

*Chairman's word...*

Dear Members,

The Council has finalised the export figures for sports goods & toys for the year 2009-2010 based on the export returns submitted by the members. It is a matter of concern that Indian exports of sports goods & toys have registered a decline of 6.5% in rupee terms. The exports during 2009-10 have been recorded as Rs 548.84 crores as compared to Rs 586.89 crores during 2008-09. This decline is assumed to be an effect of global recession and we hope that exports will recover during 2010-11. The export trend during first two months of current financial year shows a growth of 5.5%.

The top items of exports during 2009-10 were Inflatable balls, Hammocks, Cricket bats, Boxing equipment and General Exercise equipment. The top five destinations of exports were UK, USA, Australia, South Africa & France.

The temporary arrangement of fumigation of imported willow clefts at Indian ports has been extended by Ministry of Agriculture by another five months (till 31st December, 2010), during which a permanent solution has to be found out.

Your Sincerely,

A.G. Mukim
(A.G. Mukim)

Play Green

toys go eco-friendly

The world we live in is going through dramatic ecological and environmental changes. The toy industry is growing more aware of the issues and is becoming more responsive to the changes in a wide variety of ways. There are new operational safety standards, more eco-friendly practices being employed by companies and retail outlets, and more innovative green products being produced and sold. Those in the toy industry are also taking new green principles and practices back home, into schools and reaching out to others. Some changes are small, but each change makes a contribution to reduce the carbon footprint and helps to make our homes, work sites and products safer and less toxic.

Many toy companies and retailers are already making great strides, tracking materials used in their products, reducing waste and energy used in their manufacturing processes and ensuring their products are packaged in recycled materials.

While green products constitute a small number among all the choices of products available, we need to start somewhere. The awareness grows as more families are thinking and considering new directions that are safer, more balanced and healthier. More families participate in Earth Day Celebrations around the world as more parents and teachers become better informed about the deleterious issues affecting our planet.

Some changes are small, but each change makes a contribution to reduce the carbon footprint and helps to make our homes, work sites and products safer and less toxic.





Green Products

The identified products that help children learn more about their world are made from organic materials or produced in ways that are healthier. Hopefully those who understand their intrinsic value will want to locate these products and make them available for stores, schools and homes.



Green Toys Recycling Truck

Eco-conscious kids will learn recycling basics while playing with this recycling truck that has a movable recycling bed and open/shut rear door. The eco-friendly design has no metal axles. It is made in the USA from 100% recycled plastic milk containers that save energy and help reduce greenhouse gas emissions.



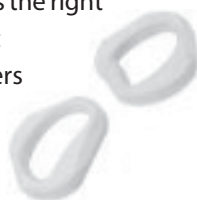
Hugg-A-Planet Foundlings

The Foundlings line is the original organic cotton plush toy line made in the USA. It combines a 100% organic (no pesticides) cotton shell with a fill of unbleached cotton clippings. The embroidered eyes are created for safety. The cotton used in Foundlings is free from pesticides and other harmful chemicals. The products are hand-made and machine washable.



Maple Landmark Woodcraft Maple Teether Pair

This is natural and unfinished wood that is the right choice to overcome concerns about toxic finishes. Sold in a pair, these maple teethers measure about 3 1/2" in diameter. The lumber for the teethers is harvested locally by lumbermen who have been in the wood business for more than 150 years.



Blue Orange Games Gobblet Gobblers

Based upon the all-time favourite, this is a fun strategy game that will keep the family hungry to play for hours. The Gobblers have a strong appetite and can gobble up smaller Gobblers. These cute little characters test strategy and stimulate memory.



Green Companies Commitment

Toy companies and toy stores share the commitment to help preserve the world we live in. More companies are practicing green principles in their daily operations, providing support to local and national organizations that are making a difference, and providing information and resources to consumers.

Some of the practices already in place among green companies include using:

- recycled paper and other eco-friendly materials in minimum quantities in the packaging.
- recycled materials in the manufacturing process.
- Polyolith, a synthetic "tree-free" paper made of 100% polypropylene, one of the most eco-friendly alternatives to vinyl. This rugged synthetic paper is waterproof and can be wiped clean with a damp cloth.
- organic products that are chemical-free.
- natural dyes, glues and other materials that are non-toxic.
- new processes for plastic-based products.
- usage of both sides of paper.
- factories that are Fair Trade certified.
- manual methods to assemble products.
- local facilities for manufacturing.

Green Company Practices

Following is a list of some of the green principles that companies are already implementing in their workplaces and factories:

- Install energy-saving lighting fixtures throughout office and plant.
- Install solutubes, which allow for natural light to illuminate key workstations.
- Eliminate the emission of any Volatile Organic Compounds (VOC) into the atmosphere.
- Use recycling procedures that all employees participate in.
- Reduce use of paper through electronic billing and management.
- Express the company's environmental messages via press releases and advertising.
- Promote consumer awareness by supporting and promoting public participation in Green practices in homes and schools.
- Use materials in new ways.
- Inspire special programs and services and contribute to the preservation of the planet.
- Minimize or eliminate unnecessary packaging. For example, Blue Orange Games packaging is designed to be used as a playing board or a place where you can store game pieces.
- Write quick rules directly on the packaging so even if paper instructions are lost, the child can still remember how to play the game.



- Be proactive on a small scale at the company level. At office, purchase aluminum water bottles for each employee.
- Recycle printed paper and reuse or shred for packing material.
- Replace paper towels with fabric ones.
- Turn off half of the warehouse lights.
- Compost all food products.

Three best suggested activities retailers and companies can do to be greener:

- Visually make changes - light bulbs are simplest - and offer to recycle packaging, as it shows a commitment to the general public.
- Be honest about being green. Consumers are very aware of what feels right to them about green.
- Educate or make available green information to customers and train employees to really hear what the customer wants. ■

Source: PLAYTHINGS

ISEO's Toys Rubbabu Toys among Best Green Products



Two of ISEO Chemdis' Rubbabu toys have been selected to be among Best Green Products for 2010 by Dr.Toy's Guide, San Francisco, USA. The chosen toys are Rubbabu 3D ShapeSorter-Animal Shapes and Rubbabu Fireman Rubba Engine.

Rubbabu 3D ShapeSorter--Animal Shapes

The Rubbabu 3D Shape Sorter Puzzle, a new concept in educational toys, uses an innovative soft material - natural rubber. The Shape Sorter has a 'home base' and 9 brightly colored animal play pieces, which children can play with, learn about, and put back in the soft base. The material is 100% biodegradable natural rubber foam. The thin outer coating (flock) is 2% to 3% of the toy and made of nylon, a material that is very easy to clean with a damp cloth. Natural rubber has many beneficial properties - it is anti-microbial, dust mite resistant, mildew resistant, hypo-allergenic and flame resistant.



Rubbabu Fireman Rubba Engine

This innovative Fire Engine has a bright red body and swiveling black ladder that can stand up to reach the imaginary fire, which is bound to take place in the child's imagination. Tactile stimulation and motor coordination are just a few of the developmental skills to be learned through playing with this toy. It is made of natural rubber foam.



ISEO, the company that makes Rubbabu toys, is just over four years old. It has become a name for classic, handmade, fun, colourful, safe and tactile toys. Rubbabu toys are made by hand, using no water, and very little energy. The process produces no effluents. All unused and waste rubber can be reused or recycled. Mechanical foaming is done instead of chemical foaming. The process uses mild and harmless solvents like ethyl acetate and re-use them as much as possible. The product cartons and master carton sizes are designed to minimize the material used. All of the ISEO products have been tested for EN 71, ASTM and CPSIA compliance.

SGEPC's Export Promotion Activities 2010-11

Event	Sector	Dates
Buyer Seller Meet in Austria, Poland & Czech Republic (under MDA)	Sports Goods & Toys	Early October
Buyer Seller Meet in Australia & New Zealand *	Sports Goods & Toys	Early November'10
Hong Kong Toys & Games Fair ,Hong Kong (under MDA)	Sports Goods & Toys	10-13 January' 2011
Speilwarenmesse Intl. Toy Fair, Nurenberg, Germany (under MAI)	Sports Goods & Toys	3-8 February 2011
ISPO Winter , Munich, Germany (under MAI)	Sports Goods	6-9 February 2011
American International Toy Fair (under MAI)	Toys	13-16 February 2011
Play World middle East, Dubai (under MDA)	Toys	7-9 March 2011
Buyer Seller Meet in Argentina, Chile & Brazil (under MDA)	Sports Goods & Toys	March 2011

*Yet to be approved under MAI for the year 2010-11

Applications for the participation in individual events will be sent separately. Meanwhile, members are requested to plan their participation in the above events during the year 2010-11. It may be noted that if SGEPC does not receive sufficient participation in any event, the respective activity may not be organized by the Council in the current financial year.



Germany's economy gains momentum

The German economy seems to have gained some momentum. Economists expect the country's GDP to increase by 3% to 4% this quarter, backed by a weak euro which is propelling the export driven economy of the country, a continuing recovery of industrial output as well as repeated increases of industrial orders which surged by 2.8% in April.



The improvement in the employment market also continued. Further this June, the German government announced the largest package of austerity measures in the country's history, including amongst others, the introduction of new levies on nuclear fuel rods, airline ticket purchases and financial transactions. Thus, the government hopes to save Euro 80 billion by 2014. However, several economists warn that strict austerity measures may have unforeseeable impact on economic growth and may backfire. ■

More children are spending their birthdays hiking

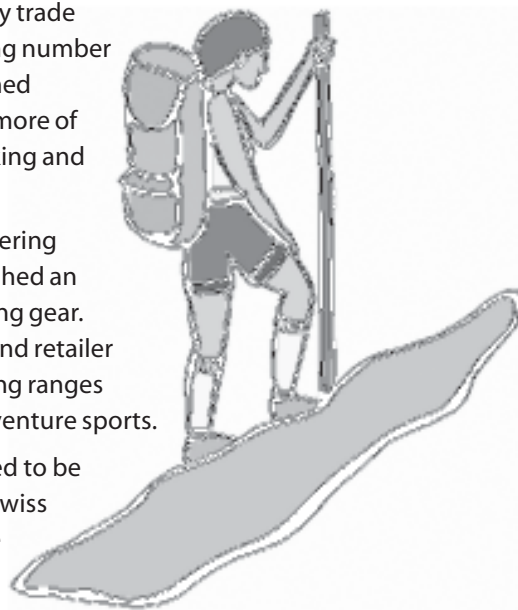
A report released by OutDoor, a leading industry trade show for outdoor sports, has found an increasing number of children are having outdoor adventure-themed birthday celebrations and adults are spending more of their leisure time pursuing activities such as hiking and climbing.

Certain outdoor sports retailers have begun catering exclusively to children, while others have launched an expanded range of children's hiking and climbing gear. Outdoor clothing manufacturer Jack Wolfskin and retailer Regatta have also launched 'fashionable' clothing ranges targeted at teenage girls with an interest in adventure sports.

In Europe 57 percent of Germans are considered to be active hikers, 39 percent of German-speaking Swiss are considered regular hikers and in Austria the Alpine sports club, with a membership of over 3,60,000 is the largest sports club in the country.

The growth in the outdoor market is thought to be caused by an increasing awareness of the benefits of a healthy lifestyle and a continuing trend towards domestic vacations driven by the recent economic downturn, high airline fees and a growing awareness of the environmental impact of travel.

Outdoor sports are also becoming more popular in America: US-based adventure clothing and equipment stores have experienced 12 percent growth in sales from May 2009-May 2010 according to a July 6 report by consumer research group, Leisure Trend. ■



Source : The Independent

www.sportsource-asia.com

Sports Source Asia 亞洲運動用品展

International Sourcing Fair for
Sports Equipment and Sports Apparel
國際運動用品及運動服裝採購展

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Email / 電郵: mm_iap@mmi-asia.com.sg

Hong Kong Trade Development Council
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US Environmental Protection Agency pursues manufacturers of sporting goods over anti-microbial claims



During the past couple of years, there have been an increased number of claims by sporting goods manufacturers that the products they sell have been treated with “anti-microbial agents” which prevent or reduce the chance of the growth of mold, fungus and other harmful organisms. Virtually without warning, the US Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) has struck a number of sporting goods manufacturers on this issue. They have begun the process of hunting down additional manufacturers making these claims. The problem arises out of the fact that anti-microbial materials are governed by FIFRA, a very complex US Environmental Statute which is administered by the USEPA. Persons claiming to use anti-microbial materials must have a license from the USEPA and are restricted in the language that can be used about those materials. This process is expected to grow and the costs exacted will expand as the industry is charged more generally with knowledge. ■

Source: WFSGI

“Bladder” Made in India used in FIFA

As per report published in The Economic Times, a leading Business daily published in India The bladder at the core of the Jabulani (the balls used in FIFA World Cup’2010) is made by Enkay (India) Rubber Co. Pvt. Ltd., Delhi, using latex sourced from Kerala. Adidas balls used in six world cups before this, starting from the 1986 Mexico World Cup, have sported Enkay bladders.

“Enkay” is the brand name of SGEPC’s member exporter – Enkay(India) Rubber Co. Pvt. Ltd., Delhi.





'Don't take my bat away'

manufacturers stand by safety of aluminum bats

In response to the growing movement to ban aluminum bats, the Sporting Goods Manufacturers Association founded DTMBA (Don't Take My Bat Away) about three years ago. Its purpose was to educate and show people that aluminum/metal bats are safe.

The organization supports the "bat of choice" philosophy and contends, aluminum bats are not dangerous and arguably safer than wood bats.

"We are not anti-wood. We are pro both," says the Association. Baseball when compared to the other traditional high school sports is the safest. Collisions and thrown balls are the biggest reasons for injuries.

"The problem is that when someone gets hit by a batted ball, it's almost like a plane crash. It gets headlines, and it's not by any means a normal occurrence. If you go to wood bats, you are

going to have incidents where players get hit with batted balls, and then what are we going to do? You can't legislate injuries in any sport."

The average person's perception that there should never be any injuries in baseball contributes to a rush by some to blame it on aluminum/metal bats.

Baseball is a physically paced game, and the ball is hard, which is why there are gloves. Most injuries in high school baseball occur at first base because that's where there are maximum traffic. Besides, bat manufacturers make bats in accordance with performance specifications and standards established by baseball's governing bodies. ■

Source : SportsOneSource



Declaration of Intent for claiming benefits of various schemes under Chapter 3 of FTP 2009-14 and mentioning of ITC [HS] Codes on Shipping Bills, mandatory

Excerpt of Policy Circular No. 40/2009-14, dated 16th July, 2010

In order to operationalising EDI Message Exchange of Chapter 3 Reward Schemes of FTP with Customs Database, a meeting was held under the Chairmanship of DGFT on 21.5.2010. In terms of the decision taken therein, it has been decided that:

- a) Attention is invited to Public Notice No. 82/2009-14 dated 16.7.2010. For export of goods exported from 1st January 2011 onwards, the Declaration of Intent for Claiming the benefits under Chapter 3 of FTP, in terms of Para 3.11.8 of FTP 2009-14 as amended by Public Notice No. 82/2009-14 dated 16.7.2010, has been made mandatory for all types of shipments seeking to claim the benefits of Chapter 3 reward schemes.
 - b) It has further been decided that exporter shall mandatorily mention the 8 digit ITC (HS) code on the Shipping Bill. Moreover, where 8 digit ITC (HS) code for the export product/category is not specified in the Chapter 3 scheme related Appendices, the applicable entry of the intended reward scheme should be mentioned on the Shipping Bill.
 - c) The EDI Software of Customs (ICEGATE) is being modified from the present system of categorising shipments as "NO EXPORT INCENTIVE" (in case the export is not under Chapter 4 or 5 of FTP, i.e. DBK, DFIA, AA, DEPB and/or EPCG Schemes) to merely clicking "YES" in the relevant place to enable the exporters to declare their intent in the Shipping Bills. The exporters may, however, declare the intent anywhere in the Shipping Bill till such time the ICEGATE software is modified.
2. EPCs should make special efforts to educate the Trade and Industry in general and exporting community in particular with respect of this change regarding the requirement of 'declaration of intent' even for all types of shipments including those under Advance Authorisation, DEPB, Drawback, EPCG, DFIA etc. and the 'mandatory requirement of mentioning the 8 digit ITC HS Code on the Shipping Bill'.

This issues with the approval of DGFT.

Sd/-

(Anil Kumar Singh)

Joint Director General of Foreign Trade

F.No.01/91/180/1582/AM10/PC3]



Amendment of Drawback Rules, 1995 and Re-Export of Imported Goods (Drawback of Customs Duties) Rules, 1995

Copy of Customs Circular No.13/2010, dated 24th June, 2010

The undersigned is directed to say that the Board has amended the Customs, Central Excise & Service Tax Drawback Rules, 1995 and the Re-Export of Imported Goods (Drawback of Customs Duties) Rules, 1995 vide Notifications No. 49/2010-Customs (N.T) and 48/2010-Customs (N.T) both dated 17th June, 2010. The rules have been amended to make the time limits prescribed for making various applications/claims of drawback under the Rules more exporter friendly, to liberalise granting of extensions in case of delays and to delegate greater powers in that regard to the field officers at the level of the Assistant/Deputy Commissioner of Customs. These are trade facilitation measures. The notifications are available on CBEC website and may be perused for details. The important changes that have been made in the Rules are as discussed below. The time limits for filing applications for fixation of Brand Rate of Drawback, supplementary claims of Drawback and for claiming drawback under section 74 of the Customs Act, 1962 have been revised as under:

Type of claim	Previous time limits	Revised time limits
Brand rate claim (Rules 6 and 7 of Customs, Central Excise & Service Tax Drawback Rules, 1995).	The claim was required to be filed within 60 days from the date of Let Export Order. This time limit could be extended by 30 days by the Commissioner if he was satisfied that the exporter was prevented by sufficient cause from filing the application within the aforesaid time period.	The claim may be filed within 3 months from the date of Let Export Order. This time limit may be extended by 3 months by the AC/DC and by another 6 months by the Commissioner.
Supplementary claim (Rule 15 of Customs, Central Excise & Service Tax Drawback Rules, 1995).	The claim has to be filed within 3 months from the date of publication of All Industry Rate (AIR) of Drawback or from the date of communication of the brand rate of drawback. This period may be extended by another 9 months by the AC/DC if he is satisfied that the exporter was prevented by sufficient cause from filing application within the aforesaid time period.	The claim may be filed within 3 months from the date of publication of All Industry Rate (AIR) of Drawback or from the date of communication of the brand rate of drawback. This period may be extended by 9 months by the AC/DC and by another 6 months by the Commissioner.
Drawback on Re-export of imported goods [Rule 5 of the Re-Export of Imported Goods (Drawback of Customs Duties) Rules, 1995].	This claim has to be filed within 3 months from the date of Let Export Order. The period may be extended further by 3 more months by the AC/DC in case he has satisfied that the exporter was prevented by sufficient cause from filing the case in time.	This claim may be filed within 3 months from the date of Let Export Order. The period may be extended by 3 months by the AC/DC and by another 6 months by the Commissioner.

3. It may be seen from the above that under the amended rules an exporter can file an application for fixation of Brand Rate of Drawback under Rule 6 and 7 within a maximum period of 1 year including the extensions. Similarly, he can file supplementary claim of drawback within a maximum period of 18 months including extensions and a claim of drawback under Section 74 of the Customs Act, 1962 within a maximum period of 1 year including extensions.

4. In all the above cases, the AC/DC or the Commissioner may grant the extension on the basis of an application and after making such enquiry as they think fit. The condition that the exporter should have been prevented by sufficient cause from applying within the prescribed time period has been removed. In case, the AC/DC or the Commissioner decide not to grant extension, they may do so after recording in writing the reasons for such refusal and the same may be communicated to the applicant through a speaking order. However, as advised by the Board vide Circular No. 14/2003-Cus dated 06.03.2003, delays may generally be condoned on receipt of the exporter's application in this regard.

contd...



5. A new feature that has been incorporated in the Rules is that in all the above cases an application fee equivalent to 1% of the FOB value of exports or Rs. 1000/-, whichever is less, shall be payable for applying for grant of extension by the AC/DC and an application fee of 2% of the FOB value of exports or Rs. 2000/-, whichever is less, shall be payable for applying for grant of extension by the Commissioner.
6. The applications for fixation of Brand Rate of drawback have to be filed in the office of the Commissioner of Central Excise (or Customs & Central Excise) as provided in rules 6 and 7 of the Customs, Central Excise & Service Tax Drawback Rules, 1995 and as already advised vide the above mentioned circular. If there is a delay in making the application, the Assistant/Deputy Commissioner of Central Excise (Technical) or such other Assistant/Deputy Commissioner in the office of the Commissioner of Central Excise who has been assigned the work relating to fixation of Brand Rate of drawback, may grant the first extension of upto 3 months. If the delay is of more than 3 months, extension may be granted only by the Commissioner. The applications for supplementary claims of drawback, drawback under section 74 of the Customs Act, 1962 and for repayment of drawback in terms of rule 16A(4) of the Customs, Central Excise & Service Tax Drawback Rules, 1995 may be made to the Assistant Commissioner of Customs at the port of export.
7. Further, Rule 16A (4) of the Customs, Central Excise & Service Tax Drawback Rules, 1995 has been amended to provide that in cases where the sale proceeds are realized by the exporter after the amount of drawback has been recovered from him under Rule 16A (1) of the Drawback Rules, 1995 due to non realization of export proceeds, he shall be allowed to produce evidence of such realization within a period of 3 months from the date of realization of export proceeds instead of the previous provision of one year from the date of recovery of amount of drawback provided the foreign exchange has been realized within the period permitted by RBI. The period may be extended by the Commissioner of Customs by 9 months subject to the condition that the amount has been realized on a date covered by the extensions of time limit given by the RBI for realizing export proceeds. Application fee equivalent to 1% of the FOB value of exports or Rs. 1000/-, whichever is less, shall be payable for applying for grant of extension by the Commissioner.

Yours faithfully,

(Prمود Kumar)

Technical Officer (Drawback)

Notification No. 25/2010 - Service Tax, dated 22nd June, 2010

G.S.R. (E). - In exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (1) of section 93 of the Finance Act, 1994 (32 of 1994) (hereinafter referred to as the Finance Act), the Central Government, on being satisfied that it is necessary in the public interest so to do, hereby exempts air transport of passengers referred to in sub-clause (zzzo) of clause (105) section 65 of the Finance Act, in respect of persons specified below, from the whole of the service tax leviable thereon under section 66 of the Finance Act,-

- (i) a person who has arrived at a customs airport from a place outside India and is in transit through India, provided that he does not pass through immigration and does not leave customs area and continues his journey to a place outside India; and
- (ii) a person employed or engaged by the aircraft operator in any capacity on board the aircraft;

2. This notification shall come into force on 1st day of July 2010.

(K.S.V.V.Prasad)

Under Secretary to the Government of India

Editor: Tarun Dewan

XSPORTS is the newsletter of the Sports Goods Export Promotion Council

1-E / 6, Swami Ram Tirth Nagar, New Delhi -55; Tel: (+91) 11 23525695, 23516183; Fax: (+91) 11 23632147

E-mail: mail@sgepc.in ; Website: www.sportsgoodsindia.org

Editorial Support, Design and Production by Establishments Promotion Bureau

B-14, Aditi Apartments, 16-A I.P. Extension, Delhi - 92

Tel: 22246094, 64631211; Telefax: 22733605; E-mail: mail@epbureau.com