



दूरभाष/Telephone:25268925
ईमेल/ Email:ccu-cuschn@gov.in
twitter.com/ChennaiCustoms

**मुख्य आयुक्त सीमा शुल्क का कार्यालय
OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL CHIEF COMMISSIONER OF CUSTOMS**

**चेन्नै सीमा शुल्क क्षेत्र
CHENNAI CUSTOMS ZONE**

**सीमा शुल्क भवन, नं.60, राजाजी सालै, चेन्नै-600 001.
CUSTOM HOUSE, NO.60, RAJAJI SALAI, CHENNAI 600 001.**

07-08-2025

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

The 123rd Customs Clearance Facilitation Committee (CCFC) meeting was held on 29.07.2025 (Tuesday) at 04.00 PM through Virtual Mode. Shri A.R.S.Kumar, Pr. 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. Dr.A.V.T.Bharathidhasan, Commissioner (Audit)
7. D.Lakshmikantha, Addl. Commissioner (Export)
8. D.S.Sangeetha, Addl. Commissioner (Import)
9. Kishor S, Addl. Commissioner (Export)
10. Rajesh Vithalrao Shelke, Addl. Commissioner (CCO)
11. Gopi Dhonthireddy, Addl. Commissioner (Audit)
12. N.Madhusudhana Reddy, Addl. Commissioner (Import)
13. A.Govindaraj, Addl. Commissioner (ACC)
14. Y.Srinivasa Rao, Addl. Commissioner (Prev.)
15. Vignesh Sakthivel, Addl. Commissioner (Prev.)
16. Dr.Mahesh Chavan, Joint Commissioner (Export)
17. S.Saraswathi, Joint Commissioner (Preventive)
18. Dr.Venugopalan Nair, Deputy Commissioner (CCO)
19. S.Shiva Kumar, AC (Import)
20. R.Jones Ferling Raja, AC (Import)

21. Sriram Venkatesan M, AC (Import)
22. Govindasamy E, AC (Import)
23. K.Thambidurai, Chemical Examiner Gr.I, CRCL
24. D.Dwarakanadha Reddy, AD, DGTS, CZU
25. S.Kirubanandasamy, Traffic Manager, Chennai Port Authority
26. Dr. V.Kumanan, Deputy Port Health Officer
27. Om Pragesh, Chief Manager (Traffic), Kamarajar Port Ltd.
28. R.Rajkumar, GM, Adani Kattupalli Port Ltd.
29. M.S.Shakul, DGM, CCTL DP World
30. Srinivasan, Dy. Manager, CITPL PSA
31. Santhi Muthuswami Pillai, Inspector, Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB)
32. Dr. P.Manavalan, Deputy Drugs Controller (India), CDSCO
33. Nitin M Jadhav, Asst. Drug Controller-Import (Sea), CDSCO
34. Aswini Muthu, Drugs Inspector, CDSCO
35. S.D.Dayanand, Head, BIS, CNBO
36. Arun Pucchakayala, Joint Director, BIS
37. Dr. Subhash Kumar, JD, RPQS
38. Naseer AS Basha, JGM, AAICLAS
39. K.Bhaskaran, QAO, Textiles Committee
40. Muni Reddy, Immigration Officer, BOI
41. R.N.Sekar, President, CCBA
42. R.Kumar, Vice President, CCBA
43. S.Natarajan, Secretary, CCBA
44. Sivashankar, Customs Committee Head, CCBA
45. Ananth Sairam, PRO, CCBA
46. Valarmathi, EC Member, CCBA
47. Y.Leeladharan, Chairman, Chennai & Ennore Ports Steamer Agents Association
48. S.Padmanabhan, Secretary, NACFS-National Chapter
49. S.Sathyanarayanan, Chairman, NACFS-Chennai Chapter
50. S.Kannan, Vice Chairman, NACFS-Chennai Chapter
51. Priya Ravishankar, Women Wing, NACFS-Chennai Chapter
52. R.Rajakumari, Manager, CWC, DPE, Thiruvottiyur
53. G.Udhayakumar, JCEE (M), TNPCB

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

1. AQCS
2. FSSAI
3. CONCOR

4. Shri Rajesh V Shelke, 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, Pr. Chief Commissioner of Customs, warmly welcomed the Members and stated that as a Trade Facilitation Measure, Standing Order No. 02/2025 dated 28.07.2025 has been issued by his Office for processing of approval for manual Test Memos by concerned Addl. Commissioner / Joint Commissioner instead of the Addl. Commissioner / Joint Commissioner of the General Commissionerate. In this regard the concerned Commissionerates have been directed to issue suitable Public Notice. The Chairman further stated that at National level, the Board, as a part of its Action Plan, is digitizing many Customs processes

involving manual intervention. The Chairman highlighted one of such process as finalization of provisional assessment involving bulk BEs and further stated that last week DG (Systems) issued an advisory stating that **in the first phase, system will allow bulk finalization where as per Final Assessment Order, loading of value is 'zero'** and expected that Trade will reap the benefit of this digitization. The Chairman asked Shri Rajesh V Shelke, Addl. Commissioner (CCO) to continue the proceedings.

5. Shri Rajesh V Shelke, Additional Commissioner (CCO) made a brief presentation on the Public Notices and Facility Circulars issued during the last one month.

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

Point No.MAA269:- SIMS Registration

7. Shri R.N.Sekar, President, CCBA, stated that recent notification on mandatory compliance of NOC/BIS for the steel and steel products are impacting the import clearance due to various technical issues in QCO portal, delay in getting NOC, challenges faced in SIMS registrations etc. Further, the Notification dated 13th June 2025 issued by Ministry of Steel with regard to applying for SIMS registration 7 days prior to arrival of vessel, is affecting the importers. However, applying for SIMS registration 7 days before the expected date of arrival of import consignment is a huge task and such consignments are held up for filing of BE and later attract penal actions. Shri Sekar requested that Bill of Entry filing must be allowed by removing the mandatory requirement of SIMS registration to avoid late filing fee.

7.1 The issue was deliberated in detail with inputs from Commissioner (Import) who stated that since import is planned well in advance, adhering to the time frame prescribed by Ministry of Steel may not be a challenging task.

7.2 The Chairman felt that the window given by Ministry of Steel is quite large and asked the Importers / CCBA to plan the import accordingly and comply with the mandatory registration. The Chairman further stated that if any importer who has applied for SIMS registration within the time frame prescribed by Ministry of Steel but has not received the Registration Number, then those cases can be examined for waiver of Late Fee on a case to case basis. The Chairman asked the President, CCBA, to give a representation with verifiable data to the Commissioner (Import) so that the same could be studied and if found tenable, can be forwarded to the Ministry of Steel through CBIC.

[Action: CCBA / Commissioner (Import)]

(Point Closed)

Point No. MAA270:- Issuance of an alert

8. The President, CCBA, stated that when an alert is issued against an Importer/Exporter in EDI system, they are unable to ascertain from which department the alert is issued and no reference is given in the system also. It is requested that the details of the Department which recommended the alert against the specific consignment or Bill of Entry, may be mentioned while issuing the alert in the system, so that the Importer / Exporter can approach the concerned Department for closure of alert.

8.1 The issue was deliberated in detail with inputs from Commissioner (General), Commissioner (Export) and Commissioner (Import)

8.2 The Chairman felt that alerts (except those related to intelligence) must be transparent with necessary details and should be visible to the Importers / Exporters at the time of filing of BE/SB and asked Commissioner (General) to get the opinion / comments from Import, Export & ACC Commissionerates and make a reference to DG (Systems).

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

Point No. MAA271:- Lab report from CRCL

9. Shri R.N.Sekar, President, CCBA, requested for sharing of Lab Test Report by CRCL to the e-mail ids of the importers and CBs for their reference and uploading the same for future shipments. He further stated that though all the reports are being transmitted online, it is not known why the Lab Test Report is not being transmitted online the exporters/importers. It was requested to advise CRCL to provide a copy of the Lab Test Report to the registered mail ids of the importers and CBs.

9.1 The issue was deliberated in detail with inputs from Principal Commissioner (ACC), Commissioner (Export), Commissioner (Import) and Chemical Examiner Gr.I.

9.2 The Chemical Examiner Gr. I, CRCL, stated that as per CRCL manual, direct access / communication with the Importers / CBs is not allowed. The Chemical Examiner Gr.I, CRCL, further stated that at present in ICES-CRCL Module, they are only typing the contents of the Test Report as they are not able to scan and upload the Test Report. He further stated that they have requested DG Systems to give them the option of uploading the scanned copy of Test Report in ICES-CRCL which will save precious time and can be shared through ICES with the Importers / CBs also. He further stated that in the CRCL National Trade Facilitation Conference held on 11th July, 2025, it has been decided to digitize the entire processes through implementation of Laboratory Information Management System (LIMS).

9.3 The Chairman stated that this issue can be put on hold till the implementation of LIMS by CRCL.

(Point Closed)

Point No. MAA272:- Plant Quarantine Release Order

10. The President, CCBA, stated that when a BE has multiple items, the PQ authority is issuing Release Orders (RO) for all the items. However, only one RO is getting integrated with ICEGATE and rest of the ROs are not getting integrated resulting in delay in issuance of OOC and the CBs are forced to approach concerned AC/DC for release. It is requested that this issue may please be resolved. [For example, BE Nos. 3117556 / 07.07.2025 (whole cassia and split cassia) & 3151158 / 09.07.2025 (broken cassia and whole cassia).

10.1 The Joint Director, Regional Plant Quarantine Station stated that they are not fetching any document from ICEGATE and if the importer submits separate applications

in the Plant Quarantine Management System (PQMS) for the different items declared in BE, separate Import Release Order (IRO) will be issued by the PQ.

10.2 The Principal Commissioner (ACC) stated that submission of separate application for each item defeats the very purpose of Single Window and this issue has to be taken up with Single Window Wing of CBIC for incorporating necessary changes in System for item-wise Release Order.

10.3 The Commissioner (General) stated that this issue has been taken up with the Local NIC Team. He further stated that a joint meeting is proposed to be convened between the technical teams of Plant Quarantine and ICEGATE to examine the integration process in detail and to address the anomaly.

10.4 The Commissioner (Export) suggested that RO Number generated for the 1st item can be replicated for other items, if cleared by PQ. The Joint Director, RPQS, stated that it should be ideal if the System automatically generates Release Order for other items.

10.5 The Chairman asked the Joint Director, RPQS, to mention the Release Order No. generated for the 1st item for other items also declared in the BE, if cleared by PQ, till the joint meeting proposed by Commissioner (General) resolves this issue. The Chairman further asked the Joint Director, RPQS to take up this issue with their Headquarters simultaneously so that the NOC gets integrated.

[Action: JD, RPQS / Commissioner (General)]
(Point Closed)

Other Unlisted Issues discussed with the permission of the Chair

11. Shri Y.Leeladharan, President, CHENSAA, requested for release of containers detained by SIIB and DRI long ago and wherever possible auctioning procedure can be initiated so that the Customs & the Custodian get revenue and the Liners get their containers.

11.1 The Principal Commissioner (Preventive) stated that the issue had already been looked into and wherever auction is possible, the same is being resorted to.

11.2 The Chairman stated that the department is seized of the issue and is being addressed with top most priority.

(Point Closed)

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

13. The meeting ended with thanks to the Chair.

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

(Dr.VENUGOPALAN NAIR)

(डॉ. वेणुगोपालन नायर)

उप आयुक्त सीमा शुल्क (मु.आ.का.)

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER OF CUSTOMS (CCO)

Copy submitted to

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

Copy to:

1. The Deputy/ Assistant Commissioner (EDI), Custom House, Chennai
(With a request to upload the minutes of the meeting in the Chennai Custom House website)
2. The Additional Director, DGTS, Chennai.