



दूरभाष/Telephone:25268925
ईमेल/ Email:ccu-cuschn@gov.in
twitter.com/ChennaiCustoms

मुख्यआयुक्तसीमाशुल्ककार्यालय
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF COMMISSIONER OF CUSTOMS
चेन्नईसीमाशुल्कक्षेत्र
CHENNAI CUSTOMS ZONE

सीमाशुल्कभवन, नं.60, राजाजीसालै, चेन्नई 600 001.
CUSTOM HOUSE, NO.60, RAJAJI SALAI, CHENNAI 600 001

Date:05-10-2026

फा.सं./F.No.S2/109/2015-Prev.Tech

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

The 153rd Customs Clearance Facilitation Committee (CCFC - Regular) meeting was held on 23.09.2026 (Wednesday) at 03.00 PM through Hybrid Mode. Shri S.K. Vimalanathan, Chief Commissioner of Customs, Chennai Zone chaired the meeting.

2. The following officials from Customs Department, PGAs and other Stakeholders attended the meeting in person:

S/Shri/Smt

1. Dr. Periasamy M, Commissioner (Preventive)
2. N. Naresh, Commissioner (Import)
3. Vishal Pratap Singh, Commissioner (Export)
4. Rajesh V Shelke, Addl. Commissioner (CCO)
5. S. Saraswathi, Addl. Commissioner (Import)
6. Venkatesh Anamalla, Addl. Commissioner (ACC)
7. T. Dinesh, Joint Commissioner (Preventive)
8. J. Dinesh Raj Joint Commissioner (Export)
9. Aravind Vivekanandan, Joint Commissioner (General)
- 10.T.E. Srikanth, Deputy Commissioner (CCO)
- 11.P.R. Srinivasan, Deputy Commissioner (CCO)
- 12.S. Natarajan, President, CCBA
- 13.R.N. Sekar, Secretary, CCBA
- 14.R. Kumar, Treasurer, CCBA
- 15.S. Sivashankar, CCBA Customs Committee
- 16.Ananth Sairam, PRO, CCBA
- 17.Y. Leeladharan, Chennai & Ennore Ports Steamer Agents Association (CHENSAA)
- 18.S. Kannan, Vice Chairman, NACFS – Chennai Chapter
- 19.Nagaraj.C, General Secretary, SICA
- 20.Selvanayagi, Joint Director, FIEO

3. The following officials from Customs Department, PGAs and other Stakeholders attended the meeting virtually:

S/Shri/Smt

1. C. Thiagarajan, Commissioner (Airport)
2. N. Madhusudhana Reddy, Addl. Commissioner (Preventive)
3. Ramesh Bharathi, Addl. Commissioner (Export)
4. Sadeesh Kumar K, Joint Commissioner (Audit)
- 5 Dr. Saranya C, Joint Commissioner (Import)
- 6.Puneet Singh, DD, NCTC (Cargo)
- 7.AD, DGTS, CZU
8. Sendhil Kumaran G, Sr. DTM, Chennai Port Authority
9. Om Pragesh, Chief Manager (Traffic), Kamarajar Port Ltd.
- 10.Vivek Nair, GM, Adani Kattupalli Port Ltd.
- 11.M.S. Shakul, DGM, CCTL - DP World
- 12.T. Prasad, DGM, CCTL – DP World
13. Dr. Mannan, JD, FSSAI
14. S. Pandiyaraja, AO, FSSAI
15. Lydia Sona Lizzy W, AO, SRO, FSSAI, Chennai ACC
16. Dr. P. Manavalan, DDC (I), CDSCO
17. G. Reka, Asst. Drugs Controller (Import), CDSCO
18. Aswini Muthu, Drugs Inspector, CDSCO
19. Regional Plant Quarantine Station, Chennai
20. Bureau of Immigration, Chennai Sea Port
21. S. Padmanabhan, Secretary, NACFS – National Chapter
22. Asst. Manager, CONCOR-ICD, Tondiarpet (ICD/TNPM)
23. Vijayalakshmi, CONCOR-ICD
24. Shailesh Nair

4. Members of the following organizations did not participate in the Meeting.

1. CRCL
2. CITPL
2. AAICLAS
3. BIS
4. Textile Committee
5. AQCS
6. WCCB

5. Shri Rajesh V Shelke, Addl. Commissioner (CCO) welcomed all the Members and invited the Chairman, CCFC, to deliver the opening remarks. The Chairman of CCFC Shri S.K. Vimalanathan, Chief Commissioner of Customs, warmly welcomed all and asked Shri Rajesh V Shelke, Addl. Commissioner (CCO) to continue the proceedings.

6. With the permission of the Chairman, the following fresh points raised, were taken up for discussion.

Point No. MAA281: DIRECT PAYMENT OF PORT STORAGE/SHIFTING CHARGES – DPD CONTAINERS

7. Shri R.N. Sekar, Secretary, Chennai Customs Brokers Association (CCBA) stated Port Storage Charges and Shifting Charges, wherever applicable, are charges payable to the terminal operators. However, at present, these charges are being collected by Shipping Lines and subsequently remitted to the respective terminals viz CCTL & CIPTL, resulting in additional procedural requirements and delays. Further, during holidays and after office hours, Shipping Lines are not operational, whereas the terminals function round the clock. If these charges are collected directly by the terminals viz. CCTL & CITPL, it would enable uninterrupted payment processing and avoid delays in cargo clearance during holidays and late-hour clearances.

7.1 The Secretary, CCBA further stated that Adani Ennore and Kattupalli terminals have enabled direct payment of port storage/shifting charges by Customs Brokers/importers for DPD containers, facilitating faster delivery. Similar facilities are yet to be fully implemented by CCTL and CITPL, leading to avoidable delays and increased dwell time. The Secretary, CCBA, requested that CCTL and CITPL may be directed to implement the direct payment facility on priority, on par with Adani Ennore and Kattupalli Terminals.

7.2 Shri M.S. Shakul, DGM, CCTL-DP World stated that they had a meeting with CCBA recently and discussed the issue in detail; that their Technical Team is in the process of making changes to their global software **Zodiac Terminal Operating System** and once the changes are made, the Direct Payment Facility will be rolled out. He further assured that DP World (CCTL) will go by Chairman's advice and fully implement the Direct Payment Facility for DPD containers.

7.3 The Chairman directed both the DP World (CCTL) and PSA (CITPL) to adopt the same practice as is being followed at Ennore and Kattupalli Terminals.

(POINT CLOSED)

Point No. MAA282: AMENDMENT OF PORT CODE IN DUTY-PAID ADVANCE BILL OF ENTRY

8. The Secretary, CCBA stated that when a vessel changes its port of call between Chennai, Kattupalli and Ennore after filing of an Advance Bill of Entry and payment of duty, there is presently no facility to amend the Port Code. Importers are compelled to file a fresh Bill of Entry, pay duty again and claim refund of the earlier payment, resulting in blockage of funds and clearance delays. The Secretary, CCBA, requested that DG Systems may be requested to enable amendment of Port Code in duty-paid Advance Bills of Entry where the change is between ports within the same Customs Zone.

8.1 Shri C. Thiyagarajan, Commissioner (Airport / General-I/C) informed the Chairman that a reference has been made to the Pr. Additional Director General, Directorate General of Systems on 21/09/2026 for examination of the issue and for carrying out necessary system-level rectifications / changes in ICES 1.5. Further, DG Systems have been specifically requested to provide a functionality for carrying out amendment of Port Code in respect of duty-paid Advance Bills of Entry, particularly where the change in ports falls within the same Customs Zone.

8.2 The Chairman recalled that this point had already been discussed in this forum and explained in detail how the system works. The Chairman informed that Directorate of Systems is seized of this issue and once the Directorate General of Systems approves port-agnostic advance Bills of Entry, this requirement will be addressed.

(POINT CLOSED)

Point No. MAA283: AUTO OOC – SCAN-SELECTED CONTAINERS

9. The Secretary, CCBA stated that Bills of Entry are getting Auto-OOC even when containers are selected for scanning. In case of subsequent scan mismatch, separate approval / examination procedures cause avoidable delay and detention/demurrage. The Secretary, CCBA, requested that the auto OOC may be withheld until scanning is completed. Alternatively, in Scan Mismatch cases, the CFS/Shed Officer may be authorised to directly examine and allow clearance without separate e-file approval from the AC.

9.1 Shri Puneet Singh, Deputy Director, NCTC (Cargo), stated that if a container is selected for scanning by NCTC, auto-OOC will not be given for such containers. The DD requested CCBA to share specific cases where Auto-OOC was given in respect of containers selected for scanning, for further examination by NCTC.

9.2 The Chairman further added that the status of containers selected for scanning should be incorporated in RMS, if not done already, and that this will ensure that no auto OOC is given in such cases.

(POINT CLOSED)

POINT NO. MAA284: CHENNAI AIR CARGO – CONGESTION & 24/7 CUSTOMS EXAMINATION / LEO

10. Secretary, CCBA stated that for the past two to three months, severe congestion has prevailed at both AAICLAS and AIASL terminals despite repeated discussions in PTFC and with terminal management. Cargo volumes have further increased substantially due to the Gulf situation, affecting export movement and flight connections. The Secretary, CCBA requested that immediate measures may be taken to ease congestion and 24/7 Customs examination and LEO facility may be extended to general export cargo, on par with the facility presently available for perishables.

10.1 The Secretary, CCBA informed the Chair that subsequent to the issue being raised in the PTFC, Commissioner (Air Cargo) had taken immediate action to address congestion at ACC and that 24X7 examination was also implemented. He thanked the Commissioner (Air Cargo) for taking immediate action in reducing congestion.

(POINT CLOSED)

POINT NO. MAA285: PENDENCY OF STUFFING REPORTS/TSA – CFSs

11. The Secretary, CCBA, stated that since discontinuation of the PO role in July 2026, issuance of Stuffing Reports has shifted to Custodians/CFSs. However, several CFSs are yet to fully operationalise the required software, resulting in heavy pendency of Stuffing Reports, TSA and “Allowed for Shipment”, thereby delaying EGM completion and export incentives such as Drawback, RoDTEP / RoSCTL and GST benefits. He further requested

that all CFSs may be directed to immediately operationalise the system and clear the entire pendency on priority, with close monitoring until normalcy is restored.

11.1 The Chairman requested the Custodians to make use of the software developed by M/s Sattva or make their own software to clear the pendency of stuffing report by 31.10.2026. The Chairman further stated that if pendency is allowed to stretch beyond 31.10.2026, action shall be taken as per HCCAR, 2009 against the concerned Custodians.

11.2 The Vice Chairman, NACFS – Chennai Region, stated that all their members are using the software developed by Sattva except six CFS, out of which four are nationalised CFSs who were facing some issues which have been since referred to ICEGATE for necessary resolution.

11.3 The Chairman asked Commissioner (Export) to organise a meeting between Directorate of Systems and CFSs for enabling the Custodians to flag issues faced by them related to Stuffing Reports, TSA and “Allowed for Shipment” so as to get the issues resolved immediately. He further stated that the deadline of 31/10/2026 provided to the Custodians for clearing the pendency of stuffing reports will not be extended further.

[Action: Commissioner (Export)]

(POINT CLOSED)

Point No. MAA286: SCMTR – MANIFEST FILING DELAYS & LATE FILING CHARGES

12. The Secretary, CCBA, stated that following mandatory implementation of SCMTR from 1st September 2026, several Shipping Lines, Consol Agents/Freight Forwarders are yet to be fully onboarded / familiarise themselves with the system, resulting in delayed filing of manifests and non-mapping of Advance Bills of Entry even after Entry Inward. He further stated that this is delaying grant of OOC and also attracting late filing charges on importers/Customs Brokers for reasons beyond their control. He requested that Shipping Lines/Consol Agents/Freight Forwarders may be strictly sensitised for timely SCMTR compliance, and consequential late filing charges on Bills of Entry arising from such manifest/SCMTR-related delays may be waived.

12.1 The Chairman stated that all the charges namely late fee, detention and demurrage, have already been waived and the Secretary, CCBA thanked the Chairman for the same. The Secretary, CCBA, requested Chairman to allow the old system to continue for some more time as around 2000 HBLs are yet to be incorporated and Preventive Commissionerate is continuously having meetings with stakeholders, but some issues still remain unresolved.

12.2 The Chairman stated that the policy decision to implement the SCMTR was taken at the highest level. He further informed that the SCMTR was originally scheduled for introduction much earlier but was postponed because stakeholders were not ready. The Chairman further explained that both the old and new systems were kept operational simultaneously and the Stakeholders were advised to use the new system to help identify and rectify any errors. However, most continued to rely exclusively on the old system. He further stated that although many sessions were held by the Preventive Commissionerate, the response was poor. Moreover, Chennai Customs Zone was identified as one of the poor

performers from amongst various Zones in this regard by the Board. The Chairman mentioned that stakeholders are the major stumbling block in implementing SCMTR, as the majority of problems relate to Consol Agents and Shipping Lines incorrectly entering and uploading data.

12.3 The Chairman asked the stakeholders to bring the issues faced by them to the knowledge of Shri T. Dinesh, JC, Smt. S. Saraswathi, ADC and Sri Sadeesh Kumar, JC who will co-ordinate with DG Systems to get the issues resolved. The Chairman further requested Shri Dinesh to hold a meeting with the stakeholders today (23.09.2026) at 05.00 PM.

(POINT CLOSED)

Point No. MAA287: Pending IGST Refunds & Export Incentives Due to EDI System Glitches

13. Smt. M.S. Selvanayagi, Joint Director, FIEO, stated that due to a technical anomaly in the EDI system, duplicate container entries are appearing against certain Shipping Bills. As a result, the "Let Export Order/Allowed for Shipment" related processing could not be completed, and the Gateway EGM details could not be updated in the system. Non-updation of Gateway EGM has led to non-generation of the corresponding IGST refund and export incentive benefits, despite the exports having been completed.

13.1 The JD, FIEO, further stated that the matter has reportedly remained unresolved for an extended period as the related Shipping Bills have moved to the historical database, requiring system retrieval and corrective amendment through the EDI authorities. It is further stated that the issue highlights the need for a mechanism to rectify historical EDI records affected by system glitches and to ensure timely processing of pending export benefits.

13.2 Shri Thiyagarajan, Commissioner (Airport / General-I/C) informed the Chair that vide letter dated 21/09/2026, the Pr. Additional Director General, Directorate General of Systems was requested to look into the issue for carrying out necessary system-level rectification/changes in ICES 1.5. Further, it has been specifically requested to provide for a suitable functionality for deletion / removal or suitable rectification of duplicate container entries in Shipping Bills, enabling the concerned officer to grant "Allow Shipment" and clear the pending Gateway EGM.

(POINT CLOSED)

14. The Chairman requested the stakeholders to follow the SCMTR advisories scrupulously and discipline while entering the data. The Chairman concluded the Meeting by thanking all the Members. The Meeting ended with thanks to the Chair.

This issues with the approval of the Chief Commissioner of Customs, Chennai Zone.

Digitally signed by
P.R. Srinivasan
Date: 05-10-2026
16:40:19

(पी आर श्रीनिवासन)
(P. R. SRINIVASAN)
उप आयुक्त सीमा शुल्क (मु.आ.का.)
DEPUTY COMMISSIONER OF CUSTOMS (CCO)

Copy submitted to:

The Joint Secretary (Customs)
CBIC, Kartavya Bhavan - 1, New Delhi.

-

Copy to:

The Assistant Commissioner (EDI), Custom House, Chennai
(With a request to upload the minutes of the meeting in the Chennai Custom House website)