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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.

26-03-2025

फा.सं./F.No.S2/109/2015-Prev.Tech

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

The 119th Customs Clearance Facilitation Committee (CCFC) meeting was held on 21.03.2025 (Friday) at 11.00 AM through Physical Mode. 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

1. R.Srinivasa Naik, Principal Commissioner (Airport / General)
2. K.S.V.V.Prasad, Commissioner (Import / ACC / Preventive)
3. A.Manimaran, Commissioner (Export)
4. R.Rajasekhar, Addl. Commissioner (CCO)
5. D.Lakshmikantha, Addl. Commissioner (Export)
6. D.S.Sangeetha, Addl. Commissioner (Import)
7. Kishor.S, Addl. Commissioner (Preventive)
8. R.Sri Balaji, Addl. Commissioner (Import)
9. B.Loknatha Reddy, Addl. Commissioner (Prev.)
10. M.S.Tej Kumar, Addl. Commissioner (Import)
11. Shyam Sundar Reddy, Deputy Commissioner (Prev.)
12. Dr.Venugopalan Nair, Deputy Commissioner (CCO)
13. B.Vimal, Sr. Dy. Traffic Manager, Chennai Port Authority
14. Om Pragesh, Chief Manager (Traffic), Kamarajar Port Ltd.
15. R.Rajkumar, GM, Adani Kattupalli Port Ltd.
16. U.Ameer. M/s. Adani Kattupalli Port Ltd.
17. M.S.Shakul, DGM, CCTL DP World
18. S.Sivakumar, Manager, DP World

19. Srinivasan, CITPL PSA
20. V.Thenmozhi, RDD, Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB)
21. G.Ashok, AD, Bureau of Immigration (BOI)
22. Jithin Joseph, IO, Bureau of Immigration
23. K.Narendran, Deputy Drugs Controller (India), CDSCO
24. Arun Pucchakayala, Joint Director, BIS
25. S.Pandiyaraja, Joint Director, FSSAI
26. Dr. Subhash Kumar, Joint Director, RPQS
27. R.N.Sekar, President, CCBA
28. Divakaran P Nair, Vice President, CCBA
29. S.Natarajan, Secretary, CCBA
30. S.Shivashankar, Customs Committee Head, CCBA
31. Y.Leeladharan, Chairman, Chennai & Ennore Ports Steamer Agents Association
32. S.Padmanabhan, Secretary-NACFS, National Chapter
33. S.Sathyanarayanan, Chairman, NACFS, Chennai Chapter
34. S.Kannan, Vice Chairman, NACFS, Chennai Chapter
35. R.Rajakumari, Manager, CWC, DPE, Thiruvottiyur
36. Dr.S.Sugashini, Asst. Environmental Engineer, TNPCB
37. V.Santhosh, Terminal Manager, CONCOR
38. V.Bharathi Ganesh, Asst. Officer, CONCOR
39. R.Rajakumari, Manager, CWC DPE Thiruvottiyur

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

1. Textile Committee
2. Central Leather Research Institute
3. AAICLAS
4. AQCS
5. Fertiliser Control

4. Shri R.Rajasekhar, Addl. Commissioner (CCO) welcomed all 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 one item in agenda has since been resolved and stated that recently a Public Notice has been issued on implementation of E-Bond & E-BG and one more significant development for the Trade is Automation of Refund Processing which will be implemented from 1st April 2025. The Chairman further stated that Chennai Customs Zone is going to conduct an Outreach Program very soon explaining the salient features of implementation of E-Bond & E-BG and Automation of Refund Processing.

5. With the permission of the Chairman, Dr. Venugopalan Nair, Deputy Commissioner (CCO), made a brief presentation on the Public Notices issued during the last one month.

6. With the permission of the Chairman, the following pending points raised in the previous meeting, were taken up for discussion first.

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

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

6.1. The Chairman asked Shri R.N.Sekar, President, CCBA, to brief the outcome of the meeting coordinated by the Principal Commissioner (Preventive). The President, CCBA, stated that a meeting was held on 18.03.2025 under the Chairmanship of the Principal Commissioner (Preventive). The President, CCBA, stated that regarding Point No.MAA256, it was decided that CCBA will study the functioning of the system at major Ports like Nhava Sheva and Mundra and will brief the outcome of the study to the Principal Commissioner (Preventive). Shri Y.Leeladharan, Chairman, CHENSAA, reiterated his views expressed in the last two meetings. Shri B.Loknatha Reddy, Addl. Commissioner (Preventive) stated that with respect to movement of containers under PNR to a particular CFS, if a Bill of Lading covers 10 containers out of which 5 moved to CFS and the remaining 5 are still at Port but since RMSFCA has given OOC to all the 10 containers, the CCBA wants to take delivery of those containers which have reached CFS but the CHENSAA's stand is that it is legally not possible to issue Advance Delivery Order for the containers moved to CFS under PNR movement unless the Terminal hands over all the containers to the CFS.

6.2 The Chairman stated that Customs is just facilitating the discussion among CCBA & CHENSAA on a common forum and asked the President, CCBA to sit with CHENSAA and resolve the issue.

(POINT CLOSED)

7. Regarding Point No.MAA257, Shri Sekar stated that during the meeting convened by the Principal Commissioner (Preventive) on 18.03.2025, Shri R.Rajkumar, GM, Adani Kattupalli Port Ltd, presented a PPT on the working of the system at Kattupalli & Ennore Container Terminals. He further stated that during the above meeting, both CCTL & CITPL came up with two different methodologies which were totally at variance with the system followed at Kattupalli & Ennore Terminals. Shri Sekar wanted both CCTL & CITPL to adopt the method followed at Kattupalli & Ennore Terminals for collection of Storage / Other related charges from the Customs Brokers which is seamless and user friendly.

7.1 The Chairman asked Shri R.Rajkumar, GM, to explain the method adopted at Kattupalli & Ennore Container Terminals. Shri Rajkumar stated that at their Terminals at Kattupalli & Ennore, they have devised a method of collecting the Storage / Other related charges in respect of DPD and DPE containers directly from the end users (customers) rather than from the Liners. It is an online Payment Gateway facility created through Bank where Wallets are created for the individual customers as offered by the Bank and the CBs who have registered with them at Kattupalli & Ennore Terminals were on-boarded in the Payment Gateway facility and they directly log in with their credentials and pay the relevant charges as per the tariff and the payment reaches the Terminals instantly and the end users generate their invoices instantly. Both CCTL & CITPL reiterated their views expressed in the last two meetings.

7.2 The Chairman stated that Shri R.Rajkumar, GM, M/s. Adani Kattupalli Port Ltd.

clearly explained the process involved which appears to be user friendly. The Chairman further stated that if Kattupalli & Ennore Terminals can implement the method successfully without the creation of Unique Identification Number for Customs Brokers why not CCTL & CITPL. The Chairman opined that both CCTL & CITPL can replicate the method followed at Kattupalli & Ennore Terminals and advised Shri M.S.Shakul, DGM, DP World (CCTL) & Shri Srinivasan, Manager, PSA Chennai (CITPL) to study the method being adopted at Kattupalli & Ennore Terminals, explore the possibility of devising a method on similar lines in consultation with their managements and arrive at a solution.

7.3 The Chairman stated that Customs is just facilitating the discussion among CCBA, CCTL & CITPL on a common forum and asked the President, CCBA to sit with CCTL & CITPL and resolve the issue.

(POINT CLOSED)

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

Point No.MAA258:- DELAY IN ASSESSMENT AT VARIOUS FAG LOCATIONS

9. Shri R.N.Sekar, President, CCBA, stated that on regular basis, trade is facing delay in assessment. Irregular working of AEM and limited role of TSK are not helping the trade. Suitable escalation mechanism needs to be created if the Bills of Entry are not assessed within 24 hours. Shri Sekar also came out with a suggestion that CBIC Circular 14/2021-Cus sets a time limit for attending to Bills of entry. If this time limit is exceeded, the Bill of Entry should automatically be sent back to the PAG location for completing assessment. He further stated that time-wise accountability needs to be created within EDI System. Creating a faceless monitoring system through CBIC for all locations, with a window to report issues through the CBIC website becomes essential and required for the trade facilitation.

9.1 Shri K.S.V.V.Prasad, Commissioner (Import/ACC) stated that at present e-mails are being received from Importers / Customs Brokers addressed to TSK Section whenever there is delay in assessment or any other grievance. These e-mails are scrutinized and forwarded immediately to the respective TSK locations of the particular Port for necessary action. Further, AEM module is being used actively to address pendency and putting time limit and force forward to PAG as suggested by CCBA may defeat the very purpose of FAG.

9.2 The Chairman stated that CCBA's suggestion may not augur in well as it challenges the fundamental principle of introduction of FAG and asked the President, CCBA to approach the concerned Commissioner with specific instances of delay in faceless assessment.

(POINT CLOSED)

Point No. MAA259:- E-BOND / E-BG IMPLEMENTATION

10. The President, CCBA, stated that the E-Bond / E-BG Module implemented by ICEGATE, is not effectively working as the data against any particular IEC not being auto populated. He further stated that even after Aadhar verification is done successfully,

entered data not getting saved in the system. It is also stated that the category of importers are not being identified against IEC and there is no provision to enter manually also.

10.1 The Chairman asked the Commissioner (Import/ACC) to incorporate the above issues in the Outreach Programme to be conducted shortly.

(POINT CLOSED)

Point No. MAA260:- SERVICE CENTRE FACILITY

11. Shri R.N.Sekar, President, CCBA, stated that even though online facility has been provided for filing documents, amendment etc. dependence on Service Centre for IGM regularization, IGM Amendment, BE and SB amendments, transshipment processing of export goods from INMAA1 to INKAT1 or INENR1 and sometime even for filing of SB and BE due to system down, etc., becomes essential and unavoidable. As the current contract of service provider is getting expired on 31st March, it was requested to extend the Service Centre facility till the ICEGATE online facility is completely restored.

11.1 Shri R.Srinivasa Naik, Principal Commissioner (General) stated that extension of contract of Service Center is being done by DG Systems and they are not in favour of extending the contract of Service Centre as the footfall is minimal due to enabling of online amendment and no printing being done at Service Centre.

11.2 Shri Y.Leeladharan, Chairman, CHENSAA & Shri S.Padmanabhan, Secretary, NACFS, seconded the agenda relating to extension of contract of Service Centre.

11.3 The Chairman asked CCBA, CHENSAA & NACFS to give a written representation highlighting the tasks which can be done only in Service Centre and not on ICEGATE.

(POINT CLOSED)

Other Unlisted Issues discussed with the permission of the Chair

12. Smt. V.Thenmozhi, Regional Deputy Director, Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB), stated that in SWIFT, when Customs raised a query, WCCB could not enter their NOC on the platform and requested for considering de-linking of issuance of NOC by WCCB from SWIFT. Shri Tej Kumar, Addl. Commissioner (Import) stated that since WCCB is using ICES platform, when Customs raises a query and if the query is pending at importer / exporter's end, even Customs have to wait till it is replied and hence, the WCCB could not enter their Opinion / NOC till the query is replied as the SWIFT is programmed in that way. The RDD, WCCB further stated that they have to wait unnecessarily till the query is replied by the importer/exporter and sought independent access by WCCB so that they can give their NOC and parallelly Customs query also gets replied.

12.1 The Chairman asked the RDD, WCCB to share the screenshot and Bill of Entry details with Shri A.Manimaran, Commissioner (Export).

(POINT CLOSED)

12.2 The RDD, WCCB, stated that they have received requests from Foreign Post Office (FPO) that certain goods are being exported for research and educational purposes and their clearance may be brought online and requested for bringing FPO also on SWIFT platform.

The Commissioner (Export) stated that Department of Posts may take up this issue directly with DG Systems.

(POINT CLOSED)

12.3 The RDD, WCCB, stated that the importers / exporters may be advised to enter the name of the animal's skin specifically instead of generally describing as leather goods which will result in faster clearance. The Chairman suggested that WCCB can issue a Public Notice / Circular to this effect.

(POINT CLOSED)

13. Shri S.Pandiyaraja, Joint Director, FSSAI stated that FSSAI's Online Portal - Food Import Clearance System (FICS) was introduced long back and is working without any hassles.

14. Dr. Subhash Kumar, Joint Director, Regional Plant Quarantine Station, stated that Additional Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, called for a meeting of PQ authorities and Traders. In that meeting, a Chennai based Trader stated that Kattupalli and Ennore Ports are at a distance of 50 kms. from PQ Office and the PQ Inspector travels all the way to Kattupalli & Ennore Port to draw the samples. Accordingly, the RPQS requested Kamarajar Port Ltd. (KPL) to allocate a space and they readily agreed and provided a space and from the beginning of this year, PQ Officers have been deputed to work there. But KPL are not allowing the samples drawn from other Ports or nearby CFSs in to their Port premises. The JD requested KPL to provide access to samples which were drawn from other Ports or nearby CFSs.

14.1 The Chairman elicited the views of KPL. Shri Om Pragesh, Chief Manager (Traffic), stated that the space had been allocated as a temporary measure and once Trade Facilitation Centre Building comes up, there may not be any issue. Shri R.Rajkumar, GM, Adani Kattupalli Port Ltd also felt that the PQ facility at Kamarajar Port will be useful for them also if samples drawn from nearby Ports are allowed. Shri Vimal Bhargavan, Sr. Deputy Traffic Manager, Chennai Port Authority (ChPA) stated that KPL had a discussion with ChPA and as it is a Common User Facility, it should be permitted and necessary action shall be taken in consultation with KPL.

14.2 The Chairman opined that having created a facility, the usage should not be limited and this has to be reviewed by KPL and asked the Chief Manager (Traffic), KPL to give a feedback in the next meeting.

(Action: Kamarajar Port Ltd.)

15. On release of long standing containers, the Chairman stressed that it is a priority area closely monitored by the Board and everyone need to work cohesively in releasing long standing containers by shifting the cargo into domestic containers forthwith.

16. The Chairman concluded the Meeting by thanking all the Members.

17. The meeting ended with thanks to the Chair.

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)