



## Look Out Circular (LOC) process eased for alleged Customs offenders wishing to leave India

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A Look Out Circular (LOC) is essentially an administrative mechanism whereby certain designated authorities (like Customs) are permitted to issue requests to the immigration/emigration authorities to monitor and control the movement of individuals, whether they are Indian or foreign nationals, arriving or departing India at various points of entry and exit, such as airports, seaports, and land borders. In Customs recourse to LOC can be taken in cognizable offence, where the accused is deliberately evading arrest or not appearing in the trial court despite Non Bailable Warrants (NBWs) and other coercive measures and there is likelihood of the accused leaving the country to evade trial / arrest. A person can be intercepted / interrogated/ baggage examined/ searched even in the case of non -cognizable offence. The only restriction is that the person can not be detained/ arrested/ prevented from leaving the country.

All field formations are to route their requests for issuance of LOC, through DRI (Hqrs).

An Online LOC Portal has been operationalised with effect from 1st of March 2024 and the LOC requests are now being processed only through the online portal. Thus, the earlier mechanism of routing the requests by letters or emails through DRI-Hqrs is no more operational. As per INSTRUCTION No. 30/2025 this process would be further streamlined.

## LET'S DISCUSS FURTHER!

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