



Confederation of Indian Industry

Trade Remedies and MSMEs: Building Capacity for Fair Trade

Organised by:

**CENTRE FOR TRADE AND INVESTMENT LAW, INDIAN
INSTITUTE OF FOREIGN TRADE**

IN COLLABORATION WITH

**DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF TRADE REMEDIES,
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**

AND

CONFEDERATION OF INDIAN INDUSTRY

VENUE:

GULMOHAR AUDITORIUM

INDIAN HABITAT CENTRE (TBC)



**15TH
JULY**



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Concept Note

The Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) are a vital pillar of India's economy, contributing approximately 30.1% to GDP (2022-23), 36% to manufacturing output (2022-23), and 45% to exports (2023-24). The MSME sector is the second largest employer after agriculture, employing around 26 crore individuals across 7.34 crore enterprises, and plays a crucial role in driving innovation, entrepreneurship, and inclusive growth. The MSME sector contributes meaningfully to community development, bridges the urban-rural divide, and supports resilient supply chains. MSMEs also serve as an important unit complementing large industries and enhancing overall industrial competitiveness.

Despite the significant role of MSMEs in the Indian economy, MSMEs face challenges which often hinder their growth and their contribution to value chains. A less acknowledged, yet critical challenge is their limited ability to leverage trade remedy measures, such as anti-dumping duties, countervailing and safeguard measures. Although India is an active user of trade remedies, MSMEs continue to face significant challenges in filing applications due to technical and data-related challenges. While the Directorate General of Trade Remedies (DGTR) has taken steps like establishing a helpdesk and the Trade Defence Wing, publication of the handbook of procedures, simplification of formats, etc. to assist MSMEs to overcome some of the challenges, various challenges continue to persist.





Objectives

This workshop aims to enhance the technical and data-related knowledge of MSMEs regarding trade remedy investigations and to explore tools to build capacities of MSMEs to capitalize on such knowledge. By providing them with comprehensive insights, the workshop aims to bolster their capacity to file applications for trade remedy investigations and actively participate in these investigations. Through expert-led sessions and interactive discussions, the workshop aims to build a foundational understanding of key instruments such as anti-dumping duties, countervailing duties, and safeguarding measures. It will simplify the procedural and evidentiary requirements of the DGTR while also highlighting the reforms and simplification measures implemented by the DGTR to support MSMEs. Further, the session will address the practical difficulties in initiating or participating in investigations, including data and legal constraints. Additionally, the workshop will provide a platform for MSMEs to engage in constructive dialogue among the industry as well as the investigating authority (DGTR), legal experts, and costing officer(s).

The one-day workshop will consist of three sessions, each covering important aspects of trade remedy investigations, the procedural details, awareness about the regulatory ecosystem and conceptual knowledge.





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TECHNICAL SESSION 1: INTRODUCTION TO TRADE REMEDIES INVESTIGATIONS

This session aims to provide an overview of trade remedy measures, including anti-dumping, countervailing, and safeguard measures. This session aims to cover the substantive legal framework, investigation process, broad evidentiary requirements, while also highlighting recent reforms aimed at streamlining procedures with a view to enhance MSME participation. The session's goal is to raise awareness, build capacity, and empower MSMEs to actively protect their interests.

TECHNICAL SESSION 2: OVERCOMING DATA RELATED CHALLENGES IN TRADE REMEDIES INVESTIGATIONS

This session aims to delve into one of the most critical and complex aspects of trade remedy investigations i.e., data collection and data representation. Accurate, timely, and verifiable data is the backbone of successful anti-dumping, countervailing, or safeguard measures. However, MSMEs often grapple with fragmented record-keeping, limited technical capacity, and at times uncertainty about data formats required by investigating authorities. This session aims to sensitise MSMEs on specific data requirements by the DGTR and explore innovative solutions to challenges, if any. By decoding the data dilemma, this session seeks to equip MSMEs with practical strategies to transform data constraints into strengths, enabling more effective access to trade remedies measures.



OPEN HOUSE DISCUSSION: NAVIGATING THE CHALLENGES OF MSMEs THROUGH DIALOGUE WITH REGULATORY STAKEHOLDERS

This session is aimed to focus on addressing the issues faced by MSMEs by creating a constructive dialogue between MSMEs and investigating authorities, along with the practitioners. This session is intended to provide a platform for MSMEs to raise queries, articulate real-world challenges, and explore possible support mechanisms. Through open and solution-oriented discussion, this session aims to enhance regulatory clarity and identify practical avenues for support that can empower MSMEs in navigating their operational and compliance challenges.

Key Outcomes

01

Enhanced awareness of trade remedies among MSMEs.

02

Improved understanding of data requirements.

03

Actionable feedback for DGTR to further streamline MSME participation

04

Report of inputs received from MSMEs' participation



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About DGTR

The Directorate General of Trade Remedies (earlier known as Directorate General of Anti-dumping and Allied Duties) was named in May 2018 as an integrated single window agency for providing comprehensive and swift trade defence mechanism in India.

Currently, DGTR deals with Anti-dumping, CVD and Safeguard measures. It also provides trade defence support to India's domestic industry and exporters in dealing with increasing instances of trade remedy investigations instituted against them by other countries. DGTR provides a level playing field to the domestic industry against the adverse impact of the unfair trade practices like dumping and actionable subsidies from any exporting country, by using Trade Remedial methods under relevant framework of WTO arrangements, Customs Tariff Act & Rules and other relevant laws and International agreements, in a transparent and time bound manner.

DGTR functions as an attached office of Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce and Industry. It is a professionally integrated organisation with multi-spectrum skill sets emanating from officers drawn from different services and specialisations.





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About CTIL

The Centre for Trade and Investment Law (CTIL) was established in the year 2016 by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India, at the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade (IIFT). The Centre's primary objective is to provide sound and rigorous analysis of legal issues pertaining to international trade and investment law to the Government of India and other governmental agencies. The Centre is aiming to create a dedicated pool of legal experts who could provide technical inputs for enhancing India's participation in international trade and investment negotiations and dispute settlement. The Centre also aims to be a thought leader in the various domains of international economic law such as WTO law, international investment law and legal issues relating to economic integration.

Trade Remedies Advisory Cell

The "Trade Remedies Advisory Cell" (TRAC) is set up at the Centre for Trade and Investment Law (under Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India) with a vision to provide holistic support to the domestic industry in the preparation of applications, collating relevant information or data and providing legal advice for trade remedial investigations before anti-dumping and safeguard authorities of India.





About CII

The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) works to create and sustain an environment conducive to the development of India, partnering Industry, Government and civil society through advisory and consultative processes. For 130 years, CII has been engaged in shaping India's development journey and works proactively on transforming Indian Industry's engagement in national development. With its extensive network across the country and the world, CII serves as a reference point for Indian industry and the international business community.

In the journey of India's economic resurgence, CII facilitates the multifaceted contributions of the Indian Industry, charting a path towards a prosperous and sustainable future. With this backdrop, CII has identified "Accelerating Competitiveness: Globalisation, Inclusivity, Sustainability, Trust" as its theme for 2025-26, prioritising five key pillars. During the year, CII will align its initiatives to drive strategic action aimed at enhancing India's competitiveness by promoting global engagement, inclusive growth, sustainable practices, and a foundation of trust.



Contact us:

Trade Remedies Advisory Cell -
trac.ctil@iift.edu

Registration Link:

