



भारत सरकार

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

सीमा सुल्क आयुक्त का कार्यालय

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER OF CUSTOMS (PORT)

सीमा सुल्क सदन, १५१/, स्ट्रैण्ड रोड, कोलकाता ७००००१ -

CUSTOM HOUSE, 15/1, STRAND ROAD, KOLKATA 700001

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**Minutes of the Trade Facilitation Committee Meeting held on 18.10.2016  
in the Board Room at 3.30 P.M., Custom House, Kolkata.**

The Trade Facilitation Committee Meeting was held in the Board Room of Custom House, Kolkata on 18.10.2016 at 3:30 P.M. The meeting was presided over by the Commissioner of Customs (Port), Kolkata.

The following Officers / members were present during the meeting.

Sl. No.	Name of the Officers (S/Shri)	Organisation
1.	Dr. N.K.Soren, Commissioner of Customs	Customs (Port), Kolkata
2.	S. H. Dange (Addl. Commissioner of Customs)	Customs (Port), Kolkata
3.	J. P. Meena (Addl. Commissioner of Customs)	Customs (Port), Kolkata
4.	P. K. Bohra (Joint Commissioner of Customs)	Customs (Port), Kolkata
5.	S K Shukla (Dy. Commissioner of Customs)	Customs (Port), Kolkata
6.	B L Meena (Dy. Commissioner of Customs)	Customs (Port), Kolkata
7.	Biswarup Das (Dy. Commissioner of Customs)	Customs (Port), Kolkata
8.	Ranvijay Kumar (Dy. Commissioner of Customs)	Customs (Port), Kolkata
9.	P K Maurya (Dy. Commissioner of Customs)	Customs (Port), Kolkata
10.	Gaurav Chandel (Dy. Commissioner of Customs)	Customs (Port), Kolkata
11.	Dr.Sunil Ranote (Dy. Commissioner of Customs)	Customs (Port), Kolkata
12.	Md. Faizul Haque (Dy. Commissioner of Customs)	Customs (Port), Kolkata

Custom House, Kolkata

13.	Vikash Kumar (Dy. Commissioner of Customs)	Customs (Port), Kolkata
14.	N.K.Naskar (Asst. Commissioner of Customs)	Customs (Port), Kolkata
15.	N. K. Rai (Asst. Commissioner of Customs)	Customs (Port), Kolkata
16.	T. Inigo (Asst. Commissioner of Customs)	Customs (Port), Kolkata
17.	Mukul Telgote (Asst. Commissioner of Customs)	Customs (Port), Kolkata
18.	Lalit Merdwal (Appraiser)	Customs (Port), Kolkata
19.	Subrata Debnath (SCP)	Customs (Port), Kolkata
20.	Sumit Dasgupta (Asst. Secretary)	Bharat Chamber of Commerce (BCC) Kolkata
21.	O. P. Prahladka (Joint Director)	Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts (EPCH)
22.	Sachi Kumar Koley (President)	West Bengal Custom House Agents' Society (WBCHAS)
23.	S. Saha (Executive)	Container Corporation of India (CONCOR)
24.	Prasant Basu (Chief Manager)	CFS-Balmer Lawrie
25.	A.K.Chattopadhyay (D.D & Advisor)	Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industries (ICCI)
26.	D. L. Dhondiyal (SD)	The Marine Products Exports Development Authority (MPEDA)
27.	S. K. Patra (Dy. Director)	The Marine Products Exports Development Authority (MPEDA)
28.	P. K. Chattopadhyay (DTM)	Kolkata Port Trust (KoPT)

Chairman welcomed all the members to the meeting.

**A. Points submitted by EPCH:**

**1. Delay in Uploading the Shipping Bills to DGFT Server**

Shri O. P. Prahladka (Joint Director), EPCH informed that many of their member-exporters have submitted that the shipping bills in regard to their shipments from the months of April, 2016 onward have not been loaded by Customs Department to the DGFT Server and as such, they are unable to submit their MEIS applications.

In this regard, the Commissioner of Customs (Port) enquired whether the exporters have approached the EDI Helpdesk to get the Shipping bills manually transmitted. He further stated that sometimes the Exporters at the

time of filing of shipping bills mention as 'N' (NO) in the reward column, so the Shipping bills are not transmitted to DGFT. If the exporter at a later stage wants to claim any benefit they can contact EDI help desk for manual transmission of shipping bills to DGFT. All other exporters also who find that the shipping bills are not transmitted to DGFT can also contact EDI Help Desk for manual transmission of their Shipping bills to DGFT.

## **2. Refund of Draw Back Amount**

Shri O. P. Prahladka (Joint Director), EPCH further informed that it is found that while receiving payments from their overseas buyers, sometimes some buyers deduct very small amount from invoices towards bank charges. It was suggested that refund of drawback amount against non-receipt of entire invoice amount arising out of deduction of bank charges by overseas buyers should be considered and no refund should be asked from exporters.

The Commissioner of Customs (Port) asked Shri P. K. Maurya, Deputy Commissioner (Drawback) to clarify the doubt. Shri P. K. Maurya informed that as per Drawback Rules the drawback amount is payable on sales proceeds realised on the exported goods and where such export proceeds are not realised recovery under rule 16A of the Drawback Rules is to be resorted. He further added that field formations do not have any legal sanction or authority to forego small or any amount whatsoever.

## **3. MEIS Registration**

Joint Director, EPCH also said that to avoid any alert on the license, Customs Department insists that MEIS should be registered with them. Recently Customs Department does not even provide any registration number post registration.

In this regard, the Commissioner of Customs (Port) said that it is not registration the correct term is verification. He also said that according to a circular by CBEC, which has also been specifically laid down in the Public notice issued by this Custom House that verification is required. Another reason for verification is that EDI system also provides for it; that is even after

the licence gets transmitted to Customs, verification has to be done, otherwise the benefits of the license cannot be availed. Hence, it is a mandatory process.

**B. Points submitted by NACFS:**

1. Shri Prashant Basu(Chief Manager), CFS-Balmer Lawrie and also a member of NACFS said that the export containers which require custom examination at the Port, all those container should be routed via CFS.

In this regard, the Commissioner of Customs (Port) said that neither exporters nor custodians have made any such request. Customs can't instruct the exporters to follow such a process or put a mandate on them regarding the same. Customs can suggest that if the export goods come in form of containers, the officers have to check all the containers and all the packages in the containers. Until they concur with the said idea, it would not be prudent to put any restriction upon them.

In this regard, Mr Sachi Kr. Koley, President (WBCHAS) said that the routing of goods through CFS will be helpful in terms of examination of goods as well as safety of the people handling the goods, as the infrastructure in the CFS are much better than that in the port. He further added that there is a space crunch in the port as well and that the issue was brought to the notice of the port authorities also but they didn't get any response from them. He also conveyed that most of export containers in other Custom Ports are routed through CFSs.

The Superintendent of Balmer Lawrie stated that it is really difficult task for examiners to check all the packages in the containers that come in the ports and also stuffing of the goods back to the containers.

The Commissioner of Customs (Port) asked the Joint Commissioner of Customs (Port) if Customs can issue a Public Notice regarding the issue so the process of examination can be managed in a better manner. He further stated that it would be better if bodies like FIEO & Chambers of Commerce ask their members to follow these procedures suo-motu.

It was decided to bring the topic up for further discussion in the next CCFC meeting.

2. The factory stuffed export container having excise seal, which comes to port, should continue to enter directly into the port and LEO should be given on 24 X7 basis.

In this regard, the Commissioner of Customs (Port) replied that this is already in practice. The Superintendent of Customs (Balmer Lawrie) also confirmed that the Examiners and preventive officers are following the same in the ports.

3. No import container should be directly allowed to be delivered from Port, it will help better management in evacuation of containers from port, also help to control congestion and space constraint for holding container at port, and this will help trade to get improved and good service.

In this regard, the Commissioner of Customs (Port) stated that direct delivery is permitted to ACP clients. Further, this is a mandate of custodian and applicant is directed to raise this point in the CCFC meeting.

Mr. Sachi Kr. Koley also requested the KoPT official to identify a space in the shed for the examination of the goods.

In this regard Shri P. K. Chattopadhyay (DTM), KoPT clarified that a separate examination area is already in place. Also, to facilitate the examination process, another area is also earmarked and being developed. He also informed that direct delivery of containers is only allowed to AEO and ACP clients as identified by Customs. However, the volume has reduced to quite some extent recently.

4. NACFS representative also stated that containers are stuck in the ports or CFSs due to the "No Entry" restriction by Kolkata Police in the port area. Due to this, entire shipping facilities and the industry as a whole is getting affected to a large extent. The exporters are the worst sufferers.

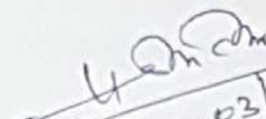
The Commissioner of Customs (Port) informed that the port officials are taking sincere steps to resolve the matter.

P. K. Chattopadhyay (DTM), KoPT stated that their top management to the level of Deputy Chairman are co-ordinating with the Commissioner of Police, Kolkata on a daily basis. He intimated there might be some relaxation in the restriction.

The meeting ended with the vote of thanks to the chair.

This issues with the approval of the Commissioner of Customs (Port).

F.No.S106-07/2011A (G) Pt. III

  
03/11/2016  
(P.K. Bohra)

**Joint Commissioner of Customs (Port)**  
**Custom House, Kolkata.**

Copy to:

Chief Commissioner of Customs, Custom House, Kolkata  
Principal Commissioner of Customs (Airport & Admin)  
Commissioner of Customs (Port)  
Commissioner of Customs (Preventive)  
Additional Commissioner of Customs (CCO)  
Additional Commissioner of Customs (Preventive)  
Additional Commissioner of Customs (Port)  
Joint Commissioner of Customs (Port)  
Joint Commissioner of Customs (Airport & Admin)  
All ACs/DCs (Port, Airport & Admin, CCP)  
Sr. PS to Chief Commissioner  
PS to Pr. Commissioner (A&A), Commissioner (Port), CCP  
DC (EDI), with a request to upload in the Kolkata Customs portal  
Guard File