

**F.No.- DIC/POL/DIR/1/2020-POL-O/o Pr COMMR-DIC-DELHI**

Government of India  
Ministry of Finance  
Department of Revenue  
Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs  
Directorate of International Customs

New Delhi, May 24, 2021

To,

All Principal Chief Commissioner/Chief Commissioner of Customs/ Central Tax,  
All Principal Director General/ Director General of Directorate General,  
All Principal Commissioner/ Commissioner of Customs/ Central Tax,  
All Principal ADG/ ADG of Directorates

Madam/Sir,

**Subject: - Extension of validity of AEO certification for ease of renewal process- reg.**

1. Reference is drawn to Para 5.1 Circular No. 33/2016-Customs dated 22.07.2016 amended vide Para viii of Circular No. 03/2018-Customs dated 17.01.2018, which relates to "Validity of AEO Certificate" and reads as—

*"The validity of AEO certificate shall be three years for AEO-T1 and AEO-T-2, and five years for AEO-T3 and AEO-LO".*

2. Representations have been received by the field formations regarding the difficulties being faced by the AEO entities in renewing their existing certification owing to various degrees of restrictions/lockdown in different parts of the country due to COVID pandemic.

3. Accordingly, the Board has decided to extend the validity of all the AEO Certificates expired/expiring between 01.04.2021 and 31.05.2021 to 30.06.2021, except for the cases where the entity has been found ineligible for continuation under the AEO Programme.

4. Wide publicity may be given to this Circular by way of issuance of Trade/Public Notice. Difficulties, if any, in the implementation of this Circular may be brought to the notice of this office.

Yours faithfully,

Sd.  
(Manish Kumar)  
Joint Commissioner (DIC)