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To: All Members of the Council

Dear Members(s),

Sub: **DPIIT issued Amendment Orders on Footwear QCOs – Extension of Exemption Period and R&D Import Provision -reg**

As you all are aware that Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India, had earlier notified the following Quality Control Orders (QCOs) for footwear products on **15 March 2024**:

1. **Footwear made from Leather and other Materials (Quality Control) Order, 2024** vide Notification No. S.O. 1421(E).

2. **Footwear made from All Rubber and All Polymeric Material and its Components (Quality Control) Order, 2024** vide Notification No. S.O. 1422(E).

Subsequently, the above Orders were amended vide Notifications No. S.O. 3700(E) and S.O. 3701(E), respectively, dated **30 August 2024**, providing certain exemptions and implementation-related provisions.

In this connection, the DPIIT has now issued the following **Quality Control Order (QCO) Amendment Orders vide Gazette Notifications dated 12 June 2026**:

1. Footwear made from All Rubber and all Polymeric Material and its Components (Quality Control) Amendment Order, 2026 (S.O. 3037(E))

2. Footwear made from Leather and other Materials (Quality Control) Amendment Order, 2026 (S.O. 3038(E))

The Present DPIIT Gazette Notifications are enclosed for ready reference.

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Key Amendments:

1. **Extension of Existing Exemption Period up to 31 July 2027:** The existing exemption available under the respective QCOs, which was earlier valid up to 31 July 2026, has now been extended by one year up to 31 July 2027.

2. **New Provision for Import of Footwear for R&D and Non-Commercial Use:** A new proviso has been inserted in both QCOs permitting manufacturers of leather and footwear products to import up to 4,500 pairs per year for Research & Development (R&D) and non-commercial purposes, subject to the following conditions:

- The imported footwear/articles shall not be sold commercially.
- The products shall be marked/embossed with the words "NOT FOR SALE".
- The products may be disposed as scrap.
- Manufacturers shall maintain year-wise records and furnish the same to the Government whenever required.

The amendment provides additional time for industry stakeholders to align with BIS certification requirements under the Footwear QCO framework. Further, the newly introduced R&D import provision will facilitate product development, innovation, benchmarking, testing, and design activities by allowing limited imports for non-commercial purposes under a clearly defined compliance framework.

Members are advised to take note of the above amendments and ensure compliance with the stipulated conditions while availing the benefits under the revised provisions.

With regards,

MUKHTARUL AMIN
Vice-Chairman
Council for Leather Exports (CLE)