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मुख्य आयुक्त सीमाशुल्ककार्यालय

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF COMMISSIONER OF CUSTOMS

चेन्नैसीमाशुल्क क्षेत्र

CHENNAI CUSTOMS ZONE

सीमाशुल्कभवन, नं.60, राजाजीसालै, चेन्नै 600 001.

CUSTOM HOUSE, NO.60, RAJAJI SALAI, CHENNAI 600 001.

04-02-2025

फा.सं./F.No.S2/109/2015-Prev.Tech

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

The 117th Customs Clearance Facilitation Committee (CCFC) meeting was held on 28.01.2025 (Tuesday) at 04.00 PM through Video Conference. Shri A.R.S.Kumar, Chief Commissioner of Customs, Chennai Zone, chaired the meeting.

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

S/Shri/Smt.

- i. R.Srinivasa Naik, Principal Commissioner (Airport / General)
- ii. Ishtikhar Baig, Principal Commissioner (Preventive)
- iii. K.S.V.V.Prasad, Commissioner (Import / ACC)
- iv. A.Manimaran, Commissioner (Export)
- v. K.Veerabhadra Reddy, Commissioner (Audit)
- vi. R.Rajasekhar, Addl. Commissioner (CCO)
- vii. D.S.Sangeetha, Addl. Commissioner (ACC)
- viii. Kishor S, Addl. Commissioner (Prev.)
- ix. Dr S.Periyannan, Addl. Commissioner (Export)
- x. Rajesh V Shelke, Addl. Commissioner (ACC)
- xi. M.S.Tej Kumar, Addl. Commissioner (Import)
- xii. A.Govindaraj, Addl. Commissioner (ACC)
- xiii. R.Dhasarathan, Joint Director, CRCL
- xiv. Dr.Venugopalan Nair, Deputy Commissioner (CCO)
- xv. B.Vimal, Sr. Dy. Traffic Manager, Chennai Port Authority
- xvi. Om Pragesh, Chief Manager (Traffic), Kamarajar Port Ltd.
- xvii. R.Rajkumar, Associate GM, Adani Kattupalli Port Ltd.
- xviii. M.S.Shakul, DGM, CCTL DP World
- xix. Pon Esakkiappan, Operations Manager, CITPL PSA

- xx. Venkatraman, CITPL PSA
- xxi. Dr Maheswari, Port Health Officer
- xxii. S.Pandiyaraja, AO, FSSAI
- xxiii. Jithin Joseph, IO, Bureau of Immigration
- xxiv. K.Narendran, Deputy Drug Controller-Import (Sea), CDSCO
- xxv. Indira, DDC, O/o ADCI, Airport
- xxvi. Dr.D.Biswas, Joint Commissioner, AQCS
- xxvii. Dr. Subhash Kumar, Joint Director, RPQS
- xxviii. Naseer AS Basha, JGM, AAICLAS
- xxix. R.N.Sekar, President, CCBA
- xxx. Divakaran P Nair, Vice President, CCBA
- xxxi. S.Nataraja, Secretary, CCBA
- xxxii. S.S.Shivashankar, Customs Committee Head, CCBA
- xxxiii. Y.Leeladharan, Chairman, Chennai & Ennore Ports Steamer Agents Association
- xxxiv. S.Padmanabhan, Secretary-NACFS, National Chapter
- xxxv. CWC, DPE, Thiruvottiyur
- xxxvi. Venkatasamy, AE, TNPCB
- xxxvii. Dharsika, AE, TNPCB

3. Members of the following organizations did not participate in the Video Conference.

- i. Textile Committee
- ii. Central Leather Research Institute
- iii. Bureau of Indian Standards
- iv. Wildlife Crime Control Bureau
- v. Fertilizer Control

4. Shri R.Rajasekhar, Addl. Commissioner (CCO) welcomed all and introduced Shri A.R.S.Kumar, Chief Commissioner, who has taken charge recently, to the Members and invited the Chairman, CCFC, to deliver the opening remarks.

4.1 The Chairman of CCFC – Shri A.R.S.Kumar, Chief Commissioner of Customs, warmly welcomed the Members and stated that CCFC has been vested with the responsibility of ensuring expeditious Customs clearance of import and export goods and swift redressal of grievances of the Trade. The Chairman further stated that on going through the agenda points, it is found that they are in the nature of promoting further Trade Facilitation and that there are no grievances, which is appreciable. The Chairman asked Shri R.Rajasekhar, Addl. Commissioner (CCO) to continue the proceedings.

4.2 Shri R.Rajasekhar, Addl. Commissioner (CCO) made a brief presentation on the Public Notices and Facility Circulars issued during the last one month.

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

Point No.MAA254:-BANK GUARANTEES / BONDS SHOULD BE ACCEPTED IN DEMAT FORM

5. Shri R.N.Sekar, President, CCBA, stated that for the sake of improved compliance

and digital working environment, all different kinds of Bonds & BG's should be accepted and processed in DEMAT form in Customs EDI System. He further stated that these Bonds / BG's once executed, should be available for viewing on National basis. Once a consignment is cleared, the real time ledger and balance should be available for viewing to the Importer / Custom Broker. The President, CCBA, requested for taking up the matter with DG System.

5.1 The Chairman stated that this point had been taken up for discussion at 18th Customs Consultative Group Meeting held under the Chairmanship of Member (Customs) on 05.11.2024 and in the Final Minutes, it has been stated that the module for Electronic Bond and Electronic BG in DEMAT form is under development and testing at ICEGATE. The Chairman further stated that the Directorate General of Systems vide Advisory No. 05/2025 dt. 21.01.2025 has stated that they are in the process of implementing e-Bond and e-BG Module for accepting electronic Bonds and BGs as a measure of trade facilitation.

(POINT CLOSED)

Point No.MAA255:-FINALISATION OF BGs EXECUTED FOR THE PURPOSE OF FTA VERIFICATION

6. Shri R.N.Sekar, President, CCBA, stated that BG executed for the purpose of FTA verification is not getting finalized within the prescribed time limit and that more than 100 cases are still pending for verification report and final assessment of bill of entry. The President, CCBA, requested to close these verification issues since BGs are executed for repeated shipments which is causing burden on the importers.

6.1 The Chairman stated that the point is well made and elicited the views of Commissioner (Import/ACC). The Commissioner (Import/ACC) stated that as and when any verification report is received from the Director (International Customs Division), the same is forwarded to the concerned Groups/Investigation Section immediately for reconciliation and closure of BGs, if genuinity is proved. However, in respect of Import Commissionerate and ACC, reports numbering to 97 & 32 respectively are pending for which periodical reminders have been sent to Board. The Commissioner further stated that out of 97 reports pending at Import, around 40 are pending for more than two years. The Commissioner stated that as it involves bilateral verification, it depends upon other country's response.

6.2 The Chairman asked the Commissioner (Import/ACC) to identify those cases which are pending for three years and forward the list to CCO for taking it up with ICD.

(POINT CLOSED)

Point No.MAA256:-ISSUANCE OF ADVANCE DELIVERY ORDER BY STEAMER AGENTS / LINERS

7. Shri R.N.Sekar, President, CCBA, stated that Steamer Agents/Liners are not issuing Advance Delivery Order in all cases. Currently liners are issuing Advance Delivery Order only for DPD Containers. The President, CCBA, requested that this should be extended to all Containers moved under PNR to CFSs to have timely clearance and to reduce the dwell time.

7.1 The Chairman elicited the views of Shri Y.Leeladharan of CHENSAA. Shri Leeladharan stated that regarding issuance of Advance Delivery Order for containers moved under PNR to CFSs, most of their Members felt that the cargo Delivery Order could only be issued once the container physically reaches the respective CFSs due to the following reasons:-

- to know the condition of the container prior to issuance of DO
- at times CHAs seek amendment of Off Dock CFSs.
- accrual of Port storage charges beyond 3 free days.

7.2 The President, CCBA, stated that Delivery Order is issued with validity and if it exceeds 3 days free period, Custodian will not deliver till the Liner issues extension of Delivery Order once storage charges are paid. He further stated that before release of the containers, the Custodian will check all the parameters. The President, CCBA, further stated that anyone who wants to take delivery once the container is moved to the CFS on the same day, can do so if Advance Delivery Order is issued and it will be of immense help to the Trade and also result in reduction of Dwell Time.

7.3 The Chairman, CHENSAA, stated that the President, CCBA, is focusing only on storage charges but not on the other two issues namely, the condition of the containers at the time of delivery at CFS and seeking change in CFS at the last minute. He further stated that storage charges alone are not the criteria as some of the Liners are issuing Advance Delivery Orders on good faith to help the Trade. He further stated that there should not be any deviation or change from declared CFS to another at the last minute. If the President, CCBA, can assure that there will not be any last minute change in the CFS, he can also ask his Members to consider issuance of Advance Delivery Order.

7.4 The Chairman stated that even though there is some common ground in the views expressed by CHENSAA & CCBA, concerns are expressed on both the sides. To break the ice, the Chairman asked both the parties to sit together, deliberate and resolve the issue and asked the Principal Commissioner (Preventive) also to be part of the discussion group. The Chairman asked the Principal Commissioner (Preventive) to coordinate for a meeting with CHENSAA & CCBA to resolve the issue.

[Action: PC (Preventive) / CHENSAA / CCBA]

Point No.MAA257:-DELAY IN MOVEMENT OF DPD CONTAINERS DUE TO LENGTHY PROCESS

8. Shri R.N.Sekar, President, CCBA, stated that there is delay in movement of DPD containers due to lengthy process of getting Delivery Order extension in case of any storage/shifting charges levied by the CCTL and CITPL. He further stated that if the vehicle has reported beyond 48 hours (due to various reasons like congestion and delayed RMS OOC etc) the CBs have to approach Shipping Lines for invoice and payment for storage charges and get extension for submission to Terminal. These are back to back payment by the shipping line to Terminal (CCTL & CITPL). As the Storage charges belong to Terminal, paying the same to Liners and then Liners transferring the same to Terminal results in delay. He further stated that if these payments are made directly to Terminal similar to the facility at Kattupalli / Ennore Port, this delay can be avoided and

spot delivery can be taken by the importers/CBs.

8.1 The Chairman elicited the views of CHENSAA, CCTL & CITPL. Shri Y.Leeladharan of CHENSAA stated that Shipping Lines do not have any objection, if Terminals confirm to them about direct collection of all Import Storage charges for DPD Containers and avoid duplicate billing.

8.2 Shri M.S.Shakul of CCTL stated that to ensure error-free billing, an Unique Identification Number (UIN) of each Customs Broker in IAL (Import Advance List) for debiting the transaction (amounts) in the Permanent Deposit Account (PDA) maintained by CCTL would be required. He further stated that at JNPT, each CB is having a Unique Id meant for all Terminals at Mumbai. Shri Shakul further stated that they will develop the software for direct payment facility towards storage of DPD containers within two and a half months.

8.3 Shri Pon Esakkiappan of CITPL stated that they do have an existing online portal "ODEX" in which CB can register and do the necessary storage payment directly to the Terminal through this platform. This can serve as a solution for avoiding delays.

8.4 The Chairman stated that both the Terminals are in agreement but the only thing is CCTL may need a little more time to develop the software and asked CCBA's views in providing the Unique Id.

8.5 The President, CCBA, wanted to know the purpose for which the Unique Id is meant. Shri Shakul of CCTL volunteered to explain in detail to CCBA any time as per mutual convenience. Shri Shakul further stated that for successful utilization of the upcoming software, this Unique Id would be very much useful. The President, CCBA, stated that he will discuss with CCTL.

8.6 The Chairman asked the Principal Commissioner (Preventive) to coordinate for a meeting with CCTL, CITPL & CCBA.

[Action: PC (Preventive) / CCTL / CITPL / CCBA]

9. The Chairman stated that in respect of the above discussed two agenda points, the Principal Commissioner (Preventive) shall coordinate with the respective stakeholders to arrive at a decision and thanked all the members for joining the meeting.

10. The meeting ended with thanks to the Chair.

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

(आर. राजसेखर)

(R. RAJASEKHAR)

अपर आयुक्त सीमा शुल्क (मु.आ.का.)

ADDL. COMMISSIONER OF CUSTOMS (CCO)

Copy submitted to
The Joint Secretary (Customs)
CBIC, North Block, New Delhi.

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