



AERO CLUB OF INDIA

Established 1927

(Member : Federation Aeronautique Internationale, Switzerland)

President - Capt. Satish K. Sharma, MP
Vice President - V. B. Gupta
Secretary General - R. C. Kanda

Safdarjung Airport, Aurobindo Marg,
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ACI/AC-260/2011-12

02ND January 2011

The President
Aero Modelers Association
1057 Sector D Pkt.-I
Vasant Kunj
New Delhi-110070.

Sub : IMPORT POLICY ON AEROMODELS

Dear Sir,

Find enclosed copy of letter in connection with Import policy on aeromodels addressed to DGFT, for your information.

Thanking you,

Yours faithfully,

R C KANDA
SECRETARY GENERAL

Encls.: a.a.

Copy to :

1. Shri Ajit Nagar, Advisor-Aeomodeling, Aero Club of India, New Delhi-110003.



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BY SPEED POST
28th December, 2011

The Director General of Foreign Trade
Government of India
Ministry of Commerce, Udyog Bhawan
New Delhi-110 011

Sub: Import Policy on Aeromodels

Sir,

Aero Club of India (ACI), established in 1927, is an autonomous body under the Ministry of Civil Aviation (MCA) engaged in promotion of Flying Training and Aerosports activities in the country. ACI is also affiliated, from India with the Federation Aeronautique Internationale (FAI), based at Switzerland, the international body responsible for controlling aerosports competitions and other events in the world.

Aeromodels are model aeroplanes and helicopters which are radio controlled and are built and/or assembled to scale or otherwise are power driven by combustion engines or electric motors not designed to carry any passengers or payloads but used exclusively for hobby, sport and entertainment purpose.

ACI has been encouraging Aeromodelling activity, both as hobby and recreation to generate air-mindedness and aptitude towards the science of aeronautics amongst the students of schools and colleges. As a matter of fact this activity is performed under supervision of Instructors after attainment of basic knowledge of aeronautics and mastering the skill of controlling the aircraft in flight through remote radio control. ACI has at present two Aeomodelling Associations, one at Delhi and the other at Mumbai, affiliated as Associate Members of ACI to promote aeromodelling in the country. Other associations engaged in aeromodelling activities are also awaiting affiliation so that this activity can be pursued in an organised manner to cover every part of the country.

ACI has been receiving representations from these Aeromodelling Associations and individuals, including groups, who have taken up aeromodelling activities in a major way, that these aeromodels which are mainly imported to India along with their kits are

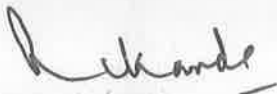
considered as "Toys" by the Customs authorities who also demand Certificate of Conformity to Standards while interpreting DGFT's Notification No.113(RE-2008)/2004-2009 dated 16th June 2009 read with IS Standard IS 9873. Subsequently DGFT had issued a clarification that these instructions would apply only to such Toys covered under IS 9873. In this context it is submitted that Aeromodels of the type used for aviation activity, including aerospots, are not Toys perse. The very nature of the equipment, technology involved and the expertise required to indulge in aeromodelling activity makes it beyond the use of children of 14 years and below. Furthermore, this activity is required to be performed in accordance with the guidelines issued by ACI on this subject that also embodies requirements as contained in the Aircraft Rules. These equipment are built/assembled by adolescents who are above the age of 15-16 years to grown up adults requiring knowledge, training and expertise to indulge in this activity.

It is therefore requested that, in view of the above, the matter may be given due consideration and power driven Aeromodels; including kits for assembly, related spares and accessories; some of which are built to scale of the actual size powered by combustion engines wherein the finished items are not primarily for play use, may be removed from the Exim Code 9503 and reclassified as "Aerospots Item" instead of Toys. This would facilitate clear understanding for Customs Clearances and would also mitigate the problems reported by the importers of these items.

In case any additional clarifications/discussions are required, ACI representative would be available to associate. An early decision in the matter is solicited.

Thanking you,

Yours faithfully,



(R C KANDA)
SECRETARY GENERAL