

Customs E Cash Ledger wef 01.06.2022

The Central Government has issued Notification S.O. 1511(E) [F. No. 442/02/2017-Cus IV (Pt)] dated March 30, 2022, specifying that the provisions of 'Chapter VIIA – Payment through electronic cash ledger' shall be effective June 1, 2022. As a corollary, the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs ('CBIC') has notified the Customs (Electronic Cash Ledger) Regulations, 2022 ('the Regulations') which shall also be effective from June 1, 2022. The gist of the Regulations is summarised:

1. Manner of maintaining the e-cash ledger

- The e-cash ledger would be maintained in Form ECL-1 on the common portal with respect to every deposit made towards duty, interest, penalty, fee or any other payment under the Customs law and regulations.
- The deposit made in the e-cash ledger would not accrue any interest.
- The unique identification number shall be generated on the common portal when a debit or credit is made to the e-cash ledger and the same shall be indicated in the relevant Customs declaration.
- Any deposit into the e-cash ledger shall be made by generating a deposit challan in Form ECL-2 which shall be valid for 15 days on the common portal.
- The amount may be deposited through any of the following modes in the e-cash ledger
 - a. Internet banking through an authorised bank
 - b. NEFT or RTGS
 - c. Over the counter payment through an authorised bank.
- Over the counter payment, cannot exceed Rs. 10,000 per day. However, such limit shall not apply to deposits made by the Government Department or where the Jurisdictional Commissioner of Customs authorises a higher amount to be deposited.

- In case the deposit is being made through NEFT/ RTGS or over the counter payment, a mandate form along with the deposit challan shall be generated on the common portal which would be required to be submitted to the bank.
- On successful credit of the amount, a Challan Identification Number would be generated by the collecting bank and the same would be indicated on the deposit challan.

2. Manner of making payment from the e-cash ledger.

- A person may use the amount available in the e-cash ledger for making payment towards duty, interest, penalty, fee, or any other sum payable through payment challan in Form ECL-3 generated:
 - a. By the customs automated system in accordance with the provisions of the Customs law.
 - b. By the person on the basis of his own ascertainment of duty or sum payable.
- The amount shown in the payment challan would be automatically debited from the e-cash ledger in the following cases:
 - a. The consent for auto-debit is provided by the person in the customs declaration.
 - b. The amount available in the e-cash ledger is sufficient for payment of the entire amount of the payment challan.
- The successful debit of the amount shall be visible on the e-cash ledger and the credit shall be shown in the electronic duty payment ledger maintained in Form ECL-4.

3. Refund

- The balance amount remaining in the e-cash ledger, after the payment of various liabilities, may be applied for refund on the common portal in Form ECL-5.

- The amount applied for refund from the balance shall no longer be available for use by the person and its refund shall be decided within 30 days from the date of application on the common portal and the amount to be refunded shall thereafter be credited to the bank account of the person registered with customs automated system.