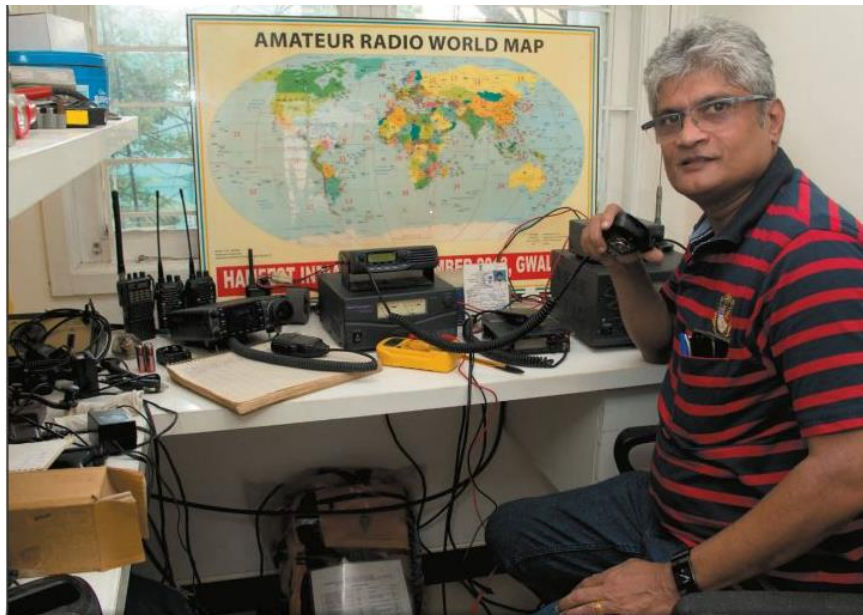


All About Import of Amateur Radio Equipment in India : 2020-21

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A Radio Amateur in India can import whatever Amateur Radio equipment he desires from any country without any value restrictions including spares and accessories upon payment of Customs Duty / GST.

The Ministry of Commerce, Govt. of India announces the Customs Tariff for every financial year in the budget valid from 1 April to 31 March next year.

In the current financial year (2020-21) Customs Tariff, Amateur Radio Equipment (ARE) is generalized under **HSN 8525 60 00** as Transmission apparatus incorporating reception apparatus with **NIL Customs Duty, 18% GST & Import Policy FREE**. There is no requirement of Import License and no value limit for this.

Amateur Radio Spare parts come under **HSN 8529 10 12** and Antenna under **HSN 8529 10 21** for which payment of Customs Duty of **27.735%** is to be made. There is no requirement of Import License and no value limit for this.

(As per **2019-20** Customs Tariff Amateur Radio Equipment (ARE) was classified under **HSN 8525 60 13** with the same **NIL Customs duty** and **GST 18%**. However for this financial year, this item was removed from the classification)

The WPC Wing has already issued online clarification that Import License is not required and it is already accepted by Customs. They have also discontinued issue of Import License to Radio Amateurs. Copy of Amateur Radio License may be sent to the dealer to be included along with the Invoice. Though there is no clause to produce Amateur Radio license, a duly self-attested copy of the same may be produced at the time of customs clearance. Every declaration for import of Ham equipment must be as **AMATEUR RADIO EQUIPMENT** and must be within the permitted frequencies. It is always better to declare that authorized frequencies will be used.

It is noted that when imported via post (Post Parcel), the Customs Dept. is insisting for classification under **HSN 9804** (as item imported for personal use) with Customs Duty @40%, for the reason that **General IEC 010000053** is used which is for imports by an individual, which is a wrong interpretation because "Amateur Radio Equipment" is well defined, specific item, notified item and not personal/house hold item, used by a licensed Amateur Radio Station.

Procedure to be followed while importing:

1. **Classification : 8525 60 00** - Customs duty NIL, GST 18%, IMPORT POLICY : FREE
2. **Description:** AMATEUR RADIO EQUIPMENT eg: Icom IC 7300, HF Transceiver, Serial No. etc.
3. Enclose **Specifications** of the equipment
4. Enclose copy of your **Amateur Radio License**.
5. If it a purchase, enclose the real **Invoice**
6. If it is a gift, enclose a **declaration** to state the value of the equipment and if it is being donated to you by a relative / friend / club etc.

Frequently Asked Questions:

1) Bringing Ham equipment from abroad as hand luggage by VU license holder:

Any ham can import any HAM equipment without any value restrictions upon payment of duty of 18% GST.

Many Radio Amateurs are lucky that they may not be charged Customs Duty / GST at Airports for bringing Amateur Radio equipment while returning from abroad. Some Radio Amateurs even go abroad for foreign tours especially to Singapore etc. for sight-seeing as well as to bring nice equipment purchased from Duty Free shops. Hi. In any case, paying 18% GST and making it official is always good and safe.

When imported as part of baggage, Customs may levy duty of baggage rate 40% under NON-TR and 15% under TR (Transfer of Residence) with reference to **HSN 9804**

2) Bringing Ham equipment from abroad for VU license holder by SWL friend / relative:

No import by representative is allowed. It should be imported / brought by only the license holder.

3) Govt. Post / Courier, which one is better?

International Courier service is faster but expensive. It so happens for a lucky few that no Customs Duty / GST is charged for Walkie Talkies etc. arriving by post (marked as gift/sample etc.) but sometimes others are given notices by the Customs Dept. to justify the import. The equipment will be released only after they are satisfied with our reply and upon payment of necessary Customs Duty. In some cases the Duty can be paid to the Postman delivering the equipment.

4) Import of used equipment:

Import of second hand Amateur Radio equipment is restricted. Customs Duty rate never changes irrespective of the fact whether it is new or old. When it is old, depreciated value is considered for determination of assessable value / residual life etc. certified by Chartered Engineer (CE).

5) Gift of equipment by foreign ham to Indian ham:

Gifted / donated items also can be imported upon payment of duty of 18% under HSN 8525 60 00. If it is imported by post it will be 40% under HSN 9804. The rough value of gift can be declared.

6) Purchase of equipment through Dealer in India:

Some Amateur Radio equipment manufacturers of foreign countries have authorized dealers in India. Some dealers supply equipment of different manufacturers also. Amateur Radio Equipment shall be ordered from them. Sometimes they will have equipment in ready stock or else they will import the same for you. They will take care of the Customs formalities etc. However the cost of the equipment will be slightly higher as it will include their profit margin also. One has to submit the Amateur Radio License copy / Renewal copy to the dealer. Please place orders only to Authorized Dealers having valid Dealer Possession License (DPL) issued by Ministry of Communications, Govt. of India.

7) Import via Amazon etc.

For Courier mode, HSN 8525 60 00 always apply at 18% GST.

8) Using service of Clearing Agent:

Only AIR FREIGHT is to be handled by a Customs Broker / Clearing Agent which will be expensive. As a good will gesture to fellow Hams, I, a Customs Broker, having my own company, is clearing items to Hams as a free service in Chennai where I am located.

Rates valid till 31 March 2021

Sl.No	Item	HSN	To pay
1	Amateur Radio equipment as personal baggage / Courier	8525 60 00	GST 18%
2	Importing via post	9804	Customs Duty 40%
3	Spare Parts	8529 10 12	Customs Duty 27.735 %
4	Antenna	8529 10 21	Customs Duty 27.735 %

HSN = Harmonized System Nomenclature

Please see detailed list of Wireless Apparatus & Accessories, Spare Parts and Antenna in Annexure -1

Suggestions:

There is a misconception by most Customs officers that Amateur Radio Equipment is something wrong, restricted, sensitive, scary, contraband etc. It may be noted that Hams are also serving Govt. and public for disaster communication as and when required. The Govt. should send a special notification to Indian Customs not to disturb imports by Hams.

However, representation is to be initiated not to charge higher rate of duty for imports by post because post is only a medium of transport / logistics for economy purpose, item being very small in its weight like below one kg in case of Walkie Talkie, and "Amateur Radio Equipment" especially when it is notified, is well defined and cannot be considered as personal / household item and it is licensed as Amateur Radio Station operated by an operator, being an international hobby in existence in 240 countries and no other country is troubling Hams excepting India, as the undersigned visited Ham clubs in more than 50 countries where they extend special attention and priority for Hams.

Happy Hamming!

73 !

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Detailed list of wireless apparatus, accessories and parts:

(A) Wireless Apparatus & Accessories:

1. HF, VHF OR UHF transceiver (combination of transmitter and receiver) meant for Amateur Radio frequencies with accessories in assembled or kit form.
2. UHF/VHF or VHF/UHF Repeater (combination of transmitter and receiver) meant for Amateur Radio frequencies with accessories in assembled or kit form.
3. Transverter for Amateur Radio frequencies in assembled or kit form.
4. Grid Dip Oscillator, Radio Frequency Interference Filter, Balun Transformer, SWR Bridge or reflectometer, Morse reader or Noise bridge.
5. Digital Frequency Counter (up to 600 MHz) with accessories.

(B) Spare Parts:

1. Transistors, diodes, integrated circuits /Chips, thermionic valves or vacuum tubes.
2. Toroidal cores, quartz crystals, relays, rotatory switches, ferrite beads.
3. Variable condensers, air-dielectric type.
4. Precision capacitors (fixed type) value (s) between 1 PF to 5000 PF.
5. Spare NiCad cells or pack, as required or used with thermionic valves or vacuum tubes or toroidal cores (in case of hand held transceiver).
6. Slow motion tuning mechanism with or without dials.

(C) Antennas:

1. Antenna with or without feeders / Antenna rotators for Amateur Radio frequencies.