



Export Curbs on Paracetamol Formulations Removed

Why in News

The Centre has **permitted the export of formulations (medicinal products) made from Paracetamol**. However, the **restriction on export of Paracetamol Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (APIs)** will continue.

- The **API** is the part of any drug that **produces the intended effects**.

Key Points

- Paracetamol and its formulations were among the 13 APIs and their formulations that figured in the March 3, 2020 notification by the **Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT)**.
- The formulations made from Paracetamol, including FDC (Fixed Dose Combinations), under any **ITCHS code** have been made free for export with immediate effect.
 - **FDC**: Two or more drugs contained in a single dosage form, such as a capsule or tablet.
 - An **example** of a FDC HIV drug is Atripla (a combination of efavirenz, emtricitabine, and tenofovir disoproxil fumarate). By reducing the number of pills a person must take each day, fixed-dose combination drugs can help improve adherence to an HIV treatment regimen.
 - **ITCHS codes** are better known as Indian Trade Clarification (ITC) and are based on the Harmonized System (HS) of Coding.
 - These were adopted in India for import-export operations.
 - Indian custom uses an eight digit ITC (HS) code to suit the national trade requirements.
- The decision allowing export of formulations made from Paracetamol has come after permitting shipment of **antimalarial drug Hydroxychloroquine (HCO)** to the United States (US) and several other countries.
- The **Pharmaceutical Export Promotion Council (Pharmexcil)** of India wanted the Centre to resume export of Paracetamol APIs too.
 - The Pharmaexcil was established in 2004 by the **Ministry of Commerce and Industry**, Government of India, to promote pharma exports.

Paracetamol

- Paracetamol is a **common fever medication globally**.
- Paracetamol is the most sought after and widely used drug ever since the **Covid-19 outbreak**.
- According to sources, **India is among the leading manufacturers of Paracetamol globally**.
 - The production capacity is estimated to be **5,000 tonnes a month**.
- From an export perspective, it is a low value, high volume product.

Directorate General of Foreign Trade

- DGFT is the main governing body in matters related to **Exim (Export-Import) Policy**.
- It is an attached office of the **Ministry of Commerce and Industry**
- The main objective of it under the **Foreign Trade (Development and Regulation) Act, 1992** is to **provide the development and regulation of foreign trade by facilitating imports into, and** augmenting exports from India.
 - Foreign Trade Act has replaced the earlier law known as the **Imports and Exports (Control) Act 1947**.

Source: TH

PDF Refernece URL: <https://www.drishtias.com/printpdf/export-curbs-on-paracetamol-formulations-removed>