

## Ministry of Commerce and Industry reduces compliance burden in case of SOFTEX forms for SEZ units

The SOFTEX form is a declaration of software exports through which the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) ensures the collection of data on exports for statistical and monitoring purposes. In the case of SEZ units, the SOFTEX form is required to be submitted online through the SEZ-Online portal by the services units. Thereafter, based on the approval of the office of Development Commissioners (DC), the form is further submitted to the RBI.

The Ministry noticed instances wherein SEZ units were submitting the physical copies of invoices, and in some cases, even physical copies of SOFTEX forms for verification to DC office, despite the same being filed online digitally. It is also noted that in the case of units in STPI, the practice of submitting physical copies of SOFTEX and invoices has been dispensed away.

Accordingly, as a measure of enhancing ease of doing business, the Ministry has done away with the practice of submitting physical copies of SOFTEX and invoices by SEZ units. For verification, any document, including relevant invoices, may be obtained electronically from the units with the approval of DC.

In exceptional cases, where there is a need for more detailed verification, DC may permit seeking sample copies of relevant invoices in physical mode, on a case-to-case basis.