

Recent DGFT Notifications on Gold Alloy Imports: Key Changes and Implications

India's Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) has recently issued a series of notifications aimed at tightening controls over the import of precious metal alloys, particularly those containing gold. These policy revisions are a response to efforts to curb misuse of Free Trade Agreement (FTA) provisions and prevent disguised imports of gold under other HS codes.

This article summarizes the key notifications, their implications for importers, and the broader trade policy context.

1. Notification No. 08/2025 - Alignment with Customs Tariff Changes

Date Issued: May 19, 2025

Title: Precious Metals Import Policy Update

This notification updates Chapter 71 of the ITC HS 2022 Import Policy to align with customs duty changes announced in India's Union Budget 2025. The objective is to eliminate loopholes in the FTA system, particularly those exploited via imports of platinum alloys containing gold, which were being used as a channel to avoid higher gold duties.

By harmonizing DGFT policy with customs tariff modifications, this move ensures stricter control and uniform treatment of precious metal imports.

2. Notification No. 18/2025-26 – Import Restriction on Gold-Containing Alloys

Date Issued: June 17, 2025

Title: Restricted Alloys with Over 1% Gold Content

This significant update imposes a "Restricted" status (requiring prior DGFT authorization) on the import of certain platinum-group metal (PGM) alloys containing more than 1% gold by weight. This change directly targets materials often used to bypass standard gold import controls.

Affected HS Codes:

- Palladium Alloys: 71102100, 71102900
- Rhodium Alloys: 71103100, 71103900
- Iridium, Osmium, Ruthenium Alloys: 71104100, 71104900

Note: Platinum alloys with any gold content were already under restriction via Notification No. 60/2024-25 dated March 5, 2025.

3. Corrigendum to Notification No. 18/2025-26

Date Issued: June 25, 2025

Purpose: Clarification and Expansion

This corrigendum further clarifies that Osmium and Ruthenium alloys with gold content exceeding 1% are included in the restricted category. It ensures that all platinum-group elements are uniformly governed when mixed with gold, strengthening the intent of the original notification.

4. Notification No. 19/2025-26 – Regulation of Colloidal Metal Imports

Date Issued: June 17, 2025

Title: Import Policy for Colloidal Metals and Compounds (CTH 2843)

This notification reclassifies items under Customs Tariff Heading (CTH) 2843 from “Free” to “Restricted” imports. The category includes:

- Colloidal metals
- Gold and silver compounds
- Amalgams

The policy change is designed to prevent misuse of these forms—especially gold compounds—as a channel for smuggling or circumventing import duties.

Summary of Notifications

Notification	Date	Key Policy Update
18/2025-26	June 17, 2025	Import of Pd/Rh/Ir/Os/Ru alloys with >1% gold now restricted
Corrigendum to 18/2025-26	June 25, 2025	Expanded restriction to include Osmium and Ruthenium alloys
19/2025-26	June 17, 2025	Colloidal metals and gold/silver compounds moved to restricted category

Key Implications for Importers

1. Authorization Now Required:

Import of PGM alloys (Palladium, Rhodium, Iridium, Osmium, Ruthenium) with gold content >1% now requires DGFT authorization.

2. Colloidal Metals Reclassified:

Products under CTH 2843, including gold nanoparticle solutions and similar chemical forms, now fall under restricted imports.

3. Threshold Clarification:

Alloys with ≤1% gold remain freely importable provided accurate classification and documentation.

These policy reforms underscore the government’s effort to strengthen monitoring of gold imports, plug revenue leakages, and ensure fair implementation of FTA benefits. Importers dealing in specialty alloys or chemical forms of gold should immediately reassess their documentation and licensing processes to ensure compliance with the revised regulations.

Source: <https://www.dgft.gov.in/CP/?opt=trade-notice>