



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, राजाजीसालैचेन्नै 600001,
CUSTOM HOUSE, NO. 60, RAJAJI SALAI, CHENNAI - 600001

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

Date: 12-06-2025

MINUTES OF THE PTFC MEETING HELD ON 23.05.2025 at 15:30HRS

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The Permanent Trade Facilitation Committee (PTFC) meeting was held on 23.05.2025 at 15:30 HRS 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. Selvanyagi, Joint Director, FIEO
- xix. Member of Apparels Export Promotion Council

3 . Shri A.Manimaran, Commissioner of Customs, extended a warm welcome to all the stakeholders and members who have gathered for the 2nd PTFC meeting of the current financial year 2025-2026 including departmental officers and Apparels Export Promotion Council (AEPC) for the meeting.

4. There are no fresh points of discussion for this PTFC meeting.

Discussion on the point raised during the previous PTFC meeting:

5. Drawing of samples and Customs examination on leather exports:

5 . 1 Shri R. N. Sekar, President of CCBA, thanked the Commissioner for addressing the matter with the Board. In the interim, he requested that Customs officials draw samples of crust leather exports and send them to the Central Leather Research Institute (CLRI) for testing. Once confirmed by leather experts, the shipment could then be cleared for export. He also mentioned that many exporters are currently awaiting clarification from the Board on this issue. The CCBA President emphasized that there is no duty on EI-tanned or crust leather, with duties only applicable to wet leather. He noted that exports of wet leather have significantly declined, and the majority of exports now consist of finished and crust leather. Additionally, he pointed out that the Council for Leather Exports (CLE) has recommended that sampling should not be required for crust leather, in line with the current practice for finished leather. Until a clear distinction between crust and finished leather is established, Customs may continue drawing samples and sending them to CLRI for verification.

5.2 In response, the Commissioner of Customs acknowledged that the request has been escalated to the appropriate authorities and advised the trade body to escalate the matter as well. He emphasized that issuing any specific instruction at this stage would be in violation of the existing CBIC circular. The Commissioner further noted that the Regional Director of the Council for Leather Exports (CLE) has also recommended continuing the existing procedures until official clarification is received from the Ministry, as there has been no change in policy—only a change in the applicable duty structure.

5.3 Shri Lakshmikantha D., Additional Commissioner, also clarified that customs duty currently applies only to wet and raw leather, not to EI-tanned or crust leather. The Commissioner concluded by stating that the situation will be reviewed, and the possibility of issuing interim procedural guidance will be considered while awaiting final directions from the Board.

6. Extension of timings of registration in CFS until 3PM:

6.1 The President of CCBA thanked the Commissioner for extending the examination timings until 3 PM. However, he noted that volume wise there are not much bills, so he requested to extend timings beyond 3 PM.

6.2 In response, the Commissioner informed that a review meeting had been held with Customs officers. During the meeting, officers reported that even when bills are registered by 3 PM, examinations often extend until 10 or 11 PM, which the Commissioner would prefer to avoid. They also noted that while officers return by 9:15 AM the next morning, Customs brokers frequently do not arrive on time and only return around 3 PM.

6.3 President, CCBA stated the practical challenges, including distance of CFSs and delays caused by bills pending in the FAGs. The Secretary of CCBA added that, following the Commissioner's intervention, operations have started earlier and that registrations after 3 PM are now minimal. He added that most cargo now arrives and is cleared earlier in the day, and that a few issues that did arise were resolved by Shri Lakshmikantha D, Additional Commissioner.

6.4 The Commissioner concluded by stating that the frequency of late bill registrations and delayed examinations will be studied, and appropriate action will be taken wherever necessary.

Discussion on other points:

7 . The Commissioner inquired members of the Apparel Export Promotion Council (AEPC) had if they have any issues or concerns to raise for discussion during the meeting. The members responded that there were no issues to be raised at present.

8. Challenges with SCMTR and SDM:

8.1 In response to the Commissioner's query regarding the SCMTR, Shri Y Leeladharan, Chairman of CHENSAA, informed that stakeholders have started complying with the SCMTR requirements. However, issues have been observed, particularly concerning container cargo filings. Traders are facing delays in filings due to stakeholders not providing the complete data in a timely manner. The significant challenge is the difficulty in obtaining the complete set of Bills of Lading for vessels transshipping to other Indian ports. Since SCMTR mandates the inclusion of transit cargo in manifests, traders often delay document submission until contractual obligations are finalized. Shri Leeladharan further noted that, so far, no errors have been reported in the filing of bulk cargo. He emphasized that timely compliance with SCMTR by both importers and exporters would significantly ease the process.

8.2 In response to the Commissioner's query regarding the Sea Departure Manifest (SDM), Shri Y Leeladharan confirmed that SDM filing is being carried out as required, with no complaints on the same is reported. However, an issue arises when the Estimated Time of Departure (ETD) and Estimated Time of Arrival (ETA) differ from the actual times. The integration between NLP and ICEGATE is causing complications in such cases. Specifically, the ETD and ETA are uploaded during voyage registration, and once the port approval is granted, these values are locked and cannot be amended. As a result, whenever there is a discrepancy between the actual ETD/ETA and the registered times, the manifest must be canceled and refiled. Shri Leeladharan further mentioned that he has raised this issue in a meeting with the Directorate General and with NLP, suggesting that making the ETD and ETA fields non-mandatory could help avoid such filing errors.

8.3 Commissioner concluded stating that we are in transition phase, the issue will be settled when it is streamlined.

9. Challenges with stuffing report of LCL consignment in SEZ cargo:

9.1 The Commissioner observed that for SEZ cargo, particularly LCL consignments arriving at the CFS for consolidation before being moved to their respective ports, the stuffing report is often missed. He recommended that details of such cargo should be regularly provided to the concerned officers (Superintendent or PO) and suggested that ETP stuffing should be carried out routinely. Currently, officers are receiving information about LCL consignments directly from the CFS.

9.2 In response, Shri Sattva Padmanabhan, NACFS assured that the matter will be ensured. He explained that the main issue arises when cargo is moved to Kattupalli and Ennore ports, as there is already an existing ETP at these locations. As a result, a second ETP cannot be processed, and the stuffing report is only completed at Kattupalli or Ennore ports. However, he clarified that for FCL consignments, ETPs are already in place since these consignments are directly sent to the port. The problem primarily lies with LCL consignments, as officers have not been granted access to Kattupalli and Ennore ports.

9.3 Shri R. N. Sekar, CCBA President added that previously, officers were granted access to Kattupalli and Ennore ports, even when the CFS was mapped to INMAA 1. He emphasized that if access is provided to CFS officers now, the ETP issue for LCL consignments would be resolved.

9.4 The Commissioner then instructed Shri Lakshmikantha D, ADC, to

examine the possibility of extending access and assigning roles for multiple ports, specifically for the issuance of stuffing reports. Additionally, the Commissioner mentioned that clear instructions would be issued through standing orders and facility circulars to regulate the trade.

9.5 Shri R. N. Sekar, CCBA President commented that implementing this solution would ensure the timely and accurate submission of stuffing reports without delays.

10. Providing ICETABs to newly posted officers:

10.1 Shri R. N. Sekar, CCBA President raised concerns about the new examiners posted at various CFSs who have not been provided with ICETABs. This has been causing delays in filing reports, even though the files are being forwarded for approval.

10.2 In response, Shri Lakshmikantha D, ADC, stated that the DG System officers have already been informed to set up VPN access and complete the necessary ID and VPN mappings.

10.3 The Commissioner concluded by directing that coordination with the DG System officer should be prioritized to resolve the issue promptly. He further emphasized that this exercise should be completed before any new officers are posted.

11. 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.**