STANDING ORDER NO.51/2005

Attention of all the officers concerned is drawn to Standing Order No.84/2003 dated 23.12.2003 issued by the Commissioner of Customs (Import), JNCH and Standing Order No.40/2004 dated 19.08.2004 issued by Commissioner of Customs (Export), JNCH, laying down EDI security guidelines and instructions to prevent entry of un-authorised persons to Customs area and access to Customs Computer terminals. It has been observed that aforesaid instructions which have also been repeatedly impressed upon the concerned officers from time to time are not being scrupulously adhered to. Recent surprise checks have again revealed that despite emphatic instructions as aforesaid, private individuals including un-authorised employees of CHA were not only being allowed entry into the Customs area but also allowed access to the Customs computer terminals.
2. In the past also cases of frauds taking place due to un-authorised access allowed by the officers to private individuals to Customs computer terminals have come to notice. However, it seems that no lessons have been learnt from such lapses. It hardly needs to overemphasized that un-authorised access to Customs computers is fraught with serious danger for the security and integrity of the EDI system and Department's computer network. Recurrence of such instances of violation of the standing instructions issued on the subject clearly reflects lackadaisical approach to this matter by the supervisory officers in the field. Such approach may have grave consequences for the health of department's computer system and also facilitate frauds.

3. Main reason for recurrence of such lapses seems to be lack of effective supervision and break down of system of surprise checks by the ACs/DCs and Jt./Addl. Commissioners. Therefore, while it is once again impressed upon all Appraisers /Superintendents / Examiners / Preventive Officers and other officers concerned of the Custom House to strictly observe and scrupulously adhere to the standing instructions issued on the subject, all ACs/DCs and Joint/Addl. Commissioners in-charge of various sections /field formations are directed to conduct frequent surprise checks to ensure that un-authorised persons do not get ingress to the Customs area / computer rooms / terminals and the officers operating the system do not part with the passwords or permit any un-authorised person to operate the computers. It is also stressed upon the aforementioned supervisory officers that if such instances are detected they should immediately take appropriate action against the deviant officers. It is further emphasized upon the supervisory officers, and they should take a clear
note of it, that if any such instances of un-authorised entry / use of computers are again detected, they would also be held personally responsible for lack of effective supervision and dealt with accordingly.

(H. O. TEWARI)
COMMISSIONER OF CUSTOMS(EXPORTS)

MUMBAI ZONE-II