

**B-Ready FAQs**  
**Topic: International Trade- Services**

**A. Maritime Freight**

<b>B-Ready assessment area</b>	<b>Relevant Provisions/Links</b>	<b>Link</b>
Publication on an official website of all procedures, fees, and forms required to register a vessel in the national ship registry	<a href="https://www.dgshipping.gov.in/Content/Registrationofships.aspx">https://www.dgshipping.gov.in/Content/Registrationofships.aspx</a>	-
Electronic submission of applications possible for registration in the national ship registry	<a href="http://220.156.189.33/esamudraUI/well.do?method=loadPage">http://220.156.189.33/esamudraUI/well.do?method=loadPage</a>	-
Permission for foreign vessels to be registered in the national ship registry without nationality or local residence requirements	Section 15(2) and 16, Merchant Shipping Act, 2025	<a href="https://www.dgshipping.gov.in/WriteReadData/userfiles/file/MS%20rule%20original%20copy.pdf">https://www.dgshipping.gov.in/WriteReadData/userfiles/file/MS%20rule%20original%20copy.pdf</a>
Requirement for the disclosure of ultimate beneficial owners of vessels registered in the national ship registry	Section 41 and 20 (4), Merchant Shipping Act, 2025	
Permission for foreign-flagged vessels to carry domestic cargo between domestic ports (cabotage)	Section 3 (1), Coastal Shipping act, 2025	<a href="https://egazette.gov.in/WriteReadData/2025/265334.pdf">https://egazette.gov.in/WriteReadData/2025/265334.pdf</a>
Prohibition of pricing agreements between liner carriers under rules on anticompetitive practices	Section 3 (3), Competition Act, 2002	<a href="https://www.cci.gov.in/images/legalframeworkact/en/the-competition-act-20021652103427.pdf">https://www.cci.gov.in/images/legalframeworkact/en/the-competition-act-20021652103427.pdf</a>
Requirement for port charges to be applied uniformly and without discrimination based on vessel flag or voyage origin/destination	Section 27 (1), Major Port Authorities Act, 2021; Para 2.5.1, Tariff Guidelines, 2021	<a href="https://www.indiacode.nic.in/show-data?abv=CEN&amp;statehandle=123456789/1362&amp;actid=AC_CEN_198_0_00001_2021_01_1636538981512&amp;sectionId=58673&amp;sectionno=27&amp;orderno=27&amp;orgactid=AC_CEN_198_0_00001_202101_1636538981512">https://www.indiacode.nic.in/show-data?abv=CEN&amp;statehandle=123456789/1362&amp;actid=AC_CEN_198_0_00001_2021_01_1636538981512&amp;sectionId=58673&amp;sectionno=27&amp;orderno=27&amp;orgactid=AC_CEN_198_0_00001_202101_1636538981512</a>

B-Ready assessment area	Relevant Provisions/Links	Link
Absence of cargo reservations for specific cargo types based on vessel flag	Section 3, Coastal Shipping Act, 2025 Yes, subject to restriction for first right to Indian vessels.	-
Permission for foreign firms to provide port and ancillary services	Para 1-23, Directorate General of Shipping (DGS) Circular 02 of 2021 on Guidelines for exercise of ROFR dated 14th January, 2021 Yes, subject to restriction for first right to Indian vessels.	-
Permission for foreign maritime crew members to enter without a visa and remain for at least 48 hours	Chapter I, Immigration and Foreigners Order, 2025	
Presumption of carrier liability for cargo loss or damage during maritime transport, subject only to listed statutory defenses	Article III, Carriage of Goods by Sea Act (COGSA), 2025	
Requirement for vessels in the national ship registry and vessels sailing into national waters to use fuel with low sulfur content or an approved equivalent method, in line with the IMO 2020 rule	Annex VI, MARPOL Convention, 2006 ; Para 1-6, Directorate General of Shipping (DGS) Engineering Circular 02 of 2019 regarding Compliance with the provisions of MARPOL Annex VI, dated 28th August, 2019	<a href="https://www.marpoltraininginstitute.com/MMSKOREAN/MARPOL/Annex_VI/index.htm">https://www.marpoltraininginstitute.com/MMSKOREAN/MARPOL/Annex_VI/index.htm</a> <a href="https://www.dgshipping.gov.in/writereaddata/ShippingNotices/201908280416058978387Eng_Cir_02of2019.pdf">https://www.dgshipping.gov.in/writereaddata/ShippingNotices/201908280416058978387Eng_Cir_02of2019.pdf</a>

## B. Air Freight

B-Ready assessment area	Relevant Provisions/Links	Link
Publication on an official website of all procedures, fees, and forms required to obtain or renew an air service license covering cargo	<a href="https://www.dgca.gov.in/digigov-portal/?baseLocale=en_US?page=jsp/dgca/InventoryList/RegulationGuidance/ManualsProcedures/CAP3100AOCManual.pdf&amp;mainundefined">https://www.dgca.gov.in/digigov-portal/?baseLocale=en_US?page=jsp/dgca/InventoryList/RegulationGuidance/ManualsProcedures/CAP3100AOCManual.pdf&amp;mainundefined</a> In addition to the requirements and guidance which is available on DGCA website, there is online platform called eGCA for submission of application, payment of fees processing the application, issuance/renewal of Air Operator Certificate (AOC), and any managing subsequent changes in the AOC.	-
Electronic submission of applications possible to obtain or renew	The complete process for issuance/renewal of AOC is managed electronically through eGCA platform. The applicant is required to register on eGCA portal for the purpose and all the relevant services for regulatory approvals are available on the portal.	<a href="https://www.dgca.gov.in/digigov-portal/jsp/dgca/common/login.jsp">https://www.dgca.gov.in/digigov-portal/jsp/dgca/common/login.jsp</a>

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an air service license covering cargo		
Permission for foreign firms to obtain an air service license covering cargo without nationality or local residence requirements	Rule 134 (1A), Aircraft Rules, 1937 Yes, foreign airlines are permitted to operate to and from India when duly designated under applicable Bilateral Aviation Safety Agreement (BASA).	
Air Service Agreement with a Main Trading Partner including Open Skies Provisions for Cargo Transport	India has Open Sky Agreements for Cargo operations with all the three nations namely United States, China, and United Arab Emirates. India has Open Skies Agreements for cargo operations with the United States, China, and the United Arab Emirates under the relevant bilateral provisions in its Bilateral Air Services Agreements with these countries. Further, in India, tariff filing by foreign airlines has been done away with irrespective of ASA provisions. The designated airlines are free to establish fares based upon their commercial considerations in the market place at reasonable levels, due regard being paid to all relevant factors, including the cost of operation and reasonable profit.	
Permission for foreign firms to carry cargo between two domestic airports	Series 'F' Part I Issue II of Section 3 – Air Transport Series, Civil Aviation Requirement (CAR), 2026	
Prohibition of pricing agreements between airlines under rules on anticompetitive practices	Section 3, Competition Act, 2002.	<a href="https://www.cci.gov.in/images/legalframeworkact/en/the-competition-act-20021652103427.pdf">https://www.cci.gov.in/images/legalframeworkact/en/the-competition-act-20021652103427.pdf</a>
Requirement for airlines to forfeit airport slots if they fail to use them at least a specified percentage of the time	Section II (5), Slot Allocation Guidelines, 2013 The Slot Allocation Guidelines, 2013 issued by the MoCA lays down the procedure for allocation of airport slots at coordinated airports in India. The guidelines ensure fair, transparent, and efficient distribution of slots, give priority to airlines with historic rights and provide opportunities for new entrants through the slot pool, under the supervision of the Slot Allocation Committee.	<a href="https://www.civilaviation.gov.in/sites/default/files/migration/moca_003128_0.pdf">https://www.civilaviation.gov.in/sites/default/files/migration/moca_003128_0.pdf</a>
Permission for foreign firms to provide airport ground handling services	Para 3 (6), Airports Authority of India (Ground Handling Services) Regulations, 2018; Para 2.6, DGCA AIC 06 regarding Grant of Permission for providing ground handling services at Airports, 2025 As per para 3(6) of Airports Authority of India (Ground Handling Services) Regulations, 2018 and para 2.6 of	<a href="https://www.aai.aero/en/system/files/resources/AAI%20GHR%2C%202018%20published.pdf">https://www.aai.aero/en/system/files/resources/AAI%20GHR%2C%202018%20published.pdf</a> ; <a href="https://www.dgca.gov.in/digig">https://www.dgca.gov.in/digig</a>

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	DGCA AIC 06 of 2025, "A ground handling agency. with foreign ownership of fifty percent or more of its paid-up capital shall not be allowed to undertake ground handling activities at the civil enclave". For other Airports there are no such constraints. As related to Cargo Management "At present no barrier is there for Foreign firms pertaining to cargo management at airports in the country under the applicable legal frameworks."	ov-portal/?baseLocale=en_US?dynamicPage=dynamicPdf/11ApGV0TUiN9dlQYEgWEpA%3D%3D&mainaeronauticalInformationCirculars/119/0/viewDynamicRulesReq
Incorporation of ICAO Carbon Offsetting and Reduction Scheme for International Aviation standards and recommended practices into the domestic legal framework	Section 10 of Series C of Part I, Civil Aviation Requirements, 2024 This CAR stipulates the general requirements, procedures and practices to be adhered to by all stakeholders/organizations that are engaged in international operations which directly or indirectly impact climate change. The objective of this CAR is to manage the adverse impact of aviation activities on the atmosphere leading to sustainable growth of the industry by offsetting the carbon emissions generated due to international operations of their flights. With the objective of compliance with the above-mentioned rules, CAR, Section-10, Series-C, Part-I has been developed based on the International Standards and Recommended Practices (SARPs) contained in ICAO Annex-16, Volume-IV Edition-02.	<a href="https://www.dgca.gov.in/digigov-portal/?baseLocale=en_US?dynamicPage=CivilAviationReqContent/6/331/viewDynamicRuleContLvl2/html&amp;mainnull">https://www.dgca.gov.in/digigov-portal/?baseLocale=en_US?dynamicPage=CivilAviationReqContent/6/331/viewDynamicRuleContLvl2/html&amp;mainnull</a>

### C. Road Freight

B-Ready assessment area	Relevant Provisions/Links	Link
Publication on an official website of all procedures, fees, and forms required to obtain a license or registration to operate as a road freight operator	<a href="https://morth.nic.in/">https://morth.nic.in/</a>	-
Electronic submission of applications possible to obtain a road freight operator license or registration	<a href="https://parivahan.gov.in/en">https://parivahan.gov.in/en</a>	-
Absence of establishment or operating conditions applied to foreign road freight firms that are not equally applied to domestic firms	There are no additional statutory restrictions on licensing and/or authorization requirements applicable to road freight.	-
Absence of quantitative restrictions on foreign road freight firms	There are no economic needs tests, cap on number or share of firms/vehicles for	-

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	Foreign firms that do not apply to domestic firms.	
Prohibition of pricing agreements between road freight operators under rules on anticompetitive practices	Section 3, Competition Act, 2002. As per MoRTH, THE CENTRAL MOTOR VEHICLES RULES, 1989 Act which governs road freight service subsector does not mention any price floors and/ or pricing guidelines	<a href="https://morth.nic.in/central-motor-vehicles-rules-1989-1">https://morth.nic.in/central-motor-vehicles-rules-1989-1</a>
Establishment of a statutory daily driving time limit of no more than 9 hours for truck drivers	Section 13, the Motor Transport Workers Act, 1961	<a href="https://www.indiacode.nic.in/bitstream/123456789/19026/1/motor_transport_workers_act_1961.pdf">https://www.indiacode.nic.in/bitstream/123456789/19026/1/motor_transport_workers_act_1961.pdf</a>
Establishment of mandatory fuel-economy or carbon dioxide emission standards for heavy-duty vehicles	Para 1, MoP Notification S.O. 3215 (E) regarding Fuel Economy Norms for Heavy Duty Vehicles dated 21st September, 2020	<a href="https://beeindia.gov.in/fuel-efficiency.php">https://beeindia.gov.in/fuel-efficiency.php</a>

#### **D. Customs Brokerage**

<b>B-Ready assessment area</b>	<b>Relevant Provisions/Links</b>	<b>Link</b>
Publication on an official website of all procedures, fees, and forms required to obtain a customs broker or agent license, registration, or certification	The licensing criteria for Customs Brokers outlined under CBLR, 2018 are made public through official Gazette Notification(s), which is published online.	<a href="https://www.cbic.gov.in/">https://www.cbic.gov.in/</a>
Electronic submission of applications possible to obtain a customs broker/agent license, registration, or certification	The entire process of CB examination—including inviting applications, conducting examination, declaring result and issuing licenses/passes—is carried out online through a dedicated Portal, known as Customs Brokers Licensing Management System (CBLMS).	<a href="https://cblms.gov.in/">https://cblms.gov.in/</a>
Absence of mandatory requirements to lodge customs declarations exclusively through a customs broker or agent	Regulation 10, CBLR, 2018. No. It is not a mandatory requirement to lodge Customs declarations through a Customs Broker. An importer/ exporter or their firms or companies may authorize a Customs Broker on the need basis. Such	

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	authorization is obtained by a CB under Regulation 10 of CBLR, 2018.	
Prohibition of pricing guidelines for customs brokerage services under rules on anticompetitive practices	Regulation 20, CBLR, 2018	-
Customs broker/agent required to complete training and certification aligned with international standards to process transactions involving hazardous materials	Regulations 5(1) (h) and 6 (7), CBLR, 2018	

### E. Logistics

B-Ready assessment area	Relevant Provisions/Links	Link
Publication on an official website of all procedures, fees, and forms required to obtain a license or registration to operate customs-approved storage and warehousing facilities	<a href="https://www.icegate.gov.in/services">https://www.icegate.gov.in/services</a>	-
Electronic submission of applications possible to obtain a license to operate customs-approved storage and warehousing facilities	Yes. Vide Circular No. 19/2024-Customs dated 30.09.2024, a Warehouse Module has been introduced on ICEGATE enabling online filing of application for obtaining a Warehouse Licence, along with submission of accompanying documents. The process has been automated and applications are filed electronically through the ICEGATE portal.	<a href="https://www.icegate.gov.in">https://www.icegate.gov.in</a>
Simplified declaration for express shipments	Regulation 5(3) and 6(3), Courier Import and Export (Electronic Declaration and Processing) Regulations, 2010. For Express shipments, different shipping/bill of entry forms are made available under the Courier Import and Export (Electronic Declaration and Processing) Regulations	<a href="https://courier.cbic.gov.in/COURIER-IMPORTS-AND-EXPORTS.pdf">https://courier.cbic.gov.in/COURIER-IMPORTS-AND-EXPORTS.pdf</a>

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	<p>2010 for processing the shipments. Importers/Exporters are required to fill only minimum information required to process the shipments and the same can be done electronically. The Forms under Courier Regulations are simplified and less detailed as compared to general EXIM.</p>	
<p>Training and certification requirement for Cargo handlers to handle hazardous materials</p>	<p>Para 7 of Annexure A, Circular No. 04/2011 dated 10th January, 2011</p>	<p><a href="https://taxinformation.cbic.gov.in/view-pdf/1000707/ENG/Circulars">https://taxinformation.cbic.gov.in/view-pdf/1000707/ENG/Circulars</a></p> <p>For Handling of Cargo in Customs Areas Regulations (HCCAR), 2009 -  <a href="https://upload.indiacode.nic.in/showfile?actid=AC_CEN_2_2_00042_196252_1534829466423&amp;type=regulation&amp;filename=Handling%20of%20Cargo%20in%20Customs%20Areas%20Regulations,%202009.pdf">https://upload.indiacode.nic.in/showfile?actid=AC_CEN_2_2_00042_196252_1534829466423&amp;type=regulation&amp;filename=Handling%20of%20Cargo%20in%20Customs%20Areas%20Regulations,%202009.pdf</a>.  For Circular No. 40/2016-Cus dated 26-08-2016:  <a href="https://taxinformation.cbic.gov.in/view-pdf/1000480/ENG/Circulars">https://taxinformation.cbic.gov.in/view-pdf/1000480/ENG/Circulars</a>  For Circular No. 44/2020-Cus dated 08-10-2020:  <a href="https://taxinformation.cbic.gov.in/view-pdf/1000256/ENG/Circulars">https://taxinformation.cbic.gov.in/view-pdf/1000256/ENG/Circulars</a></p> <p>For Hazardous Waste Rules, 2008:  <a href="https://thc.nic.in/Central%20Governmental%20Rules/Hazardous%20Waste%20(%20Management,%20Handling%20and%20Transboundary%20Movement)%20Rules,%202008.pdf">https://thc.nic.in/Central%20Governmental%20Rules/Hazardous%20Waste%20(%20Management,%20Handling%20and%20Transboundary%20Movement)%20Rules,%202008.pdf</a>  For Import of Hazardous Chemical Rules, 1989:  <a href="https://moef.gov.in/uploads/pdf-uploads/pdf_68400de7d331b2.34904030.pdf">https://moef.gov.in/uploads/pdf-uploads/pdf_68400de7d331b2.34904030.pdf</a></p>

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Requirement for storage and warehousing facilities to comply with fire-safety guidelines aligned with international standards	Part 4- Fire And Life Safety, National Building Code Of India, 2016	<a href="https://dgfscdhg.gov.in/national-building-code-india-fire-and-life-safety">https://dgfscdhg.gov.in/national-building-code-india-fire-and-life-safety</a>
Recognition of electronic bills of lading as having the same legal validity as paper bills of lading	Section 315 (1), Merchant Shipping Act, 2025	<a href="https://www.dgshipping.gov.in/WriteReadData/userfiles/file/MS%20rule%20original%20copy.pdf">https://www.dgshipping.gov.in/WriteReadData/userfiles/file/MS%20rule%20original%20copy.pdf</a>
Acceptance in practice of electronic bills of lading for the transfer of rights and obligations under contracts of carriage	Section 315 (1), Merchant Shipping Act, 2025	<a href="https://www.dgshipping.gov.in/WriteReadData/userfiles/file/MS%20rule%20original%20copy.pdf">https://www.dgshipping.gov.in/WriteReadData/userfiles/file/MS%20rule%20original%20copy.pdf</a>