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No. CLE-HO/PTLM/QCO/2025-26

2nd September 2025

To: Members of the Council
(Footwear & Footwear Components)

Dear sirs,

Sub: Quality Control Orders (QCOs) implementation in the footwear industry- Inputs sought on the import of samples with exemption from QCO – reg.

This is regarding the Quality Control Orders under implementation in the footwear sector as detailed below:

- Footwear made from Leather and other materials (Quality Control) Order, 2024. This QCO is for 12 footwear products (Ref: DPIIT Govt of India Order dated 15.03.2024). This came into effect from 01.08.2024.
- Footwear made from all Rubber and all Polymeric material and its components (Quality Control) Order, 2024. This QCO is for 8 footwear products and 4 items of outsoles. (Ref: DPIIT Govt of India Order dated 15.03.2024). This came into effect from 01.08.2024.
- Personal Protective Equipment-Footwear (Quality Control) Amendment Order, 2021. This QCO is for 3 Footwear items of Safety Footwear, Protective Footwear and Occupational Footwear. This came into effect from 01.06.2022.

The copies of the above DPIIT Orders are available in the CLE Website <https://leatherindia.org/quality-control-orders-qcos-2024-for-footwear-industry-to-be-implemented-from-01-08-2024/>

The List of footwear items under QCO is attached herewith for your ready reference.

Several international brands operating in India have been seeking the facility to import the footwear samples with due payment of duties but with exemption from the QCO compliance. In this regard, the Department for Promotion of Industry & Internal Trade (DPIIT), Govt of India has held a meeting on 31.07.2025 regarding import of footwear samples with exemption from QCO, which was attended amongst others by CLE, CIFI, IFCOMA, Retailers Association of India (RAI) etc. The DPIIT, GOI has taken note of the concerns expressed by the industry and sought inputs on the possible number of footwear samples that may be permitted for import annually and the modalities for monitoring such imports to prevent their diversion into retail market or misuse.

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In this background, the DPIIT has drawn up the following two actionable points and requested all concerned to provide their inputs as below:

S.No	Actionable Items
1	Prepare the list of different categories (of footwear) with a specified number of footwear units (pairs) to be treated as samples
2	Footwear brands / footwear manufacturing units were requested to provide their comments on their issues, highlighting the number of footwear samples that can be exempted (from QCO) to import.

As per the current regulation, duty free import of commercial samples is allowed for import upto Rs.3,00,000/- in value or 50 units in number, within a period of 1 year, without payment of duty. The said goods have to be imported as personal baggage by bonafide commercial travelers or businessmen or imported by post or by air. The importer has to produce Import Export Code (IEC) number at the time of importation and the said goods have to be clearly marked as samples. Further, the importer at the time of importation has to declare that the samples have been imported into India solely for the purpose of being shown in India for the guidance of exporters for securing or executing an export order.

In this background, the CLE would request the members (Leather Footwear, Non-Leather Footwear & Footwear Components manufacturing units) to kindly provide your inputs on the above two Actionable Points. The inputs may kindly be sent to the CLE vide Email cle@cleindia.com, under CC to dd-p.t@cleindia.com, **on or before 8th September 2025**.

This will enable the CLE to submit industry's inputs to the DPIIT, Govt of India. We look forward to receiving your response in the matter.

With warm regards,



R. SELVAM, IAS
Executive Director