



Sevottam Compliant



भारत सरकार GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
वित्त मंत्रालय MINISTRY OF FINANCE  
राजस्व विभाग DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE  
केन्द्रीय अप्रत्यक्ष कर और सीमा शुल्क बोर्ड  
CENTRAL BOARD OF INDIRECT TAXES AND CUSTOMS  
सीमा शुल्क आयुक्त का कार्यालय

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER OF CUSTOMS

सीमाशुल्क गृह, विल्लिंग्टन आईलैंड, कोच्चिन  
CUSTOM HOUSE, WILLINGDON ISLAND, COCHIN-682009

An IS 15700 certified Custom House

Website: [www.cochincustoms.gov.in](http://www.cochincustoms.gov.in)

E-mail: [commr@cochincustoms.gov.in](mailto:commr@cochincustoms.gov.in)

Control Room: 0484-2666422

Fax: 0484-2668468

Ph: 0484-2666861-64/774/776

**CIRCULAR.No.06/2019**

**Sub: Permanent Trade Facilitation Committee- Minutes of the meeting held on 11.03.2019 - Reg.**

\*\*\*\*\*

Meeting of the Permanent Trade Facilitation Committee was held at 3:00 pm on 11.03.2019 in the Conference Hall of Custom House, Cochin. Shri. Sumit Kumar, IRS, Commissioner, chaired the meeting.

The following officers of Customs were present. S/Shri/Smt

1. B G Krishnan, IRS, Joint Commissioner
2. Mahendiravarmaa R A, IRS, Deputy Commissioner
3. Dr.Raji N S, IRS, Deputy Commissioner
4. E V Sivaraman, IRS. Assistant Commissioner
4. Sabu Sebastain, IRS, Assistant Commissioner
5. Phillip Sebastain, IRS, Assistant Commissioner
6. Joseph Sebastain, IRS, Assistant Commissioner
7. Bhuvanachandran P, Scientist E', NIC
8. Baiju Daniel, Appraising Officer

The Trade and other Govt. Organizations related to trade were represented by S/Shri:

1. Raj Vinod, Cochin Port Trust
2. Paul J Kocheril, Cochin International Airport
3. Abraham Phillip, Indian Chamber of Commerce & Industry
4. Dr. Jestto George, FSSAI
5. Kuruvilla Xavier, IGTPL
6. T Chandrasekharan, Coir Board
7. Dr. Pramod P.K, Export Inspection Agency
8. Biju R, CFS, Pettah
9. Hari V S, CFS, Concor
10. V Veeraraghan, CFS GDKL
11. Josemon M D, CFS, KSIE
12. Paul Joseph, CFS, MIV
13. Alan Jose, Cochin Customs Brokers Association
14. Bharat S Asher, Cochin Steamer Agents Association
15. Krishnakumar, Cochin Steamer Agents Association
16. Alex K Ninan, Sea Food Exporters Association of India
17. S Ramakrishnan, Sea Food Exporters Association of India
18. P Vinod Kumar, Reserve Bank of India
19. K Sreekumar, Reserve Bank of India
20. P S Selvaraj, Consolidators Association of India
21. Venoy Joseph, Consolidators Association of India
22. Rajeev M C, Federation of India Export Organisation

The Chair welcomed the members to the meeting. The minutes of the previous meeting and the action taken in respect of points thereon was taken for consideration after which fresh points were taken up.

## **FRESH POINTS FOR DISCUSSION.**

### **Points raised by Cochin Steamer Agents Association**

#### **Point No. 1 Sea Cargo Manifest & Transshipment Regulations 2018**

##### **a) Ambiguity regarding the EGM & IGM filing of Tankers/Bulk**

Issues anticipated with new regulations on EGM/ IGM Filing of Break-bulk/ Tankers. In BB/Tank business, the agents are being appointed by principal at last minute only. Since there is no vessels call in between origin and destination, submission of IGM/EGM will be difficult for carriers with new regulation.

*The Chair requested the member to give the details in writing and then he would examine the matter. The Chair informed that whenever policies are formulated, the association members/stake holders are consulted for the policies formulation by the competent authority. Further the implementation of the subject provision has been extended to 01st August 2019.*

**(For Action: Point Dropped)**

##### **b) Pupations in ICEGATE to implement the said regulation**

We could understand from the Technical Guidance report we received from Customs that several new fields have been introduced in the manifests So we request you to provide us the details on the Pupations in ICEGATE to implement the new set of Regulations

*The Chair requested the stake holders to await the clarification from the competent authority.*

**(For Action: Point Dropped)**

##### **c) Request to have an awareness session for the members before implementation with Customs official attending a meeting.**

We had conducted a General Body Meeting to discuss on the Sea Cargo Manifest and Transshipment Regulations 2018. In that meeting many of our members requested us for an awareness session guided by Customs officials before the implementation of the new set of Customs Regulations. We would be grateful if the requested session could be conducted.

*The Chair informed that the Department does regular meeting for the awareness of the stakeholders wherever needed. A session regarding the SMTP would be conducted as soon as the departmental officers are trained/informed about the procedural /technical aspects by the competent authority.*

**(For Action: Deputy Commissioner I&B)**

##### **d) Status of Steamer Agency Registrations with customs.**

Many of our members have queried us on the status of the Steamer Agency Registration based on the new set of regulations requesting your advice/comment on the same.

*The Chair requested the member to give in details regarding the practice followed at present.*

*The Chair informed the stake holders that the issue would be looked into at the time of implementation of the Regulation*

**(For Action: Deputy Commissioner I&B)**

**e) Difficulties of filing IGM with customers choice of CFS due to time limit.**

While abiding to the new set of regulations we found it difficult to ensure our Customers interest/Choice in CFS selection as said selection process need to be done hours before the vessel sailing from the last Port, as it has to updated in IGM data.

*The Chair informed the stake holders to flag the issue through their associations to be taken up with the Board as it has an all India ramification.*

**(For Action: Deputy Commissioner I&B)**

**Point No.2 Customs involvement & Lines representation for the clearance of import**

One of our member have updated us that apart from Cochin none other location has the practice of Lines representation for the clearance of import Coastal cargo. Hence they requested us to take up the same with Customs and seek advice on the same.

*The Chair requested to give in detail what procedure is followed by other Customs Organization .The procedures would be modified, if the same are not cumbersome and are not required. At this moment, Baiju Daniel, Appraising Officer informed the stake holders that DP World is SEZ area unlike other Ports, and the procedure adopted in here are with reference to the particular situation in Cochin, therefore giving the reference of Mumbai Customs may not be relevant due to the subject provisions.*

*The Representative Shri.Kuruville Xavier IGTPPL informed at times the Customs Officer posted at Gate request for the presence /documents from the steamer line to clear the coastal container .He informed that presently all the import containers and coastal containers are passing though the same gate operated in DP world. The Customs officer, at times ask for surveyor report for confirming the authenticity of the coastal container and the consignment is cleared on conformance.*

**(For Action: Asst.Commissioner (Docks))**

**Points raised by Consolidators Association of India (Cochin Chapter)**

**Point No.1 Please find below the difficulties faced by Consolidators for filing IGM /Subline IGM.**

- a. All LCL console containers originate from Colombo. LCL cargo's from various load ports in bound to Cochin are re worked at Colombo.
- b. Consolidation is done by console agents on every Friday night at Colombo for cargo's to Cochin, we receive the pre alert doc's only by Saturday afternoon.
- c. In a console container there are min 8 sub lines for a 20' and 14 sub lines for a 40' so we have to get confirmation from all these customers (Importers) on Monday morning and file the console sub line IGM.
- d. Console sub line IGM is done after the IGM submission and Line no is done. The time we get to upload the sub line manifest in ICEGATE is only few hours before vessel berthing.

*Shri Bhuvanachandran P, Scientist E', NIC explained the procedure to be followed by the stake holders. It was informed that before the Entry Inwards granted in the system, the console IGM has to be filed, this in turn would be automatically integrated with the main IGM. No separate permission from the*

streamer line is required for this process. The console IGM can be filed in advance, ie, before the Entry Inwards permission is granted in the system and hence sufficient time is available for the same. It was further clarified that there are no major differences between the old IGM and new IGM procedures.

**(For Action: Point Dropped)**

### **Additional points raised with the permission of the Chair**

#### **Point No.1 Examination of reefer container meant for Export.**

It was submitted that some of the self stuffed containers of Reefer Cargo are picked up by RMS for examination. It is very difficult to open and examine cargo in these containers as the chances of contamination of the cargo due to temperature change and lack of proper destuffing mechanism. He further requested that instead of opening of the container at particular CFS these containers picked up by RMS can be subjected to Scanning by the container scanner division.

*The Chair consented to look into the feasibility of the matter. The Chair also enquired with the Cochin Port Trust representative as to whether they are making any facility for facilitating the opening and examination of the reefer containers. The representative from Cochin Port Trust informed that he would enquire and revert.*

**(For Action: Assistant Commissioner Docks)**

### **Points raised by CCBA**

#### **Point No. 1 Correction in the Minutes held on 22.01.2019**

Our suggestions for correction to the Minutes of the PTFC meeting held on 22.01.2019 have already been sent by separate mail.

*The Chair told that this point is already being discussed in previous meeting. The Chair assured that the feasibility of publishing of minutes as draft circular of the PTFC meeting on the Customs House Site would be explored. Thereafter, the Public Notice will be issued.*

**(For Action: Point Dropped)**

#### **Point No. 2 Issuance of PTFC meeting minutes as Circular after incorporating the corrections / additions**

We request you to circulate the minutes of the PTFC meeting minutes prior to issuance of the same as a circular and we have already raised this as an agenda point in the earlier PTFC meeting. During the PTFC meeting held on 22.01.2019, it was informed that the circulation of the draft minutes in this Customs House is not in vogue and the minutes are signed by the chair. It was also mentioned that there were no apparent mistakes in the minutes circulated so far. We have taken up the issue of correction in the minutes of the meeting held on 18.12.2018 based on the written communications received from Mr. Nandakumar who was our President at that time and our Managing Committee member Mr. Abraham Philip. Attaching the copy of emails received from them for your reference. Even though Mr. Alan Jose, President of CCBA tried his level best to impress upon the chair about the requirement of corrections in the minutes, the same was not allowed stating that Mr. Alan's submission was based on information only provided to him and not personally known to him.

Your kind attention is invited in to the minutes of the PTFC meeting held on 22.01.2019 and published as Circular No. 05/2019. The major 4 points taken up by Mr. Alan Jose with the permission of the Chair after the discussion on the points given earlier in writing is not at all included in the Minutes. Apart from that many corrections / inclusions are required in the minutes as mentioned in point no. 1 above and sent as a separate email.

In the above situation, we request you to kindly make necessary arrangement to send the draft minutes prior to issuance of the minutes as the

circular, as existing practice of issuing the public notice without taking the input from the participants in the PTFC may mislead the entire trade and the Government authorities who are monitoring the same.

*The Chair informed that the point is already discussed in point no.01*

**(For Action: Point Dropped)**

**Point No.3 Scanning of import containers and handling of "suspect" marked containers.**

As we have received various complaints from our members as to the current procedure for scanning of containers and handling of 'suspect' scanned containers, we request you to kindly form a Committee to study the current system of scanning containers at ICTT in conjunction with the Customs officials CCBA, shipping lines, CFSs and terminal and suitably amend the Public Notice No.39/2018-19 dated 26.11.2018.

*The Chair informed that the subject point was also discussed. However, the member CCBA submitted that he had some more points regarding the subject matter to which the chair acceded He submitted that the ICES Gate system may be updated to provide the information of containers selected for the scanning at the time of filing of at the time of filing of IGM itself, presently the stake holders come to know about the selected containers after the Bill of Entry is filed and cargo is scheduled for delivery. In case the BE is facilitated this requires for recalling the respective Bill of Entries.*

*The Chair informed based on the statistical data available with the department the percentage of numbers of containers that are for selected for scanning is minimal ie to the order of less than 2% of the entire cargo and the present scenario does not warrant modification in the procedure. Shri. Bhuvanachandran P, Scientist E', NIC, clarified that that presently also the RMS system selects the containers for scanning.*

**(For Action: Point Dropped)**

**Point No.4 ID of Customs appraising officers**

To avoid delay in replying to the queries raised by the Customs Appraiser and clearing of the consignments, we request you to please notify the IDs of the officers to enable the Customs Brokers to follow up with them for clearance and to reply to their queries. This mainly happens when the senior officials are re-allotting the assessment due to officers being on leave while the documents may be on another officers table.

*Ms. Dr. Raji N S, IRS, Deputy Commissioner informed that all Customs Brokers are aware of the groups assigned to the individual officers .There are only Six officers dealing with the assessment function and all assessing officers are sitting in the same hall. Further the importer/ Customs Brokers can check the movement of documents on the Icegate website/the KIOSK provided in the lobby while viewing the document status of the document.*

*The Chair informed that all the officers are posted by public order which is available on the Public Domain and therefore the request to notify the SSO IDs doesn't merit consideration.*

**(For Action: Point Dropped)**

**Point No.5 Clearance of import consignments due to system failure**

In certain cases, even though the customs duty is paid and the examination completed, the import consignments could not be cleared due to system failure as print could not be taken and out of charge not given. This causes delay in delivery of cargo and during weekends three days would be lost causing financial and other hardships. Sometimes even after granting OOC in the system, if the print out is not received delivery cannot be taken causing delay and thereby the transaction cost is going up considerably. In such situations, we request you to please make arrangements to release the cargo manually and regularize the same later. Even though system downtime of Icegate server is reduced considerably, we are facing issues due to the

connectivity at customs cargo handling areas.

*Shri Bhuvanachandran P, Scientist E', NIC, informed the stakeholders that the system connectivity in various CFS depends on the number of connections. It has been advised to the CFS (custodians) to maintain two independent server connections preferably one BSNL connection and other Tata connection. If the custodians maintain two connections, the problem of connectivity system failure may not occur. Further, the instances of system failures have reduced considerably as agreed by the stakeholders. The connectivity issues are to be handled by the custodians themselves and not by the customs. The Chair assured to look into the matter by consulting with the service provider/DG System.*

**(For Action: Point Dropped)**

**Point No.6 Arrangement for deploying staff / officers at all seaports where 24x7 customs clearance is operating**

We wish to draw your attention to the communication from the Under Secretary, Ministry of Shipping Ref. No. PD-14033/4/2019-PD-V dated 11.02.2019 directing major ports to deploy staff / officers at all seaports where 24x7 customs clearance is operating and Cochin Port is also included in that list. To implement the same at Cochin, we would request you to please do the needful to depute officers in all Customs Cargo handling areas. Customs Brokers are ready to co-operate with the Customs and request the Customs to do the needful to implement the same at Cochin. In line with this, please consider to post officers to examine and release both import / export consignments.

*The Chair informed that in spite of acute shortage of staff ,officers have been posted to all designated areas for smooth conduct of Customs operations. The Chair requested the CCBA Member to produce data regarding work load on particular time especially on holidays and beyond office hours to justify deployment of additional staff. The Chair also assured that as and when the requirement of staff arises the staff would be provided to all requisite places.*

**(For Action: Assistant. Commissioner Docks)**

**Point No.7 Shortage / unavailability of Customs Clerical staff.**

We were informed by our members that there is shortage of Customs staff in the appraising department for opening and putting up files to the appraisers and DC. This causes undue delay in moving files. We request you to please look into this matter and do the needful.

*The Chair informed that the recruitment of staff is done by the Staff Selection Commission and because of stay by the Hon'ble Court recruitment process is delayed. The department has requested for additional staff to the CBIC. Meanwhile the work has to be managed by the available staff.*

**(For Action: Point Dropped)**

**Point No.8 Delay in clearance of Cargo / pending issues due to unavailability of Senior Customs officials at Customs House**

Our members have raised various complaints regarding pending clearance of issues / files as the senior officials of Customs are not available for the routine import / export clearances, recalling Bills of entry for examination, query release, amendment etc. We were also informed that they are on duty related to litigation at advocate's office / High Court / Supreme Court etc. and due to this the entire trade is suffering due to the increase in dwell time and

the transaction cost. We suggest to post separate officers for legal matters to ensure that officers concerned with the day today work are available in the Customs house.

*The Chair informed that all the required officers are available to complete the assigned duty .However as these officers also have to attend to many other responsibilities and other government duties, there may be times when they may not available for the whole time, still they are completing their regular assigned work in a time bound manner. In case the regular officer is not available link officers are notified to attend to the designated functions. Therefore, the allegations of non unavailability of Senior Officers are false. The Chair informed that till date, he had not received a single complaint regarding that the officers are not available. In case specific cases are pointed out alternative arrangements would be made.*

**(For Action: Point Dropped)**

**Point No.9 Request to avoid manual report on files and manual movements of files.**

Many Bills of entry are returned by CFS officers marking some queries manually in the file without raising the queries in the system. The Custom Broker / Importer has to run from pillar to post for many days / weeks to clear the issues and the containers are incurring huge demurrage / detention due to the delay. We suggest to stop writing the queries manually by the Customs officials and everything may please be recorded in the system. We also request avoid the procedure of manual movement of files and suggest to use either the system to move the B.Es or communicate by emails to obtain necessary permissions if required from the higher officials to reduce the dwell time.

*Shri Bhuvanachandran P, Scientist E', NIC, clarified that in ICES System, there is no provision for the OOC officer to give the queries .The only option available to him if some additional document is required or some mismatch is to make a manual observation alternatively the BE can be returned for reassessment to assessing group on the ICES system. The practice of doing it manually to reduce the dwell time of clearance. In elaboration of this point Baiju Daniel, Appraising Officer informed that in the era of Self Assessment by system, all requisite documents in original has to be produced by the Customs Broker before OOC Officer. The Customs Brokers are obliged under the CBLR to provide all such documents before the subject officer to their satisfaction for getting OCC for the Bill of Entry.*

*In respect of the submissions on the point of movement of the files, Dr.Raji N S, IRS, Deputy Commissioner (Imports), informed that a Custom House Messenger visits all CFS,s under the Cochin Customs jurisdiction to handle the files, documents and samples. In respect of the Bills of Entry which are to be recalled, the procedure requires an order in file by the Joint Commissioner/ Additional Commissioner, therefore processing of the data electronically in all such cases are not feasible.*

**(For Action: Point Dropped)**

**Point No.10 Provision to accept Coir Cess at ICTT for shipping bills processed & LEO obtained on Saturday, Sunday and other holidays to avoid delay**

Export containers of coir products may please be allowed to pay cess at the ICTT main gate for shipping bills processed and Let Export Order being obtained on Saturdays, Sundays and other public holidays for smooth exports of coir products. In many cases, the shipping bills are filed after the containers are stuffed as there may be difference in the quantities stuffed in a container. We would suggest you to please consider the following options:

1. Provision to remit the coir cess by cash at ICTT.

2. Online payment of coir cess to a designated Customs account.
3. Exporters to open a PD account with the Customs for payment of coir cess by debit slips.

*The Chair requested the CCBA member to provide quantum of the Shipping Bill and assured that the department would look into the matter positively.*

**(For Action: Point Dropped)**

**Point No.11 Circular No. 09/2019 - Turant Customs -Next generation reform for Ease of Doing Business.**

We thank you for your Trade Notice No. 04/2019 issued based on the CBIC Circular No. 09/2019 regarding Turant Customs and next generation reform for ease of doing business. In this regard, we request you to kindly organize a training session for CCBA members to familiarize them with new the procedures.

*The Chair told he would examine the matter and take appropriate decisions.*

**(For Action: Point Dropped)**

Since no other points were raised by the members for discussion, the Chair declared the meeting closed with thanking the members. The date for next meeting of the Permanent Trade Facilitation Committee will be intimated through the Custom House website [www.cochincustoms.nic.in](http://www.cochincustoms.nic.in). Points for discussion, if any, may be sent. Enquiries if any may be made at the telephone number 0484-2667040 or by email at [ccu@cochincustoms.gov.in](mailto:ccu@cochincustoms.gov.in) or [ccucochin@gmail.com](mailto:ccucochin@gmail.com).

**Sd/-  
(Sumit Kumar, IRS)  
Commissioner**

**F.No.S.65/17/2018-CCU-CUS  
Dated: 15.05.2019**

**//Attested//**



**(T Pavithran)  
Superintendent of Customs**

The Hindi version follows.

Submitted to:

The Chief Commissioner of Central Excise, Central Tax & Customs, Kerala Zone, Cochin.

The Additional Director General, Directorate of Tax Payer Service, Bangalore Zonal Unit, 4th Floor TTMC Building , Above BMTB Bus Stand, Domlur, Bangalore-560071.

Copy to:

Joint Commissioner  
All D.Cs & A.Cs  
All members