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भारतसरकार
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
प्रधानसीमाशुल्कआयुक्तकाकार्यालय
OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL COMMISSIONER OF CUSTOMS
(हवाईअड्डेऔरएयरकार्गोकाम्प्लेक्स)(AIRPORT & AIR CARGO COMPLEX)
एनइससीबीआईएयरपोर्ट, कोलकाता- ७०००५२ NSCBI AIRPORT, KOLKATA: 700 052

PUBLIC NOTICE NO. : 70 /2020

Subject: Faceless Assessment - Measures for timely assessment of Bills of Entry and clarification on defacement of physical documents.

Attention of the importers, exporters, Customs Brokers and all other stakeholders is invited to the Board's Circular No. 45/2020-Customs dated 12.10.2020 issued on the subject matter of "Faceless Assessment - Measures for timely assessment of Bills of Entry and clarification on defacement of physical documents". Also reference is invited to CBIC Circular No.40/2020-Cus dated 04.09.2020, 28/2020-Cus dated 05.06.2020, 34/2020-Cus dated 30.07.2020 as well as Instruction No. 09/2020-Cus dated 05.06.2020 related to Faceless Assessment.

2. Board has reviewed the implementation of Faceless Assessment. While the implementation has been largely smooth, Board's attention has been drawn to some issues impacting the pace of assessment and clearances of consignments. As the prompt and timely assessment of Bills of Entry and clearance of imported consignments are key objectives of Turant Customs, these issues have been examined and remedial measures have been identified. Accordingly, Board prescribes the following measures for Faceless Assessment:

2.1. Continuous Assessment:

- i. There may be possible delays in assessment when Bills of Entry (B/E) are assigned to FAGs in locations that are on an official holiday or when assessment is to be done on a closed holiday (say, Sunday). Further, time sensitive goods such as life-saving drugs or imports by security/defence and other Government agencies would require prompt Customs clearance at all times including outside the normal office hours. Hence, it is decided to make all Saturdays (except second Saturday) as working day for all the faceless assessment groups across the country. The intention is not that all FAGs would work on all holidays, but that adequate number of FAG officers should be available, by rotation, so that assessment is not delayed.
- ii. The Import Shed should monitor clearance of time-sensitive/urgent consignments such as lifesaving drugs, security/defence related

- consignments etc. imported by Government and its agencies/PSUs etc. so that these are not delayed. When required, the Import Shed should coordinate their early assessment with NAC concerned and then grant quick clearance. The trade is also advised to indicate end use of such consignments in the B/E for easier identification of such consignments. DG Systems will facilitate this by enabling a dashboard alerting the officers if such consignments are pending beyond 4 hours. This dashboard would be accessible to both PAG and FAG.
- iii. DG Systems has enabled dashboards for monitoring of pending FAG B/E, their disposal, and other relevant reports. These dashboards are required to be proactively utilised by the PAG and Principal Commissioner of Customs in charge. The Principal Commissioner in charge shall monitor the disposal of the B/E pending with the PAG and at the stage of examination for their timely disposal and when required, he/she shall co-ordinate with the NAC Commissioners for prompt disposal of pending B/Es pertaining to the commissionerate.

2.2. Raising of Queries by FAG Officers:

- i. There is a need to ensure that queries are minimized to the extent absolutely necessary for carrying out the assessment. Queries should not be raised in piecemeal manner and to the extent possible multiple and repeat queries are to be avoided. The Principal Commissioner shall regularly monitor and review the queries to ensure this. In this regard reference may also be made to Circular No. 22/2015-Customs, dated 03.09.2015 directing that genuine clarifications sought by officers from importers/exporters are to be raised at one go and not in a piecemeal manner.
- ii. Trade is being informed of the advantages of providing at the first instance only, the complete details and description of the commodity, brand name, model and any other specifications essential for the assessment. Further, they are also advised to upload at the first instance only, supporting documents like product/technical literature and mandatory documents, certificates, which would help avoid queries and delays. It is also noticed that at times, the documents are uploaded on e-Sanchit but are not linked to B/E, leading to a situation where Appraising/Assessing officer is unable to view the document and is thus compelled to raise a query. The trade, therefore, advised to avoid such situation by linking every uploaded document to the relevant B/E. The step by step guide in this regard is available at https://www.icegate.gov.in/Download/ICES_Advisory_35_2020_on_a_mendme_nt_and_query_reply_with_supp_docs_v2.pdf
- iii. Some instances have been noticed, where confirmation of compliance to prohibitions and restrictions are being sought during assessment including submission of certain certificates, details etc. leading to delay in the assessment. It is clarified that the verification of statutory