

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER OF CUSTOMS (IMPORT)
◆ JAWAHARLAL NEHRU CUSTOM HOUSE, NHAVA SHEVA
DIST:RAIGAD, POST:URAN, MAHARASHTRA-400 707.

F.No.EDI-35/2009 JNCH

Date : 15.10.2009

STANDING ORDER NO. 49 /2009

Sub : Frauds resulting from failure to maintain password security ◆ reg.
Ref : Standing Order No.28/2009 dtd.25.06.2009.

The Board◆s letter F.No.30013/75/2009-Ad.IVA dtd.12.05.2009 issued by JS(Admn), CBEC reiterated vide F.No.401/77/2009-Cus.III dtd.15.05.2009 by JS(Customs), CBEC is re-produced hereunder:

On a number of occasions, there have been frauds reported in the various Customs EDI locations involving compromise of password by officers.◆ Such frauds have led to revenue loss of crores of rupees.

The Directorate of Systems has from time to time, issued detailed instructions on password security.◆ These instructions set out the basic steps that should be followed by all the users to eliminate the possibility of compromise of passwords.◆ A list of important instructions is attached as Annexure to this letter.

However, despite such instructions being reiterated repeatedly, it is dismaying to notice that instances of password compromise continue to recur with unflinching regularity.◆ It is evident that officers are not taking these instructions seriously and there is also a failure on part of supervisory officers to effectively monitor the performance of their subordinates.◆ You would agree that the biggest threat to security of an electronic system comes from password compromise and sharing of password.◆ In effect, when an officer shares his password with anybody, he has to, without doubt, be regarded as being in collusion in the fraud that results.◆ The fact that only a few officers have been punished, and that too, not adequately, for password breach may be an important reason why such breaches continue to recur.◆ Central Excise and Service Tax, Directorates and other formations would increasingly be required to work on applications requiring conformity with password security guidelines.

The Board would, therefore, like you to ensure that all the security related instructions issued by the Directorate of Systems are complied with by all officers including supervising officers, and those violating them are brought to account without loss of time.◆ Further, whenever any case of password compromise comes to the notice, it has to be thoroughly investigated and proceedings for inflicting exemplary punishment under Central Civil Services (Classification, Control and Appeal) Rules, 1965 [CCS(CCA) Rules] should be undertaken and concluded expeditiously.◆ It should be made clear to all the officers that maintenance of password security is the sole and individual responsibility of each officer and any breach will make them liable to disciplinary action resulting even in dismissal from the Government Service◆.

2. In this regard, attention of all the officers, is also drawn to the Standing Order No.28/2009 dtd.25.06.2009 (Ref.above) which was issued based on the detailed guidelines regarding the

security of password by ICE users and use of Internet in offices using official networks. It is reiterated that non-adherence to the said guidelines and compromise to the password security would be dealt with in accordance to the above instructions.

(A.K.DAS)

COMMISSIONER OF CUSTOMS (IMPORT)

To,
All the Officers of JNCH.

Copy to :

1. The Chief Commissioner of Customs, Mumbai Zone-II, JNCH.
2. The Commissioner of Customs (Import / Export / Appeals), JNCH.
3. All the Addl./Jt. Commissioner of Customs, JNCH
4. All the Asstt./Dy. Commissioner of Customs, JNCH
5. Office Copy.