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मुख्य आयुक्त सीमाशुल्ककार्यालय
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF COMMISSIONER OF CUSTOMS
चेन्नैसीमाशुल्क क्षेत्र
CHENNAI CUSTOMS ZONE
सीमाशुल्कभवन, नं.60, राजाजीसालै, चेन्नै600 001.
CUSTOM HOUSE, NO.60, RAJAJI SALAI, CHENNAI 600 001.

06-05-2025

फा.सं./F.No.S2/109/2015-Prev.Tech

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

The 120th Customs Clearance Facilitation Committee (CCFC) meeting was held on 29.04.2025 (Tuesday) at 03.30 PM through Virtual 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. Istikhar Baig, Principal Commissioner (Preventive)
2. Dr. M.G.Thamizh Valavan, Principal Commissioner (Airport / ACC)
3. A.Prasad, Commissioner (General)
4. Bidhan Chandra, Commissioner (Import)
5. A.Manimaran, Commissioner (Export)
6. K.Veerabhadra Reddy, Commissioner (Audit)
7. R.Rajasekhar, Addl. Commissioner (CCO)
8. D.Lakshmikantha, Addl. Commissioner (Export)
9. D.S.Sangeetha, Addl. Commissioner (Import)
10. Kishor.S, Addl. Commissioner (Preventive)
11. Y.Srinivasa Rao, Addl. Commissioner (Preventive)
12. R.Sri Balaji, Addl. Commissioner (Import)
13. Rajesh V Shelke, Addl. Commissioner (ACC)
14. A.Govindaraj, Addl. Commissioner (ACC)
15. Shivaprakash Veeresh Baddi, Addl. Commissioner (Audit)
16. M.S.Tej Kumar, Addl. Commissioner (Import)
17. Shubhdeep Kaur, Joint Commissioner (ACC)
18. T.Senthil Murugan, Deputy Commissioner (Import)
19. P.R.Srinivasan, Deputy Commissioner (CCO)
20. Meenakshi Ramamoorthy, Asst. Commissioner (Import)

21. P.Anbuchelvan, Asst. Commissioner (Import)
22. M.Sriram Venkatesan, Asst. Commissioner (Import)
23. B.Vimal, Sr. Dy. Traffic Manager, Chennai Port Authority
24. Om Pragesh, Chief Manager (Traffic), Kamarajar Port Ltd.
25. R.Rajkumar, GM, Adani Kattupalli Port Ltd.
26. U.Ameer. M/s. Adani Kattupalli Port Ltd.
27. M.S.Shakul, DGM, CCTL DP World
28. T.G.Prasad, Sr. Manager, CCTL DP World
29. V.Thenmozhi, RDD, Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB)
30. G.Ashok, AD, Bureau of Immigration (BOI)
31. Nitin M Jadhav, Asst. Drug Controller-Import (Sea), CDSCO
32. Arun Pucchakayala, Joint Director, BIS
33. S.Pandiyaraja, Joint Director, FSSAI
34. Dr. Subhash Kumar, Joint Director, RPQS
35. Naseer AS Basha, JGM, AAICLAS
36. R.N.Sekar, President, CCBA
37. R.Kumar, Vice President, CCBA
38. S.Natarajan, Secretary, CCBA
39. S.Shivashankar, Customs Committee Head, CCBA
40. Ananth Sairam, PRO, CCBA
41. Valarmathi, EC Member, CCBA
42. Y.Leeladharan, Chairman, Chennai & Ennore Ports Steamer Agents Association
43. Priya Ravishankar, Women Wing, NACFS-Chennai Chapter
44. Dr. Vasudevan, JCEE (M), TN Pollution Control Board (TNPCB)
45. EDPCAP

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

- a. Textile Committee
- b. Port Health Officer
- c. CITPL PSA
- d. CRCL
- e. CONCOR
- f. CWC DPE Thiruvottiur
- g. Central Leather Research Institute
- h. AQCS

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 introduced Dr. M.G.Thamizh Valavan, Principal Commissioner (Airport / Air Cargo), Shri A.Prasad, Commissioner (General) and Shri Bidhan Chandra, Commissioner (Import) who have taken charge recently, to the Members. The Chairman asked Shri R.Rajasekhar, Addl. Commissioner (CCO) to continue the proceedings.

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

6. The Chairman stated that the point raised in the last meeting by the JD, RPQS, regarding

M/s. Kamarajar Port Ltd (KPL) disallowing taking the samples drawn by PQ authorities from nearby Ports and CFSs to the PQ Lab located at KPL was resolved as PQ lab is being allotted space in the Trade Facilitation Centre Building coming up outside the KPL premises which will facilitate bringing samples from outside. Dr. Subhash Kumar, JD, RPQS, thanked the Chairman, CCFC and KPL for resolving the issue.

(Point Closed)

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

Point No.MAA261:- BILL OF ENTRY AMENDMENT PROCEDURE

8. Shri R.N.Sekar, President, CCBA, invited attention to the Public Notice No 17/2024 dated 26.04.2024 with regard to the implementation of procedure for filing and processing of bill of entry amendment in the EDI System. He further stated that although Public Notice No 17/2024 dated 26.04.2024 allows importers and CBs to file amendment requests online through the Common Portal (ICEGATE), this facility is currently available only to importers' user IDs and not available/accessible to Customs Brokers. It was also brought to the notice that many of the importers still are not accessing the online portal using digital keys. The President, CCBA, requested that CBs must be allowed to submit amendment requests online, as they often file the bills of entry on behalf of importers using their own credentials.

8.1 The Chairman stated that the PN 17/2024 allows the CBs to submit amendment requests on behalf of the importers but as this mechanism was not enabled in the System, the same shall be taken up by the Commissioner (General) who is in-charge of EDI, with DG Systems.

[Action: Commissioner (General)]
(Point Closed)

Point No. MAA262:- ERRATIC FUNCTIONING OF ICEGATE

9. The President, CCBA, stated that due to erratic functioning of ICEGATE i.e. non-functioning of Public Enquiry Module, they are unable to upload documents on e-Sanchit, non-opening of ICEGATE page itself for filing Bills, Liners are not able to file supplementary IGM etc. particularly in the evenings which results in late filing charges, delay in clearance, detention charges, etc. He further stated that the downtime messages are not being intimated to or known by the local Customs and whenever they represent for any late fee waiver, only then the Customs Officers come to know about downtime and seek confirmation from ICEGATE. He further stated that in ICES 2.0, there is no proof of filing of Bills by CBs during downtime. Therefore, it was suggested that DG System should communicate the downtime details to Customs Zone whenever there is downtime/maintenance which will be helpful for local Customs for granting waiver of late filing charges. The President, CCBA, further stated that DG System should evolve a mechanism to incorporate the downtime in the ICEGATE itself for auto waiver.

9.1 On being asked for his views by the Chairman, Dr.M.G.Thamizh Valavan, Principal Commissioner (Airport/ACC) stated that incorporating the downtime in ICEGATE for auto waiver is a good suggestion and can be taken up with DG (Systems.). Shri A.Prasad, Commissioner (General) stated that slow or poor net connectivity at Importer / Exporter / CB side due to low bandwidth may also be the reason for this problem and asked the President, CCBA to get this ruled out. The Commissioner (General) suggested filing of advance / prior BE and IGM to avoid the issues related to downtime of ICEGATE

9.2 The Chairman stated that the point is well made and asked the Commissioner (General) to take it up with DG (Systems).

[Action: Commissioner (General)]
(Point Closed)

Point No. MAA263:- DELAY IN ALLOTMENT OF GROUP 2/2F BILLS

10. Shri R.N.Sekar, President, CCBA, stated that frequently, there is delay in allotment of Group 2 and 2F's Bills to FAG officers. On many occasions, it takes minimum two days for the Bills to get allotted to FAG causing delay in clearance. It is identified that each FAG location has been fixed with minimum bills to be picked up for assessment by the FAG officers. He further stated that cargo imported through Air Cargo are impacted with delay as well as demurrage. Therefore, the President, CCBA, requested that periodically local Customs has to check the pendency and accordingly officers have to be directed to pick pending bills for assessment for timely clearance. Shri R.N.Sekar further stated that Group 2 being a Chemical Group, the Bills are more and hence prescribing ceiling of Bills for FAG officers has to be done away with so that none of the Bills remain un-allotted.

10.1 The Chairman asked Shri Bidhan Chandra, Commissioner (Import) to put forth his views. The Commissioner (Import) stated that at every Port, Bills pertaining to Chemical constitute a majority chunk and Chemical 1 is sub-divided in to 2A, 2C, 2D & 2F. He further stated that FAG Officers at every Port have a minimum number of Bills (Head-wise) as a daily target. The Commissioner stated that 2A pertains to Chapter 29 – Organic Chemical involving import of bulk chemical / drug constituting major import. In Chemical 1 Group, for a particular day, all the Bills are queued up in the order of 2A, 2C, 2D & 2F and not time-wise. Until the entire Bills of 2A are assessed all over India, the Bills pertaining to 2C, 2D & 2F will not come to the Appraiser's screen. At Chennai Port, each FAG officer achieves his minimum target for the day and stops assessing and reload's his screen and once reloaded, no fresh Bill will come. The Commissioner further stated that at all other Ports, the daily targets are not even met whereas at Chennai, the daily target is met. As 2F is at the end of Chemical 1, unless all 2A, 2C & 2D Bills are assessed pan India, 2F will not be shown on the Appraiser's screen. The Commissioner stated that the solution is either to persuade the Appraisers at all other Ports to meet their daily targets or re-organize in such a way that Chemical 1 is devoted to 2A i.e. Chapter 29 and the remaining are off-loaded to other Chemical Groups. The Commissioner came out with one more solution stating that at Sea Port, the ADL role is with the Addl. Commissioners and once an Appraiser meets his daily target, his role can be changed from Group 2A to 2C, 2D or 2F. The Commissioner felt that it has to be verified as to how this system works before resorting to the same. Finally, the Commissioner opined that he will explore whether ADL role is still active and whether that role can be delegated to AC for ease of functionality.

10.2 The Chairman asked Commissioner (Import) being a Member of NAC Chemicals, to take up this issue with the Convener, NAC Chemicals in the next NAC meeting so that the Convenor, NAC Chemicals can find a solution as it is a pan India issue.

[Action: Commissioner (Import)]
(Point Closed)

11. The Chairman concluded the Meeting by thanking all the Members for their active participation.

12. 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)