

BUSINESS TIMES

The Times of India, New Delhi, Monday, September 27, 2004

EXECUTIVE DIGEST

Sri Lanka to accept EIC certification: Sri Lanka will accept the certification of Export Inspection Council (EIC) following operationalisation of a memorandum of understanding (MoU) between EIC and Sri Lanka Standards Institution. With the operationalisation of the MoU, there would be no holdups of export consignments at Sri Lankan ports for want of testing as the same would be carried out by the EIC in India through its field offices, an official release said. The MoU was signed in December 2002. PM

SRI LANKA TO ACCEPT EXPORT CERTIFICATION OF EXPORT INSPECTION COUNCIL

Export Inspection Council (EIC) is an autonomous statutory body under Ministry of Commerce & Industry constituted for the sound development of export trade of India through quality control and inspection and other related matters.

Sri Lanka Standards Institution (SLSI), the national standards body of Sri Lanka is operating an import inspection scheme, whereby imports of 85 commodities into Sri Lanka is allowed only if these items conform to relevant Sri Lankan standards prescribed for these. These items include many important commodities being exported to Sri Lanka such as milk products, fruits & vegetable products, household electrical appliances & switches, steel & steel products, electrical cables and cement etc. The conformity is established either through testing of samples at Sri Lankan ports before these are cleared by the Custom authorities or in India before shipment of the consignments. A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to accept certification of EIC by SLSI was signed in December 2002 and it has now been made operational after verification by SLSI of systems adopted in this regard by EIC. With the acceptance of inspection and certification of EIC, now there would be no holdups of export consignments at Sri Lankan ports for want of testing as the same would be carried out by the EIC in India through its field offices, Export Inspection Agencies (EIAs) at Mumbai, Kolkata, Kochi, Chennai and Delhi and a network of 41 Sub-offices.

The benefit of this Agreement is that with this arrangement in place, extent of inspection of these 85 commodities by Sri Lankan authorities would be reduced to a great extent i.e. not more than 25% to begin with, upon its arrival in Sri Lanka instead of the present 100%.

For further details about the scheme and its operation, exporters may approach EIC or its Regional Offices, the Export Inspection Agencies (EIAs) addresses of which are available at EIC's website (www.eicindia.org).