



भारतसरकार

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

वित्तमंत्रालय, राजस्वविभाग

MINISTRY OF FINANCE, DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE

चेन्नै-IV(निर्यात(सीमाशुल्कआयुक्तकाकार्यालय

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER OF CUSTOMS – CHENNAI-IV(EXPORT)

सीमाशुल्कभवन, नं ६०, राजाजीसालैचेन्नै600001 ,

CUSTOM HOUSE, NO. 60, RAJAJI SALAI, CHENNAI – 600001

F.No. CUS/AG/MTG/TFC/3/2022A/M

Date: 31-07-2025

MINUTES OF THE PTFC MEETING HELD ON 18.07.2025 at 03:15 PM

The Permanent Trade Facilitation Committee (PTFC) meeting was held on 18.07.2025 at 03:15 PM through video conference. The meeting was chaired by Shri A.Manimaran, Commissioner of Customs, Chennai-IV (Export) Commissionerate.

2. The following officers of Export Commissionerate and members of the trade attended the meeting:

- i. Shri Lakshmikantha D, Additional Commissioner
- ii. Shri Kishor S, Additional Commissioner
- iii. Shri Chavan Mahesh Dagdosaheb, Joint Commissioner
- iv. Shri Devanathan R, Deputy Commissioner
- v. Shri Rajesh Kumar , Deputy Commissioner
- vi. Shri Raja Mohammed, Assistant Commissioner
- vii. Smt. JayalakshmiVeerasamy, Assistant Commissioner
- viii. Shri R Sunder, Assistant Commissioner
- ix. Shri S. Sriramamurthy, Assistant Commissioner
- x. Shri Saravanmoorthy J , Assistant Commissioner
- xi. Shri S. Pasumpon , Assistant Commissioner
- xii. Shri R. N. Sekar, President, CCBA
- xiii. Shri Natarajan,Secretary, CCBA
- xiv. Shri Y Leeladharan, Chairman, CHENSAA
- xv. Shri R. Kumar, Treasurer,CCBA
- xvi. Shri S. Sivashankar, CCBA
- xvii. Shri Sattva Padmanabhan, NACFS
- xviii. Smt. Selvanayagi, Joint Director, FIEO
- xix. Shri Satya, NACFS
- xx. Member of DGTS
- xxi. Shri Mohan SM, Deputy Director, (PP) RPQS, Chennai
- xxii. Smt. Priya Ravishankar, Women Wing, NACFS
- xxiii. Shri. Babu Jacob S
- xxiv. Smt. Shobana Kumar, AGM & RH, APEDA
- xxv. Member of APEDA, Regional Office, Chennai

3. Shri Kishor S, Additional Commissioner, extended a warm welcome to all the stakeholders and members who have gathered for the 4th PTFC meeting of the current financial year 2025-2026 and commenced the meeting and with the permission of Shri A. Manimaran, Commissioner of Customs, he invited

Shri Sekar, President of CCBA, to present the agenda points.

Discussion on the point raised during the previous PTFC meeting:

4 Agenda- 1:

EXPORT OF LEATHER GOODS: It is noticed that leather goods falling under HS Code 41, irrespective of whether AEO or ordinary exporters - all goods of said chapter allotted to Assessment to Appraiser, and none of these chapter bills are facilitated, we therefore requested to kindly take it up with DG System / NCTC to get the bills facilitated to have faster clearance.

4.1 Shri Kishor S, Additional Commissioner has noted that the issue raised by the trade pertained to the export of leather goods falling under HS Code 41. It was pointed out that, irrespective of whether the exporter holds AEO status or not, all shipping bills under this chapter were being routed for assessment by the appraiser, and none were being RMS-facilitated. The trade requested that this matter be taken up with the DG Systems, NCTC to enable RMS facilitation and ensure faster clearance of such consignments.

4.2 Upon examination, it was observed that in April 2025, out of 158 shipping bills, 137 were RMS-facilitated, and only 21 were routed for assessment. However, in May 2025, there was a significant shift — out of 174 shipping bills, only 2 were RMS-facilitated, and the remaining were sent for assessment. Since there was no change in the risk parameters prescribed in the RMS between the two months, the trade may also need to undertake some level of self-review or introspection.

4.3 Nevertheless, as per the trade's request, the matter has been escalated to the NCTC, Mumbai, via a letter dated 17-07-2025, seeking their intervention to ensure consistent RMS facilitation, thereby supporting smoother trade operations.

5. Agenda - 2:

Stuffing report for the export goods moved from CFS (Mapped with IMAA1) to Adani Ennore/ KATTUPALLI port has to be done simultaneously as and when export ETP are completed to avoid EGM errors to claim export incentives.

5.1 Shri Kishor S, Additional Commissioner has noted that the issue raised by the trade regarding the stuffing report for export consignments moving from CFS, INMA to Adani Port or Kattupalli Port. The trade emphasized that the stuffing report should be updated simultaneously upon completion of the ETP process to avoid EGM errors, which in turn affect the ability to claim export incentives.

5.2 This issue was duly acknowledged, and necessary instructions have been issued to the concerned officers to ensure that both the ETP completion and the stuffing report update are carried out in parallel, in order to prevent EGM discrepancies and facilitate timely incentive claims by the exporters.

5.3 Furthermore, the trade had submitted a list of 1,130 shipping bills that were pending at that time. These shipping bills were taken up on a priority basis, and currently, only 68 bills remain pending due to certain identified reasons, which are being addressed and are expected to be resolved in due

course.

5.4 Subsequently, the trade submitted a second list comprising 1,062 shipping bills. These too have been actively pursued, and as of now, only 81 bills are pending, which are also expected to be cleared within a week or so, subject to resolution of the issues flagged by the concerned sections.

Discussion on the fresh points raised during this PTFC meeting

6. Agenda -1:

Issues related to PQ clearance for Exports: Recently Plant Quarantine Authority insisting LEO copy of Shipping Bill for NOC release. Customs practice is that after verification of NOC only issue LEO, therefore requested to sensitise the Plant Quarantine to issue NOC as per the existing practice.

6.1 Shri Sivashankar, Member of CCBA, raised the issue that exporters are facing procedural delays due to the Plant Quarantine (PQ) Authorities insisting on the Let Export Order (LEO) copy before issuing the No Objection Certificate (NOC). He emphasized that as per customs procedures, the LEO is issued only after the NOC is verified, and this reversal is creating unnecessary bottlenecks. He requested that PQ Authorities adhere to the established sequence and revert to the previous process.

6.2 Shri Mohan SM, Deputy Director (PP) RPQS, representing Plant Quarantine, clarified that PQ is not specifically demanding the LEO copy. Instead, they require the final version of the shipping bill that accurately reflects quantity, number of packages, and container numbers. He reiterated that submission of the shipping bill is not a new requirement—it is part of the longstanding SOP and necessary for issuing the Phytosanitary certificate. He raised concerns that exporters sometimes delay shipments by 30–40 days after obtaining the Phytosanitary certificate, which increases the risk of infestation and non-compliance abroad. He further emphasized the importance of receiving final quantity values in advance to avoid errors, as the certification system is digital and connected to international hubs, making post-issuance corrections both difficult and time-consuming.

6.3 Shri Sekar, President of CCBA, clarified that exporters are comfortable submitting the shipping bill instead of the checklist, so that is not the issue. The main concern is the insistence by PQ on the LEO copy, which creates a procedural conflict, since Customs only issues LEO after receiving the NOC. He explained that even after obtaining LEO, actual export may not occur immediately due to vessel or space issues, requiring short shipments and amendments. He acknowledged that PQ previously accepted checklists but has now requested the actual shipping bill, which exporters are complying with. He requested better coordination between departments to avoid errors that could result in non-compliance issues with importing countries.

6.4 Shri Mohan SM, Deputy Director, RPQS, has stated that only a complete shipping bill copy with final values and figures—not necessarily the LEO is required.

6.5 The Commissioner of Customs clarified that Customs is normally the final authority to approve imports and exports, and the LEO can only be issued

after verifying clearances such as the phytosanitary certificate. He emphasized that the first copy of the shipping bill should be adequate for PQ's needs, and there is no procedural basis for requesting the LEO beforehand. He urged PQ to issue a formal clarification to eliminate confusion among the trade. Addressing concerns about amendments, he pointed out that a process is already in place and must be followed when changes in quantities or packaging arise. He acknowledged that the amendment process can be cumbersome and assured that the issue would be raised in the appropriate forums, like the CCFC, to explore simplification. He stressed the importance of reducing delays, ensuring accuracy, and minimizing non-compliance to facilitate trade.

7. Agenda – 2:

We thank Respected Commissioner of Customs for the interim relief given to the trade to permit exports to KATTUPALLI and Ennore under manual ETP from various CFSs to avoid stoppage of exports due to discontinuation of service centre. Now as trade facilitation measure access of online ETP module given to Customs officers and exports goes smooth. It is requested that stuffing report for the shipping bills moved under manual ETP be given in the systems now to enable us to represent the same with preventive Commissionerate to issue 'allowed for shipment' to get export incentives .

7.1 Shri R N Sekar, President of CCBA, has expressed sincere appreciation on behalf of the Chennai Customs Brokers Association (CCBA) to the Commissionerate for the timely temporary relief during the disruption of the service center. This relief ensured that consignments were not delayed. He highlighted that shortly after the disruption, officers were given access to perform tasks that were previously handled by EDI personnel at the CFS, and this arrangement has been working smoothly. During the 3–4 day interim period when manual processing was in place, officers processed shipping bills based on existing stuffing reports in the system, with no direct intervention from the trade. While the issue had already been discussed with the concerned officers, CCBA received additional feedback from its members, prompting them to formally place the issue on record. Shri Sekar requested that the Preventive Commissionerate consider allowing shipment entries for these manually processed shipping bills.

7.2 Shri Lakshimantha, Additional Commissioner, has provided an update on the status of the manual transshipment process. A total of 2,437 shipping bills were processed during the interim period, out of which 1,610 shipping bills have already been completed and transshipment numbers have been issued. The remaining 827 shipping bills are still pending but are expected to be completed within the next 1–2 days. He assured that there were no operational issues, and the work is being handled efficiently on a day-to-day basis. POs at the CFS have been instructed accordingly, with approximately 70% of the work already completed.

7.3 The Commissioner of Customs has acknowledged the updates provided and instructed that the remaining 827 shipping bills should be completed promptly, within the next 1–2 days. Once the pending bills are processed, a comprehensive list of all 2,437 shipping bills will be compiled and submitted. The Commissioner agreed that the matter could be formally referred to the Preventive Commissionerate for consideration. He also recommended drafting a formal letter that references the relevant public notices, details the actions

taken by the officers, and outlines any remaining tasks. Additionally, the Commissioner directed that a copy of this letter should be shared with CCBA for their reference.

8. Agenda – 3:

Discussion regarding the self-sealing

8.1 Smt. Selvanayagi, Joint Director, FIEO opened the discussion by updating the Commissioner on the communication received from Customs regarding the EGM filings. In compliance with the directive, FIEO has circulated the necessary information and published it on their website to inform the trade. She also raised a concern about a delay in the 'Allow for Shipment' process, which appears to be related to issues with INCUT. Further she thanked the Commissioner regarding the self-sealing permission and mentioned that the process was simplified after reviewing its genuine need.

8.2 The Commissioner of Customs has acknowledged the concern about the delay in the 'Allow for Shipment' process and confirmed that the issue falls under the jurisdiction of the Preventive Commissionerate, as it is handled by Preventive officers at the gates. The Commissioner assured that the matter would be forwarded to the Preventive wing for resolution.

8.3 Shri RN Sekar President of CCBA, has expressed gratitude for the one-time self-sealing permission granted by the Commissioner. However, he raised a practical issue that exporters are facing. According to the circular, photographs need to be uploaded with the shipping bill. While exporters are uploading photographs during the filing process, if the photographs need to be uploaded after the shipping bill is filed, approval from the concerned AC/DC at the assessment level is required. This additional step has been causing delays, and Shri RN Sekar requested if there is any way to streamline this process. Shri RN Sekar further explained that exporters are uploading photographs after the shipping bill number has been assigned. This often happens during evening hours, when exporters prepare everything, file the shipping bill, and only after sealing the container they take and upload the photographs. He emphasized that this process is leading to delays, particularly with refrigerator containers that often need to be stuffed late at night.

8.4 Smt. Selvanayagi Jt. Director of FIEO supported Shri RN Sekar's point, with refrigerator containers. Previously, exporters would file the shipping bill before the containers arrived, including sealing numbers, and update the sealing information once the containers were stuffed. However, with the recent notification, exporters must complete the stuffing first and then file the shipping bill, causing delays, especially when containers arrive at night. This results in exporters waiting longer to complete the filing process.

8.5 The Commissioner of Customs inquired about the procedures for amendments and whether exporters need to obtain permission from the AC/DC for uploading documents. Shri RN Sekar clarified that no approval is required for uploading the documents themselves, but the documents can only be viewed by the LEO officer after approval from the concerned Group Assessment DC/AC. This issue arises because the DC/AC are available only during the day, creating difficulties during night-time operations, particularly with exports.

8.6 The Commissioner acknowledged the issue and assured that the matter

would be investigated. He requested more details about the specific exporters facing challenges, as this would help tailor potential solutions. He emphasized that the goal is to maintain visibility and control over what is being stuffed, especially since the self-stuffing process was granted to ensure smooth operations.

8.6 Shri RN Sekar President of CCBA clarified that if the approval process by the DC/AC has been discontinued for exports, so exporters can upload photographs at any time without approval. The issue arises because, although the photographs can be uploaded, the LEO officer can only view them once the AC approves them in the system. This system-based approval process is what causes delays for exporters.

8.7 The Commissioner assured that the issue would be studied further, and they would work towards finding a solution that addresses the delays.

9. As there were no further points raised for discussion, the meeting was concluded with a vote of thanks to the chair person.

KISHOR SASIYUTHAMAN NAIR
ADDITIONAL COMMISSIONER
Appraising Main
Export Commissionerate
Chennai Customs.

To

1. **All the Stakeholders.**
2. **EDI with request to upload in Chennai Customs website.**