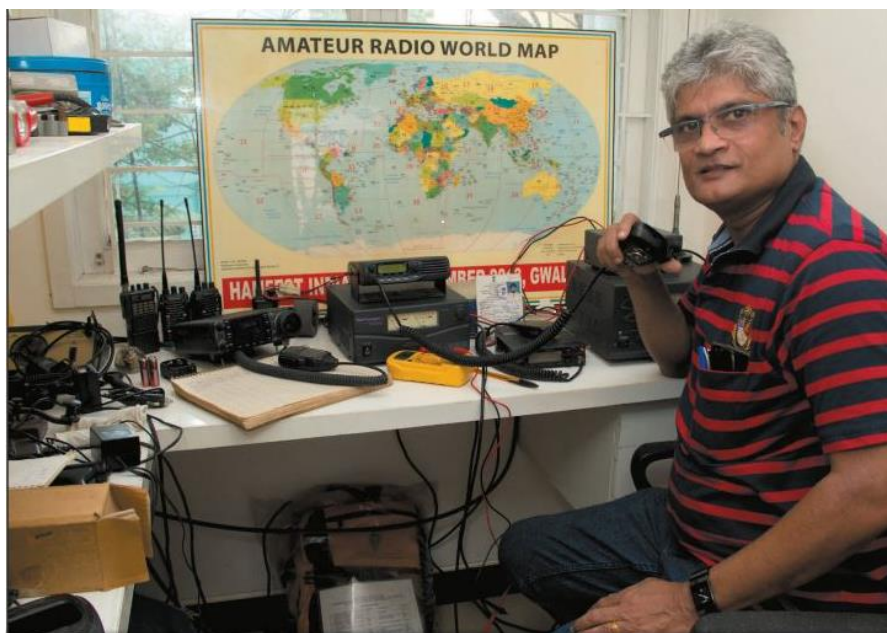


Import of Amateur Radio Equipment : 2023-24

By Devadas K.M. VU2DH, Handle : Das,
Future Logistics India Pvt. Ltd., Chennai.



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

During the financial year (2019-20) Amateur Radio Equipment (ARE) was well defined item under **HSN 85256000** as AMATEUR RADIO EQUIPMENTS with NIL Customs Duty, 18% GST & Import Policy **FREE**. There is no requirement of Import License and no value limit for this.

During financial year (2020-21) Customs Tariff, Amateur Radio Equipment (ARE) under **HSN 8525 60 00** is removed and generalized as Transmission apparatus incorporating reception apparatus, [Read with Customs Notification No.24/01.03.2005 Sl.No.16](#), with **NIL Customs Duty, 18% GST & Import Policy FREE**. **There is no requirement of Import License and no value limit** for this. However, you have to justify that you are a licensed ham by producing your self-attested HAM License.

Amateur Radio Spare parts falls under **HSN 8529 10 12& 22** and Antenna under **HSN 8529 10 21** for which payment of Customs Duty including 18% GST of **27.735%** is to be made. There is no requirement of Import License and no value limit for this.

If any official insist on production of a License, they are referring to your HAM License and not an import License.

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, 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 allowed frequency. It is always better to declare frequency like 144-146 MHz for VHF 434-438 MHz for UHF, HF 7.000 MHz to 7.150 MHz etc., and anything out of this frequency is technically disqualify as HAM equipment.

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 @**38.5%**, for the reason that **General IEC 010000053** is used which is for imports by an individual for his own use, 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.

A HAM may not have his own IEC (Importer & Exporter Code Number) Therefore law permits usage of general IEC 010000053 by any individual importing for his own use. It does not mean that HAM radio imported for his own use is to be differently classified under HSN 9804 and defined as PERSONAL & HOUSE HOLD item (which are normally used in your house like clothes, kitchen utensils, furniture, mattress, refrigerator, air conditioners, shoes etc). HAM / AMATEUR radio is for use of a Radio station Licensed by Govt. of India, Department of Telecommunications, WPC Wing and not professional and not personal use as House Hold. This can be provided to Customs authorities as clarification which is accepted by Chennai Customs. In this case there is something beyond YES or NO.

Equipment Type Approval (ETA) Approval:

Normally, though its not mentioned in import policy or Customs tariff, a customs officer insist for Equipment Type Approval which is not available with any HAM, invariably it is detained which is the experience and statistics in the past 3,4 years. Prominent brands like Icom, Yaesu,

Kenwood, Alinco are already having ETA approval and normally not insisted. However recently absolute harassment is happening on account of ETA approval which is to be challenged and justified with customs as there is no such conditions because Import Policy is FREE. Import of Radio equipments within the permitted frequency is permitted by Ministry of Commerce DGFT (Director General of Foreign Trade) as per Import Policy.

Procedure to be followed while importing:

1. Classification : 85256000 – [Read with Customs Notification No.24/01.03.2005 SI.No.16](#), Customs duty NIL, GST 18%, IMPORT POLICY : FREE
2. Description: AMATEUR RADIO EQUIPMENT eg: Icom IC 7300, HF Transceiver, Serial No. if possible the frequency of permitted operation – like VHF 144-146 UHF 434-438 HF 7.000- 7.200 MHz etc.
3. Enclose Specifications of the equipment
4. Enclose copy of your Amateur Radio License.
5. If purchase, enclose real Invoice
6. If gift, a declaration to state the value and if it is being donated to you by a relative / friend / club etc.

Rates valid till 31 March 2024

| Sl. No | Item | HSN (Harmonized System Nomenclature) | To pay |
|--------|---|--|----------------------------------|
| 1 | Amateur Radio equipment as personal baggage / Gifted / donated items/ Courier | 8525 60 00 Customs Notification No. 24/2005 SI.No.16 | Customs duty NIL & GST 18% |
| 2 | Importing via post | 9804 | Customs Duty 38.5% including GST |
| 3 | Spare Parts | 8529 10 12 | Total Customs Duty 27.735 % |
| 4 | Antenna | 8529 10 21 | Total Customs Duty 27.735 % |

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

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 (Customs Duty : NIL). 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. In any case, paying 18% GST and making it official is always good and safe and legal. When imported as part of baggage, Customs may interpret this as part of baggage & levy duty of baggage rate 38.50% 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. However due to the clause that any item imported by post / courier for personal use may be defined as HOUSE HOLD item and classify under HSN 9804 will be liable for payment of 38.50% customs duty consolidated including GST.

4) Import of used equipment:

Import of second-hand/used 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. subject to the condition, 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, Read with Customs Notification No.24/01.03.2005 Sl.No.16. If it is imported by post it will be 38.50% under HSN 9804. Approximate value of gift can be declared.

6) Import via Amazon or any Online purchase.

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

7) Using service of Clearing agent:

Only AIRFREIGHT is to be handled by a Customs Broker / Clearing Agent which will be expensive say Rs.8000 > Rs.10000 including the terminal charges, Delivery Order fee, Transportation & handling. As a

good will, gesture to fellow Hams, I have been clearing items as a free service but I have my office presence only in Chennai.

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.

Local purchases becomes hassel-free without facing any of the above harassment by customs and other departments. These days there are many licensed local dealers who imports in Bulk and doing local sales by which the total logistics cost is proportionately reduced, even though the dealer takes their margin and pay only 18% GST, Customs duty free, it becomes overall economical than self-importing one single piece. There are dealers like Sanchar Telesystems - New Delhi, Radio Brewery - Chennai, Amazon, VU2CCK, VU2PJP, VU2SYD, VU2ETS etc.

Happy hamming!

73 !

Das, VU2DH
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Annexure -1

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 frequencies with accessories in assembled or kit form.
2. UHF/VHF or VHF/UHF Repeater (combination of transmitter and receiver) meant for amateur frequencies with accessories is assembled or kit form.
3. Transverter for amateur 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 1PF to 5000PF.
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 frequencies.

Annexure - 2



भारत सरकार / Government of India
संचार मंत्रालय / Ministry of Communications
दूरसंचार विभाग / Department of Telecommunications
डबल्यू पी.सी. विंग. (सीओपी - अनुभाग) / WPC Wing (CoP-Section)
6TH Floor, Sanchar Bhawan,
20-Ashoka Road, New Delhi-11003

No. L-14011/05/2020-AMT

Date: 22/09/2020

To,

Vishnu R,
Chakkittapakkambal,
Vikas Nagar, Kundannoor,
Maradu PO, Ettanakulam,
Kerala - 682304

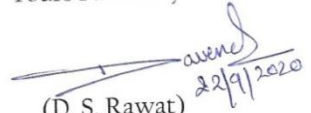
Sub: Application for certificate to import Radio for hobby -Reg.

Sir,

I am directed to refer your application on the above mentioned subject and to return your original application along with following observations.

- (i) As per provisions of Indian Wireless Telegraph (Amateur Service) Rules, 1978 and subsequent amendments, an Amateur Radio license holder does not require any specific import licence for import of Amateur radio communication equipment for use by the HAM licence holder for use in harmonized amateur bands.
- (ii) It may also be noted that any payment towards WPC HQ New Delhi has to be done on the following function head:
Pay & Account Office (PAO) : 077188-Controller of Communication Accounts,
PAO HQ.

Yours Faithfully


(D. S. Rawat)
Engineer

(Special thanks to Mr.Vishnu R. VU3OSX, Kochi)

73

Jose Jacob VU2JOS – AT50JOS
National Institute of Amateur Radio, Hyderabad

www.niar.org