

Q4. How exactly is 'Manufacturer' defined?

- Manufacturer is defined as the entity which carried out maximum value addition on the product being imported.

Q5. How exactly is the 'Country of origin' defined?

- This is defined in-line with the rules of origin definition laid out. These rules are different across various national and international laws. Please ensure you refer to the relevant rules of origin while filling this field.

Q6. How exactly is the 'Port of exportation' defined?

- Port of exportation is the port in the exporting country from where the goods were dispatched for India.

Q7. What if I'm unsure about the 'HS Code' for the product being imported?

- HS Codes are necessary information that has to be filled in for importing products. Request you to connect with technical experts to identify the HS codes for your concerned products before imports.

Q8. What if I'm unsure about the 'Technical detail' for the product being imported?

- Technical detail is important information that is requested. It is necessary to fill in relevant information in this field. Please connect with the manufacturer of your product for more details on this.

Q9. Can one license application cover multiple products?

- Yes, one license application can cover multiple products. SIMS has the provision of adding multiple items for each registration provided the importer, exporter, manufacturer, country of origin and port of exportation is the same.

Q10. How long will it take to create the license number for my registration?

- The SIMS license number is created immediately after completing the payment and clicking on the “Final Submit” button.

Q11. What do I do if I don’t receive my license number after the registration process?

- Firstly, please ensure that the license is still not in your drafts. This happens if you forget to click the “Final submit” button post payment of the fee. If your query hasn’t still been resolved, please contact the DGFT helpdesk (1800111550) for support.

Q12. What if there is no specific IS Code that matches to the product I am importing?

- For HS-IS Codes that are covered under the QCO, it is important that you fill in the relevant information. In case there is no specific IS code that matches your exact specification, please select “None” and fill in technical information about the product being imported in the “Technical Details” field.

Q13. What if I do not have information about Indian steel players manufacturing the product I am importing?

- If you are unaware about whether this product is being manufactured in India, please reach out to the industry and try gathering the information before importing. In case this information is hard to find, but you know this product is being manufactured in India, please select “Yes” and write “Unaware at the moment” in the conditional text box that opens up.

Q14. Where can I view my approved license?

- After the application has been auto approved, the approved license is visible in the approved letters section of the submitted applications.
- Go to My Dashboard → Submitted Applications
- Select , Type of Scheme → Import Management System & Type of Sub Scheme → Apply for SIMS
- In the action section, select View Approved License.

Q15. Where can I view my previous license details?

- A view SIMS registration section has been made available to the applicant where they can input the registration number as well as the IEC. This feature is available without login too.

Q16. What to do if I am unaware of the IS Code definition basis steel grade?

- IS Codes are specifications created by the BIS (Bureau of Indian Standards) for a large number of products. In case you are unaware of the IS Code definition basis steel grade, request you to

please research the BIS website for the relevant IS Codes. If you can't find the IS code that matches your exact specification, please fill in technical information about the product being imported in the "Technical Details" field.

Q17. What if I discover an error after submitting the license?

- For all licenses that are not yet submitted (applies to situations where the fee payment has also be made), you can modify the license from the "Drafts" section on the website. In case you have submitted the license application, no changes can be made.

Q18. How will I get to know that whether my payment process is successful or Unsuccessful?

- After Successful payment you will get the Acknowledgement stating the Successful Submission of application. The Application Status can be tracked using 'Track Status' and Receipt could again be printed.

Q19. Will I have to remake the registration payment if I modify the license?

- Presently, there is no provision for a modification.

Q20. How do I cancel my license?

- Licenses that are not yet submitted can be canceled by deleting the draft created. In case the application has been submitted, cancellations cannot be made.

Q21. Will I receive refund for the registration payment if I cancel the license after submitting?

- Presently, there is no provision for a refund.