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September 11, 2020

Shri Deepak Kapoor Additional CEO Government e-Marketplace (GeM)

Subject: Request for Enabling Multi-Countries of Origin (COO) on GeM Portal and Multiple BIS Registration wherever needed

Respected Sir,

Greetings from MAIT!

This bears reference to Press Release released by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry dated June 23, 2020 which has made it mandatory for sellers to enter the Country of Origin (COO) while registering all new products on GeM.

First and foremost, MAIT appreciates and acknowledges the fact that GeM is continuously working towards promotion of 'Make in India' initiative and 'Atmanirbhar Bharat'. The mandating of COO while registering products is a welcome step in this direction and MAIT fully supports GeM for taking this action.

However, we would like to bring to your attention a peculiar situation faced by our industry members. In the Electronics Industry, there are products which are manufactured from multiple countries and so one product, will have multiple country of origin.

Currently, GeM has the option for selecting only one country of origin against one product on its portal. We would also like to mention that in today's interconnected world, manufacturing is spread across countries/continents, and the decision of which factory from which a product is to be sourced from depends on the supply-demand and stock level scenario. In the Electronics industry, it is relatively dynamic in nature.

Due to the above nature of electronic supply chain, our members are not able to upload these products on the GeM portal, as there is the option to select only one country of origin, while the supply batch may have the same product manufactured in multiple countries. Hence, <u>we</u> would request GeM to enable selection of multiple country of origin while uploading the products catalogue.

Further, in the case of **notified products**, where there is an additional requirement on the GeM portal to update the BIS registration, BIS issues a unique BIS Registration number for a product for each factory the product is manufactured at.

Thus, one notified product can have multiple BIS registration numbers. Therefore, we request GEM to provide the facility to upload **multiple BIS Registration numbers against one product.** Note: As each BIS Registration pertains to only one unique manufacturing plant, each BIS Registration will correspond to one COO only. However, one Product can have multiple manufacturing plants, and hence multiple BIS registrations.

We would also like to highlight that due to major disruption in the global supply chain & factories not working with their usual production capacity due to various COVID related issues, the industry is forced to look for alternate sources from different countries to meet the unpredictable consumption pattern of the consumers for certain product categories. In view of this, the same model is being sourced from multiple country of origin to meet this cyclical demand of the market. This has led to having multiple country of origin for one single product.

Till such time the s/w system changes are made on the portal, and as the need of industry is urgent, we request you to provide an interim relief. It can be either in the form of deferring the need to enter the COO, or the option for COO as "Multiple".

Looking forward to your favourable consideration of our request on an urgent basis.

With regards,

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George Paul Chief Executive Officer

CC: Shri Talleen Kumar, CEO, Government e-Marketplace (GeM)