



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

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CIRCULAR.No.60/2018

Sub: Permanent Trade Facilitation Committee - Minutes of the meeting held on 28.09.2018 Reg.

Meeting of the Permanent Trade Facilitation Committee was held at 10.00 am on 28.09.2018 in the Conference Hall of Custom House, Cochin. Shri. Sumit Kumar, Commissioner chaired the meeting.

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

1. Mahendra Verma R A, Deputy Commissioner
2. Dr.Raji N S, Deputy Commissioner
3. Sabu Sebastain, Asst. Commissioner
4. Phillip Sebastain, Asst.Commissioner
5. Joseph Sebastain, Asst. Commissioner
6. Bhuvanachandran P, Scientist E', NIC
8. Baiju Daniel, Appraising Officer
9. K P Suresh, Superintendent General
10. V.Usha, Superintendent of Customs

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

1. Raj Vinod, Cochin Port Trust
2. S S Sidhu, Plant Quarantine
3. Dr. Vrushi, Animal Quarantine & Certification Service
4. Pavithran V P, CIAL
5. Varghese Lino, IGTPL
6. Manoj C R, IGTPL
7. Biju R, CFS, Pettah
8. Santhosh Kumar, CFS, Falcon
9. V Veeraraghav, CFS, GDKL
10. A A Fernandez, CCBA
11. Alex K Ninan, SEAI
12. N N Menon, EPC for EOU & Sez Unit

13. Antony Kottaram, KCCI
14. A K Vijaykumar, FIEO
15. P Vinod Kumar, RBI
16. B N Jha, Spices Board, Kochi

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

Point No. 1 Plant Quarantine – Physical inspection of e-sealed containers.

CCBA had requested that their members have taken up issues regarding the physical inspection of containers by PQ officials. Thus request to please consider this issue and suggest a favorable procedure to help the industry.

The Chair requested Shri S S Sidhu Plant Quarantine Officer to comment on the point.

Shri S S Sidhu informed that the issue had already been taken up with him prior to the subject meeting .It was informed that premises where the stuffing takes place is in the state of Tamilnadu and is outside the territorial jurisdiction prescribed for Cochin office. The containers are e-sealed with RFID seals. In case where samples are to drawn from the consignment samples have to be drawn at the point of export that is at Cochin Port. This can only be done after breaking the RFID seals as certification has to be issued by him, only after verification of samples for Plant quarantine compliance. Further if the sample fails necessary fumigation has to be done under the supervision Plant Quarantine/Customs. The request for accepting the samples forwarded by the exporter from the place of stuffing was not found feasible as it is against the procedures prescribed for sampling. At this point the Chair suggested that the Exporters may get the certificate from the Plant Quarantine authorities from the place of stuffing of the containers to avoid the delay and cost incurred. At this point Shri. Raj Vinod from Cochin Port Trust informed that the loading premise were situated at distant remote places away from the major towns. Hence the inspection of the goods at the loading warehouses by the PQ authorities may be difficult. He also referred to the meeting by the Port Trust authorities with the Chair on the basis of the representation by one of the steamer agents M/s. Blue wave shipping in this regard.

Following this chair informed the members that the Plant Quarantine authorities are covered by the separate statutory provisions which are to the complied with. However he requested Shri.S S Sidhu Plant Quarantine Officer to inspect the containers of the Export goods causing minimum inconvenience to the exporting community subject to the compliance of the applicable statutory requirements.

Action: Point Dropped

Point No. 2 Functioning of Assessment Group (Import) on 6 days a week.

Point raised by CCBA that the office of the Principal Commissioner of Visakhapatnam has issued a Standing Order No.7/2018 dated 24.08.2018 to facilitate the trade and promote ease of doing business. The Assessment Group (Import) comprising of the Appraisers Group, Assistant / Deputy Commissioner concerned are working on a 6 day week basis, except, 2nd Saturdays. They request the Department to please consider implementing the same at Cochin Customs also to facilitate the clearance of import cargo.

The Chair informed the members that there are sufficient officers posted in the Appraising Group at present and the volume of work has reduced considerably after the introduction of e-Sanchit and RMS facilitation. The number of Bills assigned to the assessing group has reduced considerably that is to less than ten bills per day per Officer. Therefore the volume of work at this point do not warrant a situation to change the present dispensation. The Chair requested the CCBA to advise its members to make use of the provision of advance/prior Bill of Entry so that Bills are assessed before the arrival of the vessels. He also informed that less than 2% of the Bills of Entries are being presently filed in this manner. The Chair has informed that the matter would be reconsidered when the volume increases. He also stated without volume it makes no sense to increase the working days. Deputy Commissioner Import may look into the matter and report.

[for action: Deputy Commissioner (Import)]

Point No. 3 Delay in getting Gate out during night shift.

CCBA stated that Preventive Officers will not be available after 01.00 AM and the vehicles and Customs Brokers agents have to await till 7.00 AM to get gate out. This creates undue delay in moving the cargo and the staff have to await till 7.00 AM or until the next officer comes to clear the cargo.

The Chair informed that as per his understanding the officers are posted at ICCT Vallarpadam, for round the clock movement of containers at Import and Export Gate.

This was also confirmed by the Superintendent General. In respect of CFSs also the specific Gate in and gate modules and the working hours are notified for movement of containers. However if there are any specific instances the matter is to be brought to his notice mentioning the time and date so that necessary action may be taken in the matter.

Shri Antony Fernandez informed that he does not have the specific instance in the case but the point was made on the basis of a general observation.

[for Action: Assistant Commissioner (Docks)]

Point No. 4 Carnet-de-passage now insisting for general IEC

CCBA requested that Carnet-de-passage import shipments did not require General IEC permission since import is made by opening a file in Preventive section. Inspection reports of Intelligence and out of charge given are all through this particular file and the same file is used to complete the export as well. When the passenger brings the vehicle back to the Custom house for export, EDI filing is required to get Let Export Order and shipping bill can be filed in the name of the passenger under General IE Code: 0100000053, which is IEC being used for the goods intended for personal use. Now Customs is insisting to take General IEC permission from I & B Department and the delay in getting permission to file the shipping bill is affecting the passengers very badly. The passenger has to stay for 2 days for the permission and completion of intelligence inspection at the time of export. They requested to kindly look into this so that delay may please be avoided for the Carnet-de-passage shipments. They further suggested to kindly continue the earlier practice of opening a file in the Preventive Section.

The Deputy Commissioner Dr.Raji N S has informed that no delay in processing of the Documents by the department in granting the General IEC in the Import & Bond Cell. However, in order to avoid delay the CCBA is requested to advise its clients to file the shipping documents prior to the arrival of the consignments with appropriate permissions and not to delay the consignment by filing it after the arrival of the consignment. The Deputy Commissioner has informed that wherever the documents are in order, the permission shall be granted within half an hour of the presentation of the documents.

[for Action: Deputy Commissioner (I & B)]

Point No. 5 Duty Drawback

It was informed that some of the duty drawback scroll for the shipping bills is stuck in scroll in status since March, 2018 and not scrolled out due to some technical problem in generating scrolls. They would be grateful if it could be looked into so as to get the eligible duty drawback at the earliest.

The Chair informed the members that a letter has already been issued to State Bank of India, Cochin Port Trust Branch, the designated Branch regarding the duty drawback scrolls forwarded from this office to them. However, it was also informed that wherever the Account numbers which are declared on the Shipping Bills are not reverified by the jurisdictional branches of the banks to which the account belongs, there is a failure in the verification and consequently, the amounts are not credited to the accounts. It was also informed that the Customs authorities has no control over the crediting of the amounts in the accounts and has no mechanism to monitor the same. The CCBA was requested to advise the Clients / Exporters to get the accounts reverified by the Banks in order to ensure smooth transfer of Drawback amounts to the accounts mentioned in the Shipping Bills.

[for Action: Assistant Commissioner (Drawback)]

Since no other points came up for discussion, the Chair declared the meeting with a word of thanks to 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. Points for discussion, if any, may be sent on or before **07.11.2018**. Enquiries if any may be made at the telephone number 0484-2667040 or by email at **ccu@cochincustoms.gov.in** or **ccucochin@gmail.com**.

Sd/-
(Sumit Kumar)
Commissioner

F.No. S.65/17/2018-CCU-CUS
Dated: 29.10.2018

// Attested//



Baiju Daniel
Appraising Officer (CCU)

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 BMTC Bus Stand, Domlur, Bangalore-560071.

Copy to:

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