

BDMAI/CDSCO/2026

3rd July 2026

Dr. Rajeev Singh Raghuvanshi
Drugs Controller General (India)
O/o Central Drugs Standards Control Organization
New Delhi

Dear Sir,

Sub: Request for Inclusion of ICD Sanath Nagar (INSNF6) and ICD Thimmapur (INTMX6) for Import/Export of Drugs under Rule 43A of the Drugs & Cosmetics Rules, 1945, or Issuance of Suitable Clarification

Greetings from BDMAI!

On behalf of the Bulk Drug Manufacturers Association of India (BDMAI), we convey our sincere appreciation for the continued support extended by your office in addressing the issues faced by the pharmaceutical industry from time to time.

We wish to bring to your kind notice an issue that is causing serious hardship to several of our member industries engaged in the import and export of drugs and pharmaceuticals.

Some of our members have informed us that they are encountering difficulties in processing import and export consignments through **ICD Sanath Nagar (INSNF6)** and **ICD Thimmapur (INTMX6)**. Both these Inland Container Depots are duly notified and operated under the supervision of the Customs Department, and the pharmaceutical industry has been utilizing these facilities for several decades for Customs clearance and logistics, while complying with all applicable requirements under the Customs as well as the Drugs & Cosmetics laws.

However, it is now being informed that Customs authorities are not permitting import or export of drugs through these ICDs on the ground that they are not included among the ports specified under Rule 43A of the Drugs & Cosmetics Rules, 1945, and consequently are not mapped in the ICEGATE system for pharmaceutical consignments.

The industry respectfully submits that such an interpretation may not be in consonance with the intent and purpose of Rule 43A. An Inland Container Depot is essentially an extended Customs clearance station and logistics facility. It does not constitute the actual international point of entry into, or exit from, India. The actual import or export takes place through the notified seaports or airports specified under Rule 43A, while the ICD merely facilitates Customs examination, clearance, documentation and movement of cargo under Customs control.

Accordingly, permitting pharmaceutical consignments to be cleared through these ICDs, where the corresponding international port of import or export is already a notified port under Rule 43A, would not dilute the regulatory safeguards envisaged under the Rules.

The present restriction has resulted in severe disruption of import and export logistics, increased transportation costs, avoidable delays in Customs clearance, and operational difficulties for pharmaceutical manufacturers. Apart from adversely affecting business operations, such disruptions may also impact timely supplies of essential pharmaceutical products.

In view of the above, we earnestly request your good office to kindly examine the matter and take appropriate steps by either:

1. Including **ICD Sanath Nagar (INSNF6)** and **ICD Thimmapur (INTMX6)** among the locations permitted for import and export of drugs and pharmaceuticals under Rule 43A of the Drugs & Cosmetics Rules, 1945; or
2. Issuing a suitable clarification to the Customs authorities that the use of duly notified Inland Container Depots may be permitted for import and export of drugs and pharmaceuticals, provided the actual international port of entry or exit is one of the ports notified under Rule 43A.

Such a clarification would remove the present ambiguity, facilitate legitimate trade, and enable seamless movement of pharmaceutical consignments without compromising regulatory oversight.

We shall be grateful for your kind consideration and early intervention in the matter.

Thanking you,

Yours sincerely,


M Roja Rani
Executive Director

