



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

By: Vivek Jalan

FCA, LL.M (Constitutional Law), LL. B, MBA (International Trade), B. Com (H)

Team Tax Connect

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.

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OUR OFFICES:

MUMBAI

Unit No. 312, Omega Business Park, Near Kaamgar Hospital, Road No. 33, Wagle Industrial Estate, Thane West, Maharashtra- 400604

Contact Person:
Prashant Kumar Jha

Email:
prashant.jha@taxconnect.co.in

BENGALURU

951, 24th Main Road, J P Nagar, Bengaluru, Karnataka – 560078.

Contact Person:
Anil Pal

Email:
anil.pal@taxconnectdelhi.co.in

DELHI

B-139, 2nd Floor, Transport Nagar, Noida-201301 (U.P)

Contact Person:
Poonam Khemka

Email:
poonam.khemka@taxconnect.co.in

KOLKATA

6, Netaji Subhas Road, 3rd Floor, Royal Exchange Building, Kolkata – 700001

Contact Person:
Sandeep Mandal

Email:
sandeep.mandal@taxconnect.co.in

KOLKATA

R No 119; 1st Floor; Diamond Arcade; 1/72, Cal Jessore Road, Kolkata – 700055

Contact Person:
Uttam Kumar Singh

Email:
uttam.singh@taxconnect.co.in

DUBAI

Azizi Feirouz, 803, 8th Floor, AL Furjan, Opposite Discovery Pavillion, Dubai, UAE

Contact Person:
Rohit Sharma

Email:
rohit.sharma@taxconnect.co.in

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