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वित्त मंत्रालय MINISTRY OF FINANCE

राजस्व विभाग DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE



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F.NO.S.MISC/29/2017-APPG MAIN (IMPORTS)

Dated: .03.2019

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING WITH PGAs AND CCBA HELD ON 11.03.2019 AT 5:00 PM AT COMMISSIONER'S CONFERENCE ROOM, O/O THE COMMISSIONER OF CUSTOMS, IMPORT COMMISSIONERATE, CUSTOM HOUSE, CHENNAI.**

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A meeting with officers of Participating Government Agencies and representatives of CCBA was conducted to discuss the issues hindering clearance of goods resulting in increase in dwell time under the Chairmanship of Shri R. Srinivasa Naik, Commissioner of Customs, Import Commissionerate.

The following officers of Import Commissionerate attended the meeting

**S/Shri/Ms**

1. R. Gopalsamy, Joint Commissioner, CH-II
2. Kavitha N, Deputy Commissioner, Group 2
3. VC Ravi, Asst. Commissioner, Appraising Main
4. Rahul Sharma, Appraiser, Appraising Main
5. Sagar, Examiner, Appraising Main

The following members from the Trade Associations attended the meeting.

**S/Shri/Ms**

1. R.N. Sekar, Secretary, CCBA
2. A.S. Aleemuddin, Treasurer, CCBA
3. R. Kumar, Executive Committee, CCBA

The following members from Participating Government Agencies attended the meeting.

**S/Shri/Ms**

1. K.K. Jitha, Dy. Director, FSSAI
2. Dr. A.K. Bohria, Dy. Director(E), PQ
3. Dr. P. Manavalan, ADC(I)

Representatives of Animal Quarantine and Wildlife Crime Contral Bureau did not attend the meeting.

After issuance of facility circular 51/2018 dated 26.12.2018 it was expected that clearance time will improve, however in spite of close monitoring it was noticed that the situation has not improved. In this regard officers from PGAs and CCBA representatives were requested to provide suggestions on faster clearance of goods.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED WITH PGAs**

**POINT NO. 1-DELAY**

The dwell time in respect of goods for which samples are drawn by representatives of PQ and FSSAI is more as compared to AQ and ADC due to non synchronization of PQ and FSSAI system with EDI whereas ADC and AQ are linked with EDI

**Representative from FSSAI** informed that Pilot project regarding linking FSSAI with ICES is going on in Delhi. After successful implementation of same in Delhi the same will be launched PAN India and will help in improving Dwell time.

**Representative from PQ** informed that their system is also getting linked to ICES. The same will reduce the delay in clearance of goods

**Representative from ADC** informed that for drugs having dual use, the procedure of getting NOC from CDSCO, Zonal offices used to take a lot of time. In this regard necessary steps to reduce the time for granting NOC have been taken by ADC. The procedure for the same has now been streamlined and the time taken to grant NOC to such drugs has reduced drastically.

#### **POINT NO. 2-SHORTAGE OF STAFF**

**Representatives of FSSAI and ADC** informed that there is no shortage of manpower in their office.

**Representative of PQ** informed that there is acute shortage of staff and they have already taken up this issue with their Headquarters.

**Representative from CCBA** suggested that FSSAI and PQ may allow drawl of sample by Custom Officers at the time of examination as it is being done in other ports. FSSAI and PQ take a lot of time to come and draw samples due to shortage of staff.

**Representative of FSSAI** replied that their current manpower is able to attend to the requirements of the trade.

#### **POINT NO. 3-DRAWAL OF SAMPLE**

**Representative of FSSAI** informed that sample is drawn by their officers. In other ports wherever they do not have their officers, Custom officers are notified to draw sample for testing purpose on behalf of FSSAI.

To reduce dwell time it was suggested by them that if the sample for testing is drawn at the port terminal or 'O' Yard, the dwell time can be improved. This practice of sample drawing at port is being followed at Adani port, Kattupalli.

**Representative of PQ** informed that the sample for testing purpose is drawn by their officers.

**Representative from CCBA** suggested that item requiring clearance from both FSSAI and PQ are sent to two different laboratories delaying the testing procedures. They suggested that there are few laboratories which are capable of testing parameters required by FSSAI and PQ. They may identify such laboratories and notify so that delays on account of testing are avoided.

**Representative from FSSAI** said that they have no objection to notify laboratories capable of testing both FSSAI and PQ requirements.

**Representative of ADC** in case of bulk drugs and sensitive items like vaccines, blood plasma etc samples are drawn by ADC officials in the presence of Customs Officials. In case of other items the practice of sample drawal by Customs Officer on behalf of ADC is being followed.

**POINT NO. 4-PRESENCE OF ORIGINAL CERTIFICATE/REPORTS**

**Representatives of FSSAI and ADC** informed that no certificate/report is required by them for giving NOC. On the basis of results after testing of sample drawn, NOC is granted by them.

**Representative of PQ** informed that before granting NOC to any consignment, original phytosanitary certificate (PSC) from the exporting country is mandatory for them. Even though PSC can be verified from the website of the agency which has fumigated the consignment in export country, but still they require original PSC before giving NOC. Even for AEO clients they cannot give NOC on the basis of self certified copy of PS Certificate.

Regarding insistence on original PSC by PQ officers Joint Commissioner added that, since genuineness of Phytosanitary Certificate from exporting country can be verified from the website of the agency which has fumigated the consignment in export country and there is a provision of getting NOC from PQ even without producing original PSC by paying 5 times regular fees to PQ hence, the issue can be discussed in CCFC meeting whether any changes in this practice can be made to improve dwell time.

**POINT NO. 5-PAYMENT OF FEES FOR TEST/FUMIGATION**

**Representative from FSSAI** informed that fees for testing of samples has to be paid online

**Representative from PQ** informed that like FSSAI for them also fees for testing and fumigation has to be paid online. If original Phytosanitary certificate from originating country is not produced then fees equal to 5 times of regular fees has to be paid for NOC from PQ.

**Representative form ADC** informed that they don't take any fees for testing of samples

**OTHERS SUGGESTIONS**

**Representative from CCBA** suggested that there are a number of items which do not require NOC from ADC still system is selecting them for NOC from ADC. List of such items may be compiled and incorporated in the system to avoid unnecessary sample testing and improve dwell time.

**In reply to this Commissioner** opined that list of such items may be compiled after discussion with ADC officers and the same may be forwarded to DG (Systems) for incorporating the same in system.

*V. C. Ravi*  
26/3/19  
(V.C. Ravi)  
ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER OF CUSTOMS  
(APPRAISING MAIN, CHENNAI-II)

To,

1. All Trade Associations
2. Animal Quarantine
3. Plant Quarantine
4. FSSAI

5. Asst. Drug Controller
6. Wildlife Southern Region

Copy Submitted to:

1. The Chief Commissioner of Customs, Chennai Zone for kind information.
2. The Commissioner of Customs (Chennai III/IV/V/VI/VII and VIII)

Copy to

1. All JC/DC/ACs in Chennai II Commissionerate.
2. The Assistant Commissioner of Customs, EDI – for uploading in Chennai Customs

Website/Intranet of the Zone,

3. The Enquiry Section