Government of India

Department of Commerce

Directorate General of Foreign Trade

Vanijya Bhawan, New Delhi-110011

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No. 01/89/180/35/PSIA/AM-24/PC(A)

Date of Order:	30.06.2026
Date of Issue:	30.06.2026

Name of the Agency: M/s Asia Inspection Agency Limited
124/1, Moo 7; Banfa-Trad KM 26 Road,
Bangnor, Bangnor; Samuthprakarn 10560;
Thailand, Bangkok 10560

Order passed by: Shri. Rakesh Kumar
Additional Director General of Foreign Trade

ORDER-IN-ORIGINAL

Any person/party aggrieved by this order may prefer an appeal under Section 15 of the Foreign Trade (Development and Regulation) Act, 1992, before the Competent Authority. The appeal may be filed within 45 days from the date of receipt of this Adjudication Order, together with a copy of this and a complete set of evidence in the form of an Annexure to the appeal relied upon in support of the appeal.

2. Any person/party desirous of filing an appeal against this order shall deposit the penalty amount and produce proof of payment of penalty amount along with the appeal to

the appellate Authority failing which the appeal is liable to be rejected for non-compliance of the provisions of Section 15 of the Foreign Trade (Development and Regulation) Act, 1992.

3. The penalty amount is to be deposited under the Head of Account "1453 Foreign Trade and Export Promotion Minor Head 102 other receipts fines and penalties etc. Imports and Exports Control Organization". Evidence of payment of penalty is required to be furnished to the Adjudicating Authority within 45 days from the date of service of this Adjudication Order.

4. FACTS OF THE CASE

4.1 M/s Asia Inspection Agency Limited, 124/1, Moo 7; Banfa-Trad KM 26 Road, Bangnor, Bangnor; Samuthprakarn 10560; Thailand, Bangkok 10560 (hereinafter referred to as the 'Agency') is a Pre-Shipment Inspection Agency (PSIA) recognized by the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) vide Public Notice No. 48/2015-2020 dated 05.01.2023, conducting pre-shipment inspections of metallic scrap consignments intended for import into India and issuing Pre-Shipment Inspection Certificates (hereinafter referred as 'PSICs') in connection therewith, against a declared and authorised capacity of 7 instruments across 7 countries.

4.2 During the review of records for the period 1st January 2024 to 31st August 2024, it was observed that the Agency had issued 16,570 inspections during the said period, averaging 68 inspections per day, against the declared capacity of only 7 approved instruments across 7 countries. Analysis of the top inspection days revealed instances of an extraordinarily high volume of certifications reported on single dates, including 299 inspections on 02.05.2024 spanning 15 countries and 282 inspections on 25.04.2024 spanning 14 countries, far exceeding what is physically and logistically feasible for the equipment and personnel declared to be available with the Agency.

4.3 On further examination of records, it was observed that Pre-Shipment Inspection Certificates issued against a single registered instrument, namely Instrument No. 100636, were reflected as having been issued on the same date, i.e. 21.03.2024, by three different inspectors of the Agency operating from geographically distant and incompatible locations Mr. Muhammad Mohsin (148 Pre-Shipment Inspection, Bahrain), Mr. Narit Roungdet (12 Pre-Shipment Inspection, across Belgium, Germany, Italy, Netherlands, Spain and the United Kingdom), and Mr. Nicole (2 Pre-Shipment Inspection, Singapore) - the simultaneous use of a single instrument across such disparate geographies on the same date being physically and logistically unattainable.

4.4 As per Para 2.51 of the Handbook of Procedures (hereinafter referred to as 'HBP'), the import of any form of metallic waste or scrap is subject to the condition that it will not contain hazardous, toxic waste, radioactive contaminated waste/scrap containing radioactive material, any type of arms, ammunition, mines, shells, live or used cartridge or any other explosive material in any form either used or otherwise. Hence, the import of metallic waste or scrap is a matter of national security interest and recognition of the agencies and subsequent issuance of PSICs is subject to strict scrutiny.

4.5 In view of the above, Para 2.53(a) of the HBP provides, 'In case of any mis-declaration in PSIC or mis-declaration in the online application form for recognition as PSIA, the PSIA would be liable for penal action under the Foreign Trade (Development & Regulation) Act, 1992, as amended, in addition to suspension/cancellation of recognition.'

4.6 Further, as per Section 11(2) of the Foreign Trade (Development & Regulation) Act, 1992 (hereinafter referred as 'FTDR' Act), 'Where any person makes or abets or attempts to make any export or import in contravention of any provision of this Act or any rules or orders made thereunder or the foreign trade policy, he shall be liable to a penalty as prescribed thereunder

4.7 Additionally, as per Section 11(3) of the FTDR Act, 'Where any person signs or uses, or causes to be made, signed or used, any declaration, statement or document submitted to the Director General or any officer authorised by him under this Act, knowing or having reason to believe that such declaration, statement or document is forged or tampered with or false in any material particular, he shall be liable to a penalty as prescribed thereunder.

4.8 In compliance with Section 14 of the FTDR Act, a Show Cause Notice bearing No. 01/89/180/35/PSIA/AM24/PC(A)/71 dated 19.09.2024 was issued to the Agency, setting out the specific discrepancies and relied-upon evidence and calling upon the Agency to show cause as to why its recognition as a PSIA should not be suspended or cancelled, why penalty under Section 11(2) and Section 11(3) of the FTDR Act should not be imposed, and a personal hearing was offered to the Agency on 10.10.2024. Subsequently, an Addendum to the Show Cause Notice bearing No. 01/89/180/35/PSIA/AM-24/PC(A)/e-40760/299 dated 10.04.2026 was issued to the Agency, on account of transfer of adjudicatory proceedings to a new Adjudicating Authority and in the interest of the principles of natural justice, setting out the specific instances of instrument-sharing across geographically distant locations and affording the Agency a fresh opportunity of being heard. The Agency was called upon to furnish details of the visits/inspections undertaken by its inspectors in respect of the aforesaid PSICs, along with supporting documentary evidence, and was afforded an opportunity of personal hearing through hybrid mode on 14.05.2026 between 02:00 PM and 05:00 PM, with the explicit caveat that failure to appear or respond would be deemed to mean that the Agency had nothing further to submit, and that the matter would be decided ex-parte on merits.

5. SUBMISSIONS OF THE AGENCY

5.1 In response to the Show Cause Notice dated 19.09.2024, the Agency was afforded an opportunity of personal hearing on 30.12.2024, during which an authorised representative of the Agency appeared before the then Adjudicating Authority. Thereafter, the Agency furnished a written submission on 03.01.2025. However, upon scrutiny, it was observed that the said submission was not in the English language and was not accompanied by a duly authenticated English translation. Consequently, in the absence of an authenticated English version, the contents of the submission could not be adequately examined or relied upon for the purposes of adjudication.

5.2 Subsequently, an Addendum to the Show Cause Notice dated 10.04.2026 was issued to the Agency, wherein specific findings and additional material relied upon in the proceedings were communicated. The Agency was also afforded an opportunity of personal hearing through hybrid mode on 14.05.2026 between 02:00 PM and 05:00 PM and was specifically called upon to furnish details of the visits/inspections undertaken by its inspectors along with supporting documentary evidence.

5.3 Despite due service of the Addendum to the Show Cause Notice and the opportunity of personal hearing, the Agency neither appeared for the personal hearing nor furnished any written submission, reply, clarification, or documentary evidence in response to the Addendum to the Show Cause Notice.

5.4 In terms of the explicit caveat contained in the Addendum to the Show Cause Notice dated 10.04.2026, it is deemed that the Agency has nothing further to submit in the matter, either in writing or orally. Accordingly, the matter is liable to be decided ex parte on the basis of the material available on record and on merits.

6. DISCUSSIONS AND FINDINGS

6.1 At the outset, it is noted that the Agency was afforded due and adequate opportunity to respond to the allegations levelled against it, both at the stage of the original Show Cause Notice dated 19.09.2024 and, subsequently, at the stage of the Addendum to Show Cause Notice dated 10.04.2026 issued on the transfer of adjudicatory proceedings to a new Adjudicating Authority. The Agency was specifically called upon to furnish details of the visits/inspections undertaken by its inspectors in respect of the PSICs in question, along with supporting documentary evidence, and was afforded a personal hearing through hybrid mode on 14.05.2026. The Agency chose neither to appear nor to file any written submission. The principles of natural justice having thus been fully complied with, and the Agency having failed to avail of the opportunity granted to it, the matter is liable to be, and is hereby, decided ex-parte on the basis of the material available on record.

6.2 The record establishes that the Agency issued an inordinately large number of Pre-Shipment Inspection Certificates covering a vast geographical range in a manner wholly inconsistent with its declared capacity of 7 authorised instruments across 7 countries, with as many as 299 inspections reported on a single day (02.05.2024) spanning 15 countries, and 282 inspections on another single day (25.04.2024) spanning 14 countries, far exceeding what is physically and logistically feasible for the equipment and personnel declared to be available with the Agency.

6.3 More particularly, it stands established on record that PSICs against Instrument No. 100636 were issued on the same date, i.e. 21.03.2024, by three different inspectors of the Agency Mr. Muhammad Mohsin (148 Pre Shipment Inspections, Bahrain), Mr. Narit Roungdet (12 Pre Shipment Inspections across Belgium, Germany, Italy, Netherlands, Spain and the United Kingdom), and Mr. Nicole (2 Pre Shipment Inspections, Singapore) purportedly operating simultaneously from geographically distant and incompatible locations using a single instrument. Such simultaneous deployment of a single registered instrument across geographically distant locations on the same date is found to be physically and logistically unattainable, and squarely establishes mis-declaration in the issuance of the PSICs in question. One of the several specific instances of such inspections is set out hereunder:

Sl. No.	PSIC Number	Inspector Name	Inspection Country	Inspection Date	Sl. No. of Instrument
1	PSICAIALXX307704AM25	NARIT ROUNGDET	Belgium	25.04.2024	100636
2	PSICAIALXX307895AM25	MUHAMMAD MOHSIN	Bahrain	25.04.2024	100636
3	PSICAIALXX308384AM25	MUHAMMAD MOHSIN	Bahrain	25.04.2024	100636
4	PSICAIALXX309086AM25	NARIT ROUNGDET	Germany	25.04.2024	100636
5	PSICAIALXX309374AM25	NICOLE	Singapore	25.04.2024	100636
6	PSICAIALXX309983AM25	MUHAMMAD MOHSIN	Bahrain	25.04.2024	100636
7	PSICAIALXX310151AM25	MUHAMMAD MOHSIN	Bahrain	25.04.2024	100636
8	PSICAIALXX310336AM25	MUHAMMAD MOHSIN	Bahrain	25.04.2024	100636
9	PSICAIALXX310673AM25	NARIT ROUNGDET	Italy	25.04.2024	100636
10	PSICAIALXX310904AM25	MUHAMMAD MOHSIN	Bahrain	25.04.2024	100636
11	PSICAIALXX310912AM25	MUHAMMAD MOHSIN	Bahrain	25.04.2024	100636
12	PSICAIALXX311743AM25	MUHAMMAD MOHSIN	Bahrain	25.04.2024	100636
13	PSICAIALXX311851AM25	MUHAMMAD MOHSIN	Bahrain	25.04.2024	100636
14	PSICAIALXX312369AM25	MUHAMMAD MOHSIN	Bahrain	25.04.2024	100636
15	PSICAIALXX312376AM25	MUHAMMAD MOHSIN	Bahrain	25.04.2024	100636
16	PSICAIALXX312575AM25	MUHAMMAD MOHSIN	Bahrain	25.04.2024	100636
17	PSICAIALXX313043AM25	MUHAMMAD MOHSIN	Bahrain	25.04.2024	100636
18	PSICAIALXX313975AM	MUHAMMA	Bahrain	25.04.202	100636

	25	D MOHSIN		4	
19	PSICAIALXX315025AM 25	NARIT ROUNGDET	United Kingdom	25.04.202 4	100636
20	PSICAIALXX315034AM 25	NARIT ROUNGDET	United Kingdom	25.04.202 4	100636
21	PSICAIALXX315933AM 25	NARIT ROUNGDET	Netherland s	25.04.202 4	100636
22	PSICAIALXX316017AM 25	NARIT ROUNGDET	Netherland s	25.04.202 4	100636
23	PSICAIALXX316032AM 25	NARIT ROUNGDET	Netherland s	25.04.202 4	100636
24	PSICAIALXX316401AM 25	MUHAMMA D MOHSIN	Bahrain	25.04.202 4	100636
25	PSICAIALXX316666AM 25	MUHAMMA D MOHSIN	Bahrain	25.04.202 4	100636
26	PSICAIALXX316899AM 25	NARIT ROUNGDET	Spain	25.04.202 4	100636
27	PSICAIALXX317056AM 25	MUHAMMA D MOHSIN	Bahrain	25.04.202 4	100636
28	PSICAIALXX317219AM 25	MUHAMMA D MOHSIN	Bahrain	25.04.202 4	100636
29	PSICAIALXX317388AM 25	MUHAMMA D MOHSIN	Bahrain	25.04.202 4	100636
30	PSICAIALXX319945AM 25	NARIT ROUNGDET	United Kingdom	25.04.202 4	100636
31	PSICAIALXX326608AM 25	NARIT ROUNGDET	Germany	25.04.202 4	100636

6.4 As the Agency has failed to furnish any explanation, documentary evidence, movement records, inspection logs, photographic or video evidence as mandated under Para 2.53(c), (d) and (e) of the HBP 2023, or any other contemporaneous material capable of substantiating the actual conduct of inspections in the manner reflected in its records, the allegations levelled in the Show Cause Notice and the Addendum thereto stand unrebutted and are liable to be, and are hereby, accepted as established.

6.5 The issuance of PSICs without actual physical inspection constitutes a serious lapse in the discharge of statutory obligations. Pre-Shipment Inspection Certificates serve as a critical regulatory safeguard to ensure that metallic scrap imports are free from radioactive contamination and hazardous material before entry into Indian ports. Any compromise in the integrity of such inspections transcends a mere procedural lapse and carries direct implications for public safety, port infrastructure, and national security.

6.6 In view of the foregoing, the conduct of the Agency constitutes mis-declaration within the meaning of Para 2.53(a) of the HBP 2023, which provides that in case of any mis-declaration in a PSIC, the PSIA shall be liable for penal action under the FTDR Act, 1992, in addition to suspension/cancellation of recognition. The said conduct attracts a penalty under Section 11(2) and Section 11(3) of the FTDR Act.

6.7 In view of the discussion above, I find that M/s Asia Inspection Agency Limited has contravened the provisions of the Foreign Trade (Development & Regulation) Act, 1992, the applicable Foreign Trade Policy, and the relevant provisions of the Handbook of Procedures 2023 and is accordingly liable for penal and regulatory action under the said Act.

I, therefore, in exercise of the powers vested in me, under Section 13 read with Section 11 of the Foreign Trade (Development & Regulation) Act, 1992, as amended and Para 2.53(a) of the Handbook of Procedures, pass the following order,

ORDER

No.: 01/89/180/35/PSIA/AM-24/PC(A) Dated: 30.06.2026

i. The recognition granted to M/s Asia Inspection Agency Limited as a Pre-Shipment Inspection Agency is hereby cancelled with immediate effect.

ii. The Bank Guarantee furnished by M/s Asia Inspection Agency Limited at the time of recognition/renewal as a Pre-Shipment Inspection Agency is hereby forfeited in full, in view of the established violations of the conditions of recognition and the obligations prescribed under the Handbook of Procedures.

iii. A penalty of ₹10,00,000/- (Rupees Ten Lakhs Only) is hereby imposed upon M/s Asia Inspection Agency Limited under Section 11(2) of the FT (D&R) Act, 1992, for the violations established herein.

(Rakesh Kumar)
Additional Director General of Foreign Trade

To:

1) M/s Asia Inspection Agency Limited, 124/1, Moo 7; Banfa-Trad KM 26 Road, Bangnor, Bangnor; Samuthprakarn 10560; Thailand, Bangkok 10560

Copy to:

1. Joint Secretary, Customs, Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC)
2. Commissioners of Customs, Chennai / Cochin / Ennore / JNPT / Kandla / Mormugao / Mumbai / New Mangalore / Paradip / Tuticorin / Visakhapatnam / Pipavav / Mundra / Kolkata / Krishnapatnam / Kattupalli / Hazira / Kamarajar
3. DGFT Website
4. EGTF Section, DGFT Hqrs