

Freight Rebate Scheme

GUIDELINES

August 2021 (Revised 17 Nov 21)

FREIGHT REBATE SCHEME

1. Introduction

The Freight Rebate Scheme is funded by the Ministry of Finance, Economic Planning and Development and is implemented and managed by the Economic Development Board (EDB) Mauritius.

These Guidelines are issued under section 5(2)(ca) of the Economic Development Board Act 2017 (EDB Act).

These Guidelines set out the terms and conditions governing the Freight Rebate. The Freight Rebate may be terminated or amended, at any time, without prior notice. The EDB or Government of Mauritius will not bear any liability where this has been so terminated or amended.

2. Objective

To increase competitiveness and catalyze exports on the Indian Ocean and African regions vis-à-vis exports from Asia which will lead to the establishment of a commercial feeder shipping facility on Africa offering lower costs and reduce transit time for exporters with the increase in the volume of containers to African regions.

3. The Rebate

3.1 Eligible Applicants will benefit from the rebate set out below:

- (a) 25% of Ocean Freight Cost per 20-foot container up to the maximum of USD 300
- (b) 25% of Ocean Freight Cost per 40-foot container up to the maximum of USD 600
- (c) 25% of Ocean Freight Cost for Less Container Load (LCL/Groupage)

3.2 The Ocean Freight Cost referred to in clause 3.1 above:

- (a) includes only:
 - (i) Basic Ocean Freight Cost
 - (ii) BAF (Bunker Adjustment Factor)
 - (iii) Environmental Fuel Fee/Low Sulphur Surcharge IMO 2020
 - (iv) Liner out Charges, and
- (b) does not include charges relating to Handling, Documentation, Stevedoring, and other associated Charges.

3.3 The amount of rebate allowed will be capped at Rs 5 million yearly per Applicant.

4 Eligibility Requirements

4.1 The Applicant should

- (a) hold an Export Development Certificate* or a Freeport Certificate for Freeport Operators
- (b) enrol for the Scheme
- (c) be an Eligible Beneficiary

4.2 The export should be

- (a) that of an Eligible Product, and
- (b) made:
 - (i) to an Eligible Port in the Eligible Country, or
 - (ii) through an Eligible Port to a Landlocked Country.

5 Eligible Beneficiaries

Eligible Beneficiaries mean exporters of Eligible Products -

- (a) having an annual turnover of less than Rs1 Billion. For companies forming part of a Group, the eligibility criteria will be determined by consideration of the annual turnover of the Group which should not exceed Rs1 Billion. (The criteria as to turnover is effective as from 1st July 2021); and
- (b) include trading entities i.e., those entities that buy the Eligible Products for the purposes of exporting them; but
- (c) do not include freight forwarding companies and entities involved solely in shipment of the Eligible Products.

6 Eligible Products

6.1 Subject to clauses 6.2 and 6.3 below, Eligible Products are those goods that are exported:

- (a) under a certificate of origin certifying that the goods originate from Mauritius; or
- (b) after having been manufactured or processed from imported materials as long as there is a value addition of more than 20% of the ex-works (excluding profit) of the finished goods.

6.2 Products falling under clause 6.1(b) above which have undergone 'minimal processes' would not qualify as an Eligible Product.

6.3 Minimal Processes referred to in clause 6.2 shall include, but shall not be limited to-

- (a) Operations to ensure the preservation of products in good condition during transport and storage.
- (b) Simple operations where neither special skills nor machines, apparatuses or tools especially produced or installed for those operations are required for their performance.
- (c) Operations to remove dust, sifting or screening, sorting, classifying, matching, washing, painting, and cutting up.
- (d) Changes of packing and breaking up and assembly of consignment; simple bottling and packing operations.
- (e) Affixing of marks and labels.
- (f) Slaughter of animals; and
- (g) A combination of two or more operations specified above.

7 Eligible Countries and Ports

The Countries and Ports set out in **Annex 1** shall qualify as Eligible Countries and Ports.

8 Eligible Landlocked Countries

The Countries set out in **Annex 2** shall qualify as eligible Landlocked Countries to the extent that the export is made through an Eligible Port as set out in **Annex 1**.

9 The Application Process

9.1 An Applicant may apply for a rebate only as from the date he:

- (a) holds an Export Development Certificate or a Freeport Certificate, and
- (b) enrolls for the Scheme.

No claim prior to that date shall be entertained save if he was previously registered with the EDB under the Freight Rebate Scheme.

9.2 Export Development Certificate

(a) The procedure for obtaining an Export Development Certificate is set out in the Export Development Certificate Guidelines issued by the EDB. Freeport Operators need not apply for an Export Development Certificate but should submit the Freeport Certificate.

Click here for online application and to read the Guidelines

<https://business-support-portal.edbmauritius.org/export-development-certificate/>

(b) Holding an Export Development Certificate or a Freeport Certificate from the EDB does not in any way guarantee that the Applicant is eligible for any rebate. The eligibility for the rebate will be determined during the enrolment/claim process.

9.3 Enrolment Process

(a) An Applicant wishing to benefit from the Scheme must enrol with the EDB. This is a one-off procedure. Click here to download the **Enrolment Form**.

(b) The Applicant must submit the Enrolment Form and a copy of the Export Development Certificate to the EDB.

(c) The EDB will process the application and inform the Applicant whether his application to be enrolled with the EDB has been approved or not.

(d) Enrolment with the EDB does not in any way guarantee that the Applicant is eligible for refund.

(e) Claims for refund submitted by operators that have not enrolled with the EDB under this Scheme will not be entertained.

10. Claim Process

10.1 The Applicant must submit the prescribed Claim Form together with a copy of the following supporting documents:

- (a) Bill of Lading
- (b) Commercial Invoice
- (c) MRA Custom Declaration Form (Bill of Entry)
- (d) Certified true copy of Invoice (Cost's breakdown) from Freight Forwarding Agent
- (e) Receipt of Payment from Freight Forwarding Agent
- (f) Certificate of Origin (EUR1, IOC, COMESA, SADC, MCCI)
- (g) Written statement on process of manufacture and % of value addition certified by a registered accountant (for those goods falling under clause 6.1(b)).
- (h) Written statement from Exporter on source of goods exported and relevant supporting documentary evidence. This applies to non-manufacturing exporters.

10.2 The above documents should be submitted to the
Economic Development Board (EDB) Mauritius
10th Floor, One Cathedral Square Building
16, Jules Koenig Street, Port Louis 11328.

10.3 All Claims should be submitted within nine months from the date of shipment.

10.4 The EDB shall examine the claims and reserves the right to request for such additional documents as may be required.

10.5 The claim will be rejected:

- (a) If the Claim does not meet the criteria as set out above and as determined by the EDB; or
- (b) in case of any missing or incomplete documentation or information.

11. Shipping Time

- 1) As time to destination is a critical element in the success of the Scheme, the maximum shipping time from Port-to-Port destinations will vary as per approved schedule as set out Annex 3.
- 2) Claims may be rejected where an acceptable justification is not provided as to any delays in shipping times.

The maximum "Shipping Time" allowed will be temporarily not applicable up to end June 2022 in the wake of COVID-19.

12. False or Misleading Declaration

- (a) It is an offence under section 39 (2) of the Economic Development Board Act, for a person to give information, particulars or documents or to make any statement which is false or misleading in any material particular. On conviction, an offender shall be liable to a fine not exceeding 500,000 rupees and to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 5 years.
- (b) Notwithstanding any other action that the EDB may choose to take, in case of a false or misleading declaration:
 - i. The applicant will not be eligible for any future rebate under any Scheme administered by the EDB, and
 - ii. The applicant shall be liable to refund any amount obtained under the Scheme.

For any additional details you may contact Mr [Pravin Soburrun](#) on 2033825 or Mrs [Reshma Napaul](#) on 2032446.

Disclaimer

These guidelines may be subject to changes at any time. Any other information or document not listed above may be requested depending on the application.

Whilst care has been taken to ensure that the information provided herein is accurate and correct at the time of publication, users of this publication are advised to seek guidance from the Economic Development Board in case of uncertainty or ambiguity encountered in reading this manual. The Economic Development Board shall, in no circumstances whatsoever, be held liable to any person arising from use of information contained herein.