



भारत सरकार

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

सीमा शुल्क प्रधान आयुक्त कार्यालय (पत्तन)

OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL COMMISSIONER OF CUSTOMS (PORT)

सीमा शुल्क सदन, 15/1 स्ट्रैण्ड रोड, कोलकाता – 700001

CUSTOM HOUSE, 15/1 STRAND ROAD, KOLKATA- 700001**Minutes of the Trade Facilitation Committee Meeting (TFC)
held on 10.05.2022 at 14:45 Hours through web conference.**

The Trade Facilitation Committee (TFC) Meeting for Port Commissionerate was held on 10.05.2022 at 14:45 Hours through web conference. The meeting was presided over by the Principal Commissioner of Customs, Port Commissionerate.

At the outset, the Chair welcomed all the members present in the meeting and thereafter following issues were discussed in the meeting.

I . Agenda Points sponsored by National Association of Container Freight Station (NACFS):

Sir, we would like to draw your attention towards the Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) issued on 04-09-2020 (herein attached) which enables export of containerized cargo from CFS, JJP under Port Commissionerate to Bangladesh by riverine route.

Sir, the SOP instructs that the containers shall be sealed with ECTS seal mandatorily. However, the feedback from the trade is that this process is not practical. The process of unsealing the ECTS locks from containers inside the barge at Hemnagar is not possible. We may think of using RFID E-Seals as an alternative.

Moreover, there are no CBIC Circulars which mandate the use of affixing ECTS seals for cross- border movement through riverine route. Therefore, this instruction laid down in Point No. 4 of the SOP dated 04-09-2020 may kindly be withdrawn.

Sir, we request that this SOP is extended to cover all CFS under your Commissionerate. This will help more cargo generation through riverine route.

Based on our interactions with the barge operators and EXIM industry, this movement has huge potential to reduce logistics cost in the country. We are aware that Bangladesh is amongst India's top 5 export destinations, and we are confident that cargo volumes will go up in this route once the ECTS mandate is withdrawn and more CFS are allowed to participate.

Response/Direction:

- It was intimated that the S.O.P. dated 04.09.2020, as amended on 09.09.2020, regarding "Export of Containerized Cargo from CFS JJP under Port Commissionerate to Bangladesh by riverine route", had been rescinded as per order dated 28.04.2022 vide F No. CUS/AG/PN/8/2022-A/G-O/O PR COMMR-CUS-PORT-KOLKATA.
- A comprehensive SOP for export by riverine route to Bangladesh is being issued by

the Chief Commissioner of Customs, Kolkata Zone.

II. Agenda Points sponsored by Calcutta Customs House Agents' Association (CCHAA):

Point 1:

With respect to Import sample draw we have found that same identical goods are being drawn and send for test even after the first drawn sample is approved by the Custom enlisted laboratory.

We request for a SOP in this regard that when the first sample is approved by the laboratory and customs then till what time this test report should be valid so that the next consignment of same identical items should be stopped from sample Draw.

Response/Direction:

- *The Principal Commissioner of Customs (Port) requested all affected parties to provide instances of specific cases where difficulties have been faced, and they shall be reviewed accordingly.*
- *The trade was advised that while filing bills of entry, documents such as previous test reports may also be uploaded on E-sanchit, so that the assessing officer may consider the same.*

Point 2:

- The BE which are in FAG and the proper officer is not able to understand on any of the parameters of Bill entry, he should raise query and even after the reply , if the officer is not satisfied with the reply , he should not assess be randomly which is happening in most of the cases. Many times it gets assessed in FAG and still there are issues unresolved. Our request is to have some direction to the FAG Assessing Officer to immediately Push the BE to PAG for further action instead of assessing the Bill of Entry on his own understanding. This will help trade to save lots of time and get fast assessment.

Response/Direction:

- *The Principal Commissioner of Customs (Port) assured that the CBIC has recently taken up the drive to improve the quality of queries being raised by the FAGs, and the improvement shall reflect soon in the coming days.*

Point 3:

- In case of export courier shipment from SEZ - All SEZ Imports/exports has to be done from SEZ online system whereas courier Imports & Exports (clearance) Regulations permits only CSB. Further as per NSDL, the courier export challan from SEZ would not reflect in ice gate. Therefore request to take up the matter with DG systems / Ice gate so that courier export shipments from SEZ also gets integrated with Ice gate.

Response/Direction:

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- *The point does not pertain to Port Commissionerate, Kolkata Customs. It was suggested to approach the Airport Commissionerate for issues pertaining to Courier Services.*

Point 4:

- We would like to inform you that at present we can make online payments at Custom House Accounts Department fees of various charges like Amendment Charges, Preventive Booking Charges and others. At present we are not getting any Payment Receipts for the same. Our request is if it can be done it will help us in our accounts with our clients.

Response/Direction:

- *The Principal Commissioner of Customs (Port) requested CCHAA to inquire and confirm whether such facilities are available in other Customs Houses.*

III. Miscellaneous Points raised during the meeting:

It was mentioned that earlier a request had been made for allowing out of charged goods to be de-stuffed and stored in CFS area. It was requested that if a specific area is demarcated specifically for that purpose by the custodian, then such facility may be allowed by the Customs.

Response/Direction:

- *It was clarified that for such use a demarcated area of CFS shall have to be de-notified as Customs area. If any such request is received from any Custodian, that will be considered on merits.*

RAJESH JINDAL, Pr Commr(RJ)-Cus-Port-KOL, O/o Pr Commissioner-Customs-Port-Kolkata
Principal Commissioner of Customs (Port)
Custom House, Kolkata

Dated: 19-05-2022

Copy to :-

1. Sr. PS to the Chief Commissioner of Customs, Kolkata.
2. PA to the Pr. Commissioner of Customs (A&A)
3. PA to the Pr. Commissioner of Customs (CCP)
4. ADC (Office of the Chief Commissioner of Customs)
5. All ADCs/JCs (Port)
6. All DCs/ACs, (Port)
7. D.C. (EDI) – for uploading in the Kolkata Customs website