Advisory: - LW/01/2020

Cost saving measures on VPN - reg

Instances have come to the notice of DG Systems that some of the field formations are paying huge amount on account of Broadband connectivity for VPN connection to access CBIC applications through AIOs installed at different offices of Commissionerates.

2. Reference is invited to this office letter F.No. IV(24)/35/2016-Systems dated 05.07.2018 wherein it was informed that field formations have given an option to choose either of the following solutions for VPN connection:

   a) VPN over Broadband (VPNoBB) from BSNL or
   b) VPN over Internet (VPNoI) by any internet service provider (by using VPN IDs).

3. In both above solutions, the cost of internet connectivity is borne by Jurisdictional Commissionerate. Judicious decision has to be taken by concerned Commissionerate to select the option. If it is felt that the VPNoBB is a costlier solution, user has an option to choose VPNoI solution which is cost effective and available with any normal broadband plan from any internet service provider.

4. It has been observed that VPNoBB of BSNL is generally costly vis-a-vis VPNoI. The Commissionerate should explore the current market rate of both the options by revisiting existing plans so that the expenditure of commissionerate can be easily optimised. However, min 2Mbps bandwidth is required for proper functioning of VPNs.

   (Vinayak Chandra Gupta)
   Additional Director General
   Lan-Wan
To,
All Director Generals/Chief Commissioners
Customs, Central Goods & Service Tax

Madam/Sir,

Sub: Advisory on Usage of VPN over Internet – reg.

This advisory is being issued to highlight the steps that need to be followed by the sites to procure and operate using VPN over Internet Connectivity.

2. It needs to be highlighted that all small or remote locations i.e. with users 4 or below may opt for a BSNL VPN over Broadband or a VPN over Internet by any Internet Service Provider (ISP). The connectivity via VPN over Internet can be provided by the ISPs in the following modes:

i. Dongle
ii. WiFi Hotspots
iii. Modems (FTTH/ RF / Copper connectivity)

3. For all the modes under VPN over Internet Connectivity, the users are requested to ensure compliance of the following points:

i. The users should have a valid SSO ID.
ii. The users should have a valid ICEGATE email ID (If the user does not have an SSO ID, ICEGATE email ID, then a request is to be sent via Systems Manager/Nodal Officer/Comm Admin to Saksham Seva for creation of the SSO ID/ICEGATE email ID).
iii. In case the users have forgotten their passwords or the password has expired then the user can contact Saksham.seva@icegate.gov.in via mail or call 1800 266 2232/1800 121 4560.
iv. The request should be sent to Saksham Seva via the Systems Manager/Nodal Officer/Comm Admin for creation of VPN ID in the template as shared by Saksham Seva.
v. At the backend the UAM (User Access Management) teams would validate the data provided and access would be shared with the users over mail.
4. Further, it is requested that in view to secure the VPN over Internet for users, all default passwords should be changed once the connection is enabled.

5. In addition to the above a user guide is being shared as an Annexure A for the user to install the VPN client on their machines and access the applications successfully. It is requested that all requests sent to the department/ Saksham Seva should be from Icegate or Government IDs.

Yours faithfully,

[Signature]

[Date: 05.07.2018]

(Prashant Kumar Sinha)
Additional Director General
(LAN/WAN)