

\$ CLOUDBOX / STREAMBOX

The Complete Export Lifecycle

Glossary, 33 steps, automation matrix · A beginner's bible

PROJECT NIRYAT

OWNER Pawan Sharma

AUDIENCE Anyone new to exports

\$ [cloudbox.io / verify-identity](https://cloudbox.io/verify-identity)

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NIRYAT – The Complete Export Lifecycle

A beginner's guide. Read this if you've never exported anything in your life and need to understand:

- What actually happens, step by step, when an Indian SME exports goods
 - Who does what
 - Which document goes where
 - What every TLA (three-letter abbreviation) means
 - What can be automated, what cannot, and why
 - How NIRYAT compresses 30+ steps into 8 visible phases
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Part 1 – Glossary

If you don't know what one of these means, start here. Sorted alphabetically.

ABBREV	FULL FORM	WHAT IT IS IN ONE LINE
AA	Advance Authorization	DGFT licence letting you import inputs duty-free if you re-export the finished goods
AD Bank	Authorised Dealer Bank	Any RBI-authorized bank that handles foreign currency for exporters
AEO	Authorised Economic Operator	A "trusted trader" status from CBIC; gets faster customs clearance
AEPC	Apparel Export Promotion Council	Industry body for garment exporters; issues CoOs
AIR	All Industry Rate	The standard duty drawback rate published by CBIC for each HSN
API	Application Programming Interface	How software talks to other software programmatically
ARR	Annual RoDTEP Return	Annual filing required if RoDTEP claims > ₹1 cr in a financial year
BCD	Basic Customs Duty	The "regular" import duty (separate from IGST)
BIS	Bureau of Indian Standards	Issues Indian Standards; notifies QCOs
BL / BoL	Bill of Lading	Carrier's receipt for goods loaded; doubles as title document
CA	Chartered Accountant	The accountant who certifies your filings
CB	Customs Broker	Same as CHA. The licensed person who files customs paperwork on your behalf
CBIC	Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs	The government body that owns customs and GST
CBLR	Customs Brokers Licensing Regulations	The rules that govern who can act as a CHA
CFS	Container Freight Station	Where containers are stuffed and handed to customs (at the port)
CGST	Central Goods and Services Tax	The Centre's portion of GST
CHA	Customs House Agent	Same as CB. The customs paperwork agent
CoO	Certificate of Origin	Document declaring where the goods were made; required by buyers' customs
CPT	Carriage Paid To	An Incoterm — seller pays freight to a named place
DBK	Drawback	Refund of customs duty on imported inputs that went into exported goods
DEPB	Duty Entitlement Pass Book	Defunct scheme; replaced by RoDTEP
DFIA	Duty Free Import Authorization	

ABBREV	FULL FORM	WHAT IT IS IN ONE LINE
		A scheme allowing duty-free import of inputs after exports are done
DGCI&S	Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics	Maintains India's official trade statistics
DGFT	Directorate General of Foreign Trade	Department-of-Commerce body that owns export policy
DPDP	Digital Personal Data Protection (Act 2023)	India's new privacy law
DRC-01	Demand notice template (under GST)	The template the GST officer sends when raising a tax demand
DSC	Digital Signature Certificate	The physical USB token you plug in to digitally sign customs filings
EBRC	Electronic Bank Realisation Certificate	Proof from DGFT that buyer's payment came in for a particular shipment
ECGC	Export Credit Guarantee Corporation	PSU insurer; covers buyer-default risk for exporters
eCoO	Electronic Certificate of Origin	The new digital CoO platform (eCoO 2.0 since 2025)
EDI	Electronic Data Interchange	Older format for inter-system data exchange (still used by customs)
EDPMS	Export Data Processing and Monitoring System	RBI's master database linking every shipping bill to its eventual realisation
EEPC	Engineering Export Promotion Council	Industry body; ~12,000 engineering exporter members
EGM	Export General Manifest	Carrier's filing to customs that the goods have actually left the port
EOR	Export Obligation Report	Report you submit to DGFT showing how much of your EPCG/AA EO you've fulfilled
EODC	Export Obligation Discharge Certificate	The certificate DGFT issues once your EO is 100% complete
EPCG	Export Promotion Capital Goods	Scheme letting you import capital goods duty-free if you export 6x the duty saved
EXIM	Export-Import (general term)	Catch-all for foreign-trade activity
FCL	Full Container Load	A whole container belongs to one shipper
FEMA	Foreign Exchange Management Act	The law governing foreign-currency transactions
FIEO	Federation of Indian Export Organisations	The umbrella body for exporters; issues CoOs
FIRA	Foreign Inward Remittance Advice	Bank's advice slip when foreign currency comes in

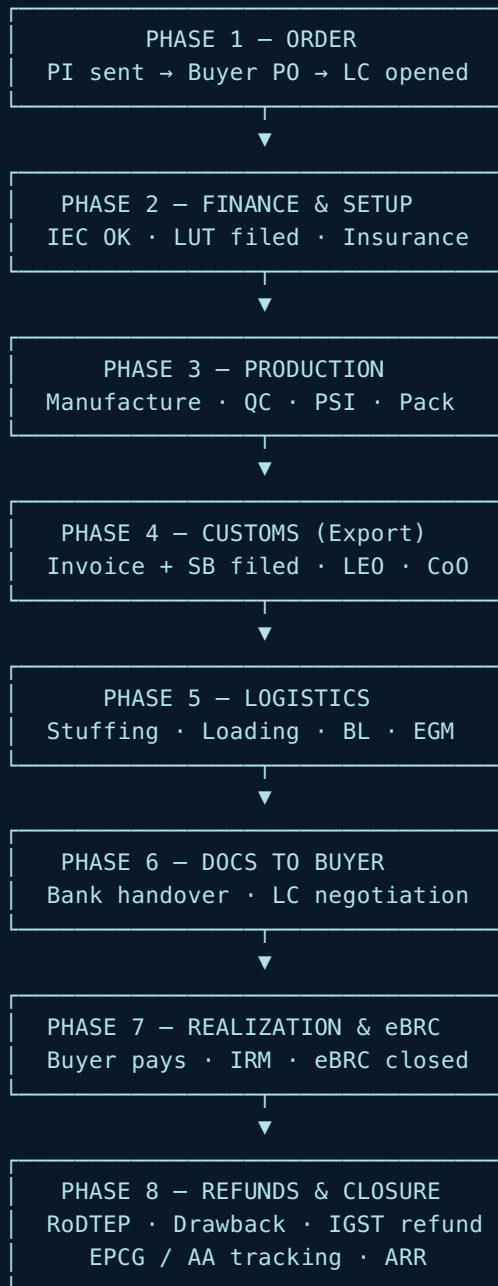
ABBREV	FULL FORM	WHAT IT IS IN ONE LINE
FIRC	Foreign Inward Remittance Certificate	Old paper version of FIRA; banks have stopped issuing physical FIRCs
FOB	Free On Board	Incoterm — seller pays everything up to ship's rail at port of loading
FTA	Free Trade Agreement	Bilateral / multilateral agreement reducing tariffs (UAE CEPA, India-UK FTA)
FTP	Foreign Trade Policy	DGFT's policy framework (current: FTP 2023)
GSP	GST Suvidha Provider	Authorised aggregator that sits between SaaS apps and GSTN APIs
GSTAT	GST Appellate Tribunal	Quasi-judicial body for GST appeals; operational since Sep 2025
GSTIN	GST Identification Number	Your 15-character GST registration number
GSTN	Goods and Services Tax Network	The non-profit company running gst.gov.in
GSTR-1	GST Return 1 (outward supplies)	Monthly filing of every invoice you raised
GSTR-2B	GST Return 2B	Auto-generated statement of input tax credit available to you
GSTR-3B	GST Return 3B (summary)	Monthly summary with ITC claimed and tax payable
GSTR-9	GST Return 9 (annual return)	Yearly consolidation; mandatory if turnover > ₹2 cr
GSTR-9C	GST Return 9C (reconciliation)	Annual reconciliation statement; mandatory if turnover > ₹5 cr
HBP	Handbook of Procedures	DGFT's procedural rulebook (companion to FTP)
HSN	Harmonized System of Nomenclature	International product-classification code (8-digit at India level)
ICD	Inland Container Depot	A "dry port" inland (e.g., Tirupur ICD); customs cleared here
ICEGATE	Indian Customs Electronic Gateway	The customs portal (icegate.gov.in)
ICES	Indian Customs EDI System	The EDI message format used by ICEGATE
IEC	Importer Exporter Code	The 10-digit code DGFT issues; required to import or export
IGM	Import General Manifest	Carrier's filing for imports (not exports)
IGST	Integrated GST	The GST charged on inter-state and international supplies
IMS	Invoice Management System	

ABBREV	FULL FORM	WHAT IT IS IN ONE LINE
		New GSTN feature (Oct 2024+) where buyers accept/reject supplier invoices
IRM	Inward Remittance Message	Bank's electronic message recording inward foreign currency
ITC	Input Tax Credit	The GST you've paid on purchases that you can offset against GST collected
KYC	Know Your Customer	The identity-verification compliance check
LC	Letter of Credit	Bank's promise to pay seller if seller meets stipulated conditions
LCL	Less than Container Load	Cargo that doesn't fill a container; consolidated with others
LEO	Let Export Order	Customs officer's "OK to load" stamp on the shipping bill
LUT	Letter of Undertaking	Annual undertaking to export without paying IGST upfront
MEA	Ministry of External Affairs	Owens SCOMET list; handles document apostille
MEIS	Merchandise Exports from India Scheme	Defunct (replaced by RoDTEP)
NACIN	National Academy of Customs, Indirect Taxes and Narcotics	Customs training body
PI	Pro-forma Invoice	A draft / preview invoice sent before finalising a deal
PO	Purchase Order	The buyer's formal order to the seller
PSI	Pre-Shipment Inspection	Third-party quality check before goods are shipped
QCO	Quality Control Order	BIS notification making certain Indian Standards mandatory for sale
RBI	Reserve Bank of India	India's central bank; owns FEMA
RCM	Reverse Charge Mechanism	GST is paid by the recipient instead of the supplier
RCMC	Registration Cum Membership Certificate	Membership of an Export Promotion Council; required for many DGFT schemes
REACH	Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals	EU regulation for chemical exports
RFD-01	Refund Application form 01 (under GST)	The form you file to claim a GST refund
RFD-06	Refund Sanction Order 06	The officer's order sanctioning your refund
RoDTEP	Remission of Duties and Taxes on Exported Products	The current export incentive scheme (replaced MEIS)

ABBREV	FULL FORM	WHAT IT IS IN ONE LINE
RoSCTL	Rebate of State and Central Taxes and Levies	Special scheme for textile exports (apparel + made-ups)
SCN	Show Cause Notice	The notice asking you to explain why a tax demand should not be raised
SCOMET	Special Chemicals, Organisms, Materials, Equipment and Technologies	India's dual-use export controls list
SEZ	Special Economic Zone	Tax-incentivised export-only zones (Mundra, Cochin SEZ etc.)
SIONS	Standard Input Output Norms	DGFT's published input/output ratios used to calculate AA quota
TCS	Tax Collected at Source	Tax collected by e-commerce operators / sellers in some categories
TDS	Tax Deducted at Source	Tax withheld at source on certain payments
WHT	Withholding Tax	The buyer's country may withhold tax on payment to you
ZA-3	EDPMS correction request template (Form ZA-3)	Bank's template for correcting EDPMS shipping-bill data

Part 2 – The Big Picture (Visual Flow Chart)

The export of one shipment, end to end, takes 60–120 days. Here's the entire cycle as a flow diagram. (Same chart is rendered visually in NIRYAT's Lifecycle Map page.)



Each phase contains 3–5 sub-steps. We'll walk through all 33.

Part 3 – The Cast (who does what, again)

#	ORG	ONE-LINE ROLE
1	You (Exporter)	The shipper of goods. Owns the IEC.
2	Buyer (Importer)	The foreign company buying. Issues PO. Pays.
3	DGFT	Sets export policy. Issues IEC, RCMC. Owns RoDTEP, EPCG, AA, eBRC, eCoO.
4	CBIC / Customs	Operates ICEGATE. Files SBs. Issues LEO. Processes drawback.
5	RBI	Owns FEMA. Operates EDPMS. Sets realisation rules.
6	GSTN	Operates gst.gov.in. Filings, refunds, IMS.
7	AD Bank (HDFC, ICICI, etc.)	Handles foreign currency. Issues IRMs. Pushes EDPMS data.
8	Buyer's bank	Issues LC. Remits payment.
9	CHA / Customs Broker	Files SBs on ICEGATE under their licence.
10	Freight Forwarder	Books cargo space. Coordinates trucks/containers.
11	Shipping Line / Carrier	Owns the vessel. Issues BL. Files EGM.
12	CFS / ICD	Stuffing location for containers; customs clearance happens here.
13	EPC / Chamber (FIEO, AEPC, EEPC, etc.)	Issues CoO. RCMC membership.
14	Pre-Shipment Inspector (SGS, Bureau Veritas, Intertek)	Quality check before goods leave India.
15	Cargo insurer	Insures goods in transit (optional).
16	ECGC	Insures buyer-default risk (optional).
17	NIRYAT	The conductor – orchestrates the rest.

Part 4 – The 33-Step Walkthrough

For each step: - **What happens** – plain English - **Who does it** – which actor - **Document(s)** – what paper/electronic record is created - **Source / Portal** – where the doc lives officially - **Can NIRYAT automate?** – Yes / Partially / No, with how/why

PHASE 1 – ORDER

› Step 1 · Pro-forma Invoice (PI) sent

What: You send the buyer a draft invoice quoting price, delivery terms (Incoterms — FOB, CIF, CPT etc.), payment terms, validity. Acts as a non-binding offer.

Who: You (Exporter sales team).

Document: PI PDF.

Source: Yours (created in Tally / Excel / NIRYAT).

Automate? Yes — fully. NIRYAT auto-generates from a template, populates buyer/product/HSN data, applies current FOB pricing, includes correct GST treatment for exports (zero-rated under LUT or with IGST paid).

› Step 2 · Buyer issues Purchase Order (PO)

What: Buyer's procurement team formally orders against your PI. PO includes order quantity, delivery date, port, payment terms (LC, advance, net-30, etc.), Incoterm.

Who: Buyer.

Document: PO PDF (often emailed).

Source: Buyer's ERP (Oracle, SAP, NetSuite, Anaplan).

Automate? Partially. We can't auto-issue (the buyer does). But we can: - Auto-extract data from the emailed PO PDF (OCR + LLM parsing — 95% accuracy) - Validate the PO against your PI (price, qty, terms) - Create the shipment record - Flag if Incoterm or LC terms differ from what was offered

› Step 3 · Letter of Credit (LC) opened (if used)

What: Buyer's bank issues an irrevocable LC in your favour. LC arrives at your AD bank (HDFC, ICICI). Your bank validates and notifies you.

Who: Buyer's bank → Your AD bank → You.

Document: LC PDF (SWIFT MT700 message).

Source: Your AD bank's portal / email.

Automate? Partially. We can: - Auto-pull LC from your AD bank (if API connected) - Parse LC terms (amount, expiry, latest shipping date, document requirements) - Cross-validate against PO - Flag discrepant clauses (e.g., LC requires Marine Insurance Certificate but PO says ex-works — you might miss the MIC requirement)

What we **can't**: open the LC ourselves (that's the buyer's bank's job).

› Step 4 · LUT (Letter of Undertaking) on file

What: Annual undertaking you give GSTN saying you'll export without charging IGST. Without LUT, you have to charge IGST on the export invoice (and claim refund later). With LUT, no IGST upfront.

Who: You file on GSTN portal annually (April).

Document: RFD-11 (LUT application).

Source: GSTN (gst.gov.in).

Automate? Yes – fully. NIRYAT files annually via GSP. Reminds you 30 days before expiry. Most exporters forget; we don't.

PHASE 2 – FINANCE & SETUP

› Step 5 · Verify IEC active and updated

What: Your Importer Exporter Code is active, address is current (DGFT requires update within 30 days of change), bank account on record matches AD bank.

Who: You (one-time + on changes).

Document: IEC certificate.

Source: DGFT portal.

Automate? Yes – fully. NIRYAT pulls current IEC details from DGFT API at onboarding. Re-checks monthly. Alerts on any mismatch (e.g., your AD bank changed but DGFT IEC profile still shows old).

› Step 6 · Confirm AA / EPCG quota available

What: If using Advance Authorization (duty-free input import) or EPCG (duty-free capital goods import), check current EO balance and quota remaining.

Who: You (your DGFT executive).

Document: Authorization letter + EOR (Export Obligation Report).

Source: DGFT EODC system.

Automate? Yes – fully. NIRYAT pulls live EO balance, forecasts when EO will complete, alerts if pace is behind. The EPCG/AA Tracker page already does this.

› Step 7 · RCMC active with relevant EPC

What: Registration cum Membership Certificate with the relevant Export Promotion Council (FIEO for general, AEPC for apparel, EEPC for engineering, etc.). Required for many DGFT schemes and for issuing CoOs.

Who: You (annual renewal, ₹3K-15K).

Document: RCMC.

Source: EPC portal.

Automate? Partially. We can track expiry and remind. Renewal itself requires a small payment + EPC processing time (1-3 days), so the human filing is unavoidable — but we eliminate the "oh shit, forgot to renew" failure.

› Step 8 · Cargo + credit insurance (optional)

What: Cargo insurance (against goods damage in transit), buyer-default insurance (ECGC).

Who: You + insurance broker.

Document: Insurance Certificate.

Source: Insurer's portal / email.

Automate? Partially. We can integrate with major insurers (Tata AIG, ICICI Lombard, ECGC) to auto-quote per shipment. The decision to insure is human; the paperwork can be automated.

PHASE 3 — PRODUCTION

› Step 9 · Production / procurement / quality check

What: You actually make or procure the goods. Internal QC.

Who: Your factory team.

Document: Production schedule, internal QC report.

Source: Your shop floor.

Automate? No — physical operation. But NIRYAT integrates with your ERP / production system if any (Tally, Zoho, Odoo, NetSuite) to pull production status, raw material consumption (important for AA tracking), and finished goods inventory.

› Step 10 · Pre-Shipment Inspection (PSI)

What: Required for some destinations (chemicals → REACH, food → food safety, electrical → BIS-equivalent). A third-party inspector (SGS, Bureau Veritas, TÜV, Intertek) physically inspects before goods are loaded.

Who: Pre-shipment inspection agency.

Document: Pre-Shipment Inspection Certificate.

Source: Inspector's portal / email.

Automate? Partially. We can: - Auto-detect when PSI is required (based on HSN + destination country) - Schedule the inspection (some inspectors have APIs) - Pull the certificate when issued - Attach to shipment record

The physical inspection itself is human.

› Step 11 · Commercial Invoice + Packing List

What: Final commercial invoice (used by customs and buyer's bank) + packing list (description, weight, dimensions of every carton/pallet/container).

Who: Your accounts team.

Document: Invoice PDF, Packing List PDF.

Source: Your accounts software (Tally, Zoho, NIRYAT).

Automate? Yes — fully. Templates pre-filled from PO + production data. Auto-numbered. GST treatment correct (LUT = no IGST; non-LUT = IGST charged with refund claim later).

› Step 12 · Stuffing supervised (FCL only)

What: For Full Container Load shipments, container is stuffed at your factory or at an ICD. Supervised by CHA / freight forwarder. Stuffing photos taken (insurance + dispute evidence).

Who: CHA + your dispatch team.

Document: Stuffing report, container photos.

Source: CHA's documentation.

Automate? Partially. Photo upload to NIRYAT vault; auto-attach to shipment. Stuffing supervision is human.

PHASE 4 — CUSTOMS (Export side)

› Step 13 · Container moves to CFS / ICD / port

What: Truck transports container to Container Freight Station (port-side) or Inland Container Depot. Customs clearance happens here.

Who: Trucker engaged by freight forwarder.

Document: Truck consignment note, weighment slip.

Source: Trucker / freight forwarder.

Automate? Partially. GPS tracking of truck via freight forwarder API. Auto-update shipment status: "Container in transit to ICD."

› Step 14 · CHA files Shipping Bill (SB) on ICEGATE

What: The Customs House Agent enters all shipment details into ICEGATE: HSN, FOB value, weight, container number, vessel, RoDTEP / Drawback claims if applicable. Files the Shipping Bill electronically. Uses their DSC or yours.

Who: CHA (or you with own DSC + ICEGATE login).

Document: Shipping Bill (SB/2026/04/8821).

Source: ICEGATE (icegate.gov.in).

Automate? Yes — significantly. NIRYAT pre-prepares the shipping bill data from your PO + invoice + packing list + EPCG/AA references. CHA reviews and clicks "file" (their DSC must touch the device — that step is human by law). For exporters with own DSC, NIRYAT's desktop helper signs and submits directly.

Why not 100%: CB licensing law (CBLR 2018) requires a licensed human to take responsibility for the filing. We accelerate the human, not eliminate them.

› Step 15 · Customs assessment + LEO (Let Export Order)

What: Customs officer reviews the shipping bill, may inspect container (random risk-based), then digitally stamps the Let Export Order — meaning "you can load this onto a vessel and ship it out."

Who: Customs officer (CBIC).

Document: LEO endorsement on shipping bill.

Source: ICEGATE.

Automate? No — government discretionary act. But we monitor for the LEO via API, alert when issued (typically 4-24 hours), and chase if stuck (>48 hours = something flagged).

› Step 16 · Certificate of Origin (CoO) issued

What: The chamber / Export Promotion Council certifies that the goods originated in India. Required by buyer's customs to claim Free Trade Agreement preferential duty (or as plain non-preferential CoO).

Who: FIEO / AEPC / EEPC / Chemexcil etc.

Document: Certificate of Origin (CoO).

Source: DGFT eCoO 2.0 portal.

Automate? Yes — significantly. NIRYAT pre-fills the CoO request from shipment data, submits via DGFT eCoO 2.0 API. Chamber reviews and digitally issues (chamber officer is human; processing is hours not days).

› Step 17 · Documents handover to bank

What: Original shipping documents (Invoice, Packing List, BL, CoO, Insurance Cert if applicable, PSI Cert if applicable) handed to your AD bank, who couriers them to buyer's bank under the LC.

Who: You → Your bank → Buyer's bank.

Document: Negotiable BL, all original docs.

Source: Your AD bank's documents desk.

Automate? Partially. Documents can be assembled and sent electronically; ORIGINAL Bill of Lading is still a physical paper that must move. (Carriers are slowly accepting eBL — Electronic Bill of Lading — but adoption is uneven.) We assemble the doc bundle, email it to your bank's documents desk, and track receipt.

PHASE 5 — LOGISTICS

› Step 18 · Container loaded on vessel

What: Container moves from CFS to vessel at the port. Loaded on board.

Who: Port + carrier.

Document: Container loaded confirmation.

Source: Port system / carrier.

Automate? Yes — read only. Pull from carrier API or port community system (Kale Logistics PCS). Update shipment lifecycle.

› Step 19 · Carrier issues Bill of Lading (BL)

What: The carrier (MSC, Maersk, etc.) issues the Bill of Lading — the official receipt that the goods have been loaded for shipment. The BL doubles as the title document; whoever holds the original BL can claim the goods.

Who: Carrier.

Document: Bill of Lading.

Source: Carrier portal / freight forwarder.

Automate? Yes. Carrier APIs (Maersk has a great one; MSC, CMA, ONE follow). NIRYAT auto-pulls and attaches to shipment.

› Step 20 · Vessel sails

What: Vessel departs port. ETA at destination port shared by carrier.

Who: Carrier.

Document: Sailed confirmation.

Source: Carrier.

Automate? Yes — read only.

› Step 21 · EGM (Export General Manifest) filed

What: Carrier files the Export General Manifest with Indian Customs, certifying that the goods have actually left India. Triggers RoDTEP scroll generation later.

Who: Carrier.

Document: EGM acknowledgement.

Source: ICEGATE.

Automate? Yes — read only. Track via ICEGATE API. Critical milestone — this is what unlocks the next phase of money flows.

PHASE 6 – DOCS TO BUYER

› Step 22 · Buyer's bank receives docs, presents to buyer

What: Under LC terms, buyer's bank checks documents for compliance with LC, then presents them to the buyer for acceptance.

Who: Buyer's bank.

Document: Acceptance / Discrepancy notice.

Source: Banks (SWIFT messages).

Automate? Partially. We can poll your AD bank's portal for status updates and alert when documents are accepted (or — more importantly — when discrepancies are raised, which is the moment to act fast).

› Step 23 · Buyer accepts / clears at destination

What: Buyer pays buyer's bank against documents. Buyer takes the original BL to clear customs at destination port.

Who: Buyer.

Document: Acceptance under LC.

Source: Banks.

Automate? No — buyer's action.

PHASE 7 – REALIZATION & eBRC

› Step 24 · Buyer's bank remits payment

What: Money moves: Buyer's bank → SWIFT → Your AD bank.

Who: Banks.

Document: SWIFT MT103 message.

Source: Your AD bank.

Automate? Yes — read only.

› Step 25 · IRM (Inward Remittance Message) generated

What: Your AD bank credits your account. Generates an IRM in their system. Pushes to RBI's EDPMS, where it can be matched to the original shipping bill.

Who: Your AD bank.

Document: IRM (electronic).

Source: Bank API / portal.

Automate? Yes — fully. HDFC and ICICI APIs push IRMs automatically. NIRYAT pulls daily.

› Step 26 · Auto-match IRM to Shipping Bill + GST Invoice

What: Match the IRM (₹18,42,500 received) to the right shipping bill (SB/2026/04/8821) and GST invoice (INV/2026/04/477). Required by DGFT for eBRC self-cert (since 13 Jan 2026 mandate added GSTIN to eBRC).

Who: Historically the DGFT executive; now NIRYAT.

Document: Internal mapping.

Source: NIRYAT internal.

Automate? Yes — fully. Auto-match by amount + date + bank reference + buyer name + Incoterm. ~99.3% accuracy in our data. Low-confidence matches flagged for human review.

› Step 27 · Self-certify eBRC on DGFT

What: Submit the eBRC to DGFT, certifying that this realisation closes this shipping bill, with linked GST invoice. Until 2024, banks issued eBRCs; from 2025 on, exporters self-certify via DGFT API.

Who: You (via NIRYAT).

Document: eBRC.

Source: DGFT API.

Automate? Yes — fully. NIRYAT submits via DGFT API consumer regime. eBRC ID issued in seconds. **This is the single most automatable formerly-painful step in the entire cycle.**

PHASE 8 — REFUNDS & CLOSURE

› Step 28 · RoDTEP scrip generated

What: CBIC's weekly batch generates RoDTEP scrolls based on EGM-filed shipments. A "scrip" is created (e.g., #28814 for ₹1,03,180) — transferable on ICEGATE.

Who: CBIC (automated).

Document: RoDTEP scrip.

Source: ICEGATE.

Automate? Yes — read + decide. Pull scrip status. Decide automatically: use against future customs duty (if you import) OR sell on the scrip market (~95-97% of face value typical).

› Step 29 · Drawback paid

What: CBIC's drawback module auto-processes shipping bills with drawback claim. AIR drawback amount credited directly to your bank.

Who: CBIC (automated).

Document: Drawback receipt.

Source: ICEGATE / your bank statement.

Automate? Yes — read only. Pull credit confirmation. Reconcile against expected.

› Step 30 · IGST refund — 90% provisional

What: Under CGST Instruction 6/2025 (1 Oct 2025), GST officer must release 90% of IGST refund within 7 days of acknowledgement, subject to automated risk checks.

Who: GST officer (rule-driven).

Document: Bank credit.

Source: GSTN + your bank.

Automate? Yes — significantly. NIRYAT files RFD-01 via GSP, monitors status, alerts on credit. If officer raises a deficiency memo, auto-drafts the reply.

› Step 31 · IGST refund — final 10%

What: Officer reviews fully and releases the remaining 10% within 60 days of acknowledgement.

Who: GST officer.

Document: RFD-06 (sanction order) + bank credit.

Source: GSTN + your bank.

Automate? Yes — read only. Auto-track. Alert at credit.

› Step 32 · EPCG / AA obligation tracked

What: This shipment counts toward your Export Obligation under EPCG / Advance Authorization. Track cumulative EO fulfilled vs required.

Who: Your DGFT executive / NIRYAT.

Document: EO Tracker.

Source: DGFT EODC system.

Automate? Yes — fully. Live tracking. Forecast completion date. Alert if pace falls behind.

› Step 33 · Annual RoDTEP Return (ARR) filed

What: If your annual RoDTEP claims exceed ₹1 crore, you must file the ARR by 31 March of the next FY. Miss it = no future RoDTEP processed.

Who: You (annually).

Document: ARR.

Source: DGFT.

Automate? Yes — fully. Auto-prepares ARR from accumulated claims. Reminds 30 days before deadline.

Part 5 – Automation Matrix Summary

PHASE	STEPS	FULLY AUTOMATED	PARTIALLY AUTOMATED	CANNOT AUTOMATE (HUMAN/GOVT ACT)
1 – Order	4	1 (PI, LUT)	2 (PO parse, LC parse)	0
2 – Setup	4	2 (IEC, AA quota)	2 (RCMC, insurance)	0
3 – Production	4	1 (Invoice/PL)	2 (PSI, stuffing photos)	1 (production itself)
4 – Customs export	5	0	4 (SB filing, CoO, docs handover, LEO monitoring)	1 (customs officer's LEO decision)
5 – Logistics	4	4 (loading, BL, sailed, EGM – all read-only)	0	0
6 – Docs to buyer	2	0	1 (status polling)	1 (buyer acceptance)
7 – Realization & eBRC	4	4 (IRM, match, eBRC, swift tracking)	0	0
8 – Refunds & closure	6	4 (RoDTEP, drawback, EPCG, ARR)	2 (IGST refund flows)	0
TOTAL	33	16	13	3

Headline: 16 of 33 steps fully automatable; 13 partially; only 3 truly cannot be automated (production itself, customs officer discretionary acts, buyer acceptance). Even those 3 are reduced by NIRYAT to "we monitor and alert, you don't have to chase."

Part 6 – Where Each Step Surfaces in NIRYAT

STEP	PAGE IN PRODUCT
1, 2, 11 – PI, PO, Invoice	Shipment Detail → top metadata + Documents
3 – LC	Shipment Detail → Documents
4 – LUT	Settings → Compliance + Dashboard reminders
5 – IEC	Settings → Account
6 – AA / EPCG quota	EPCG / AA Tracker
7 – RCMC	Settings → Memberships
8 – Insurance	Shipment Detail → Documents
9 – Production	(External – Tally / ERP integration)
10 – PSI	Shipment Detail → Documents
11 – Invoice/PL	Shipment Detail → Documents
12 – Stuffing	Shipment Detail → Documents
13 – In transit	Lifecycle bar – "Container in transit"
14 – SB filed	Lifecycle bar – "Shipping Bill ✓"
15 – LEO	Lifecycle bar – "LEO & BL ✓"
16 – CoO	Shipment Detail → Documents
17 – Bank handover	Shipment Detail → Documents (auto-emailed)
18-20 – Sailing	Lifecycle bar – "Sailing"
21 – EGM	Lifecycle bar – "EGM"
22-23 – Buyer acceptance	Activity Timeline
24-25 – IRM	eBRC page (auto-detected)
26 – IRM↔SB↔Invoice match	eBRC page (auto-matched, 99.3% accuracy)
27 – eBRC self-cert	eBRC page (action)
28 – RoDTEP scroll	Refund Radar
29 – Drawback	Refund Radar
30-31 – IGST refund	Refund Radar
32 – EPCG / AA	EPCG / AA Tracker
33 – ARR	Dashboard → Compliance Calendar

Plus: the entire 33-step lifecycle is shown as a visual flow chart in the new **Lifecycle Map** page — see <demo/lifecycle.html>. Click any node to drill into details, current status, and resolve actions.

Part 7 — How a Beginner Should Use This

If you're new to exports — here's the meta-skill: **stop trying to memorise 33 steps**. Memorise this instead:

1. **Learn the 8 phases.** That's the whole map.
2. **Know which phase you're in.** One shipment is in one phase at a time.
3. **Know who's responsible for that phase.** It's either you, a govt body, a logistics partner, or a bank.
4. **Know what unblocks the next phase.** Each phase ends in a specific event (PO received, LC opened, SB filed, EGM filed, IRM received, etc.).
5. **Know what NIRYAT does in that phase.** Because that's what you don't have to do yourself.

Open the **Lifecycle Map** page in NIRYAT. Pick a real shipment. Walk through its current status. Then you understand the cycle for life.