

दिनांक 28/06/2024 को सम्पन्न 'स्थायीव्या पार सुविधा समिति' (आयात) की बैठकका कार्यवृत्त

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PERMANENT TRADE FACILITATION COMMITTEE (IMPORT) FOR THE MONTH OF JUNE HELD ON 28/06/2024

The PTFC meeting for the month of June 2024 was held in physical mode on 28/06/2024. The same was chaired by Shri. D.S.Garbyal, Commissioner of Customs (NS-GENERAL) and attended by Shri Sonal Bajaj, Commissioner of Customs (NS-V), Shri Sanjeev Kumar, Commissioner of Customs(NS-II) and Shri Ashwini Kumar, Commissioner of Customs(NS-III).

2.	The meeting was attended	ed by the follow:	ing members/partic	cipants of the trade: –
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मसं./Sr. No.	नाम(सवी/स ु ी/ीमती) Names (S.Shri/Ms./Mrs.)	(संगठन/संघ/पदनाम) Organisation/ Association
	(~~~~))	
1	Umesh Grover	CFSAI
2	Salim Shikalgar	CFSAI
3	S. Srinivas	CFSAI
4	Archana Roy	MIRC
5	Satyawan Gawde	MIRC
6	Sunil Vaswani	CSLA
7	Subhash N Dongre	ONE Line
8	Kalpesh J Jadhav	YML
9	Sandeep Tawde	EGI
10	Sunil Shetty	KMRC
11	Manish Kumar	CSLA/MANSA
12	Nimish Desai	WISA
13	Rajashekhar R	UPL
14	R K Rubin	AMIOI
15	Gawpat P Korde	BCBA
16	Sanjeev Harale	BCBA
17	Paras Shah	BCBA
18	Mark S Fernandes	

19	Paresh Shah	WISA
20	Amit B Mhatre	SEAHORSE
21	Shailendra P	JMB
22	Sumeet Tanwar	CFSAI
23	Philomena Pereira	FFFAI- Women's Wing
24	Nikhil Bhandaru	WIBWA

3. विभागकीओरसेनिम्नलिखितअधिकारियोंनेबैठकमेंभागलिया: -Following Officers from the department attended the meeting: –

क्रमसं./ Sr.No.	नाम(सर्वश्री/सुश्री/श्रीमती) Names(Shri/Ms./Mrs.)	पदनाम Designation
1	K K Prasad	Addl. Commissioner, Customs
2.	Jay Waghmare	Addl. Commissioner, Customs
3.	I. Ramalingeswara Rao	Assistant Commissioner of
		Customs

Shri I. Ramalingeswara Rao, Assistant Commissioner of Customs, NS-I Commissionerate, JNCH, with permission of the Chair, presented the Agenda points pertaining to Imports.

4. DP<u>Worldकेद्वाराउठायागयाकार्यबिन्दु</u> /AGENDA POINTS RAISED BY DP World :

कार्यबिन्दुसंख्या/POINT NO.1. Possibility to send the terminals the OOC message (CHPOI10) for all the import containers handled by the terminal. This will help us standardize our operations as per Global operation norms will be able to keep track of OOC being issued or not to an import container handled at the terminal which is one of the benchmark criteria for us.

प्रतिक्रिया/Response: The chair stated that the message is not clear from the point given by DP World, so the trade was requested to come forward with a specific requirement and a detailed suggestion on this matter for specific solution.

(बिन्दुसमाप्त/ Point Closed)

5. IMC केद्वाराउठायागयाकार्यबिन्दु /AGENDA POINTS RAISED BY IMC :

<u>कार्यबिन्दुसंख्या/POINT NO. 2</u> RMS facilitated Bills of Entry remain pending with Superintendent for granting of Out of Charge for over 24 hours and at times more than 48 hrs. This is resulting in delay of clearance of consignment & unnecessary warehouse storage and detention charges to be borne by Importers.

It is requested that all Bills of entry must be granted OOC, the very same day, or within an hour, if not the system should override and grant the OOC, to avoid delays.

प्रतिक्रिया/Response: It was informed that such problem does not happen on normal days, it happens only after a long holidays as the bills of entry get accumulated and it is not possible to liquidate all the bills of entry immediately though all efforts will made to ensure

minimum pendency. Further, trade was requested to bring such issues to the concerned Commissioner for instant resolution.

(बिन्दुसमाप्त/ Point Closed)

<u>कार्यबिन्दुसंख्या/POINT NO.3</u> Goods registration could not be done from 04.05.2024 to 07.05.2024 in Customs system thereby causing delay in clearance resulting in avoidable warehouse and Detention charges to be borne by the Importers. This is unfortunately becoming a routine feature. Importers are penalized if Bills of entry are not filed under Advance Noting. Interest is levied if Custom Duty is not paid the same day. However, for the delays on the Part of the Custom Department, EDI system or officers who delay clearances the same day, no action is taken. The Trade request, that some mechanism should be put in place to reduce transaction handling cost, which is the motto and aim of our Hon. PM.

<u>I</u>तिक्रिया/Response: The chair informed that the issue appears to be highly exaggerated as no registration of goods means no examination/no OOC which cannot be true as JNCH continued to examine/grant OOC on specified dates. However, the trade is requested to flag issues of such nature to Help Desk of ICEGATE/ICES/EDI-JNCH through email with a copy to the Commissioner, NS-I for proper follow up. The Chair assured that such grievance/e-mail will be forwarded & taken up with ADG, ICEGATE/ICES without delay for immediate resolution.

(बिन्दुसमाप्त/ Point Closed)

<u>कार्यबिन्दुसंख्या/POINT NO.</u> 4: Request for Test Report validity be extended beyond 6 months:

We refer to the discussion held for the past PTFC Meetings with regard to the 6 months validity, be reconsidered to be a minimum of 2 years if the Importers are actual user and Suppliers and manufacturers or producers of the products, and for all others period be extended to a minimum of 1 year.

We enclose herewith various copies of Test Reports, whose validity is barely 6 months, resulting in the Custom Appraising groups insisting on the product being tested and as required every grade sample has to be sent.

Further, if there are 6 identical consignments and no valid PTR, then samples from every consignment and Bill of entry is drawn, though the Grade and the Supplier is the same.

In today's environment of EDI and forensic investigation easily possible, as all data is captured electronically, we request that the Test Report validity for Importers / actual users, be increased to a minimum of 2 years and for other Importers, Traders be increased for a period of 1 year.

We make this humble request, since drawing of samples results in B/Entry being provisionally assessed, takes a minimum period of 7 working days, which involves, obtaining a TR form, acceptance of the PD Bond, drawing of sample, which in fact results in 15 Calendar days being lost. The EXIM Trade is forced to bear the huge cost towards container detention and warehousing, besides delay in receipt of the cargo for consumption. On receipt of Test Reports, finalization of the Bill of Entry provisionally assessed, takes a minimum of 2 weeks as no Officer has time to attend post importation Bills of entry, due to the large number of live Bills of Entry.

We request that due consideration be kindly extended, to enable ease of doing business and reducing handling cost.

प्रतिक्रिया/Response: The chair stated the request to extend the validity of the test report beyond the standard **six months is a policy matter.** The decision regarding such extensions would need to be made by the competent authority based on the data and detailed submissions made by trade.

(बिन्दुसमाप्त/ Point Closed)

<u>कार्यबिन्दुसंख्या/POINT NO. 5</u>: We have received a number of complaints from our members, with reference to third party imports when benefit of CEPA is availed by submission of COO.

It appears, that there is neither Public Notice nor a Standing Order, with stipulates the documents required and the procedure that be followed, in order to comply to enable consignments to be cleared expeditiously.

The Suppliers are unwilling to share the original Manufacturer's Purchase Invoices. The department raises various Queries, and at times warns of penal action being taken under the provisions of the Customs Act, 1962 for misdeclaration for availment of Custom duty benefits.

We request, if a suitable Public Notice with a Standing Order listing the documents to be submitted and the procedure to be followed would be appreciated.

<u>प्रतिक्रिया/Response</u>. Public notice No.55/2024 dated 24.06.2024 regarding "Guidelines for verification under CAROTAR 2020 of the country of origin Certificates(COO) issued under various Preferential Trade Agreements (commonly also referred to as Free Trade Agreements-FTAs)" is already issued on this subject matter.

(बिन्दुसमाप्त/ Point Closed)

6. BCBAकेद्वाराउठायागयाकार्यबिन्दु /AGENDA POINTS RAISED BY BCBA :

<u>कार्यबिन्दुसंख्या/POINT NO.</u> Significant Delay in E-Office File Processing causing delay in clearances

We have received several instances from our members where trade is facing delay in clearance on account of delay in file movement through e-office. We are happy to share the cases for the reference of the department and they will highlight the seriousness of the delays being faced and consequential implications towards increasing dwell time, increasing logistics cost and reducing the overall spirit of ease of doing business which has been the endeavor with the commencement of e-office file work.

<u>y</u>तिक्रिया/Response: Processing of E-Office Files is generally done timely and with high priority. Sometimes, it is observed that due to some technical glitches such as Server issues, internet connectivity and other such related issues, there may be a delay in processing of few files in E-Office.

(बिन्दुसमाप्त/ Point Closed)

<u>कार्यबिन्दुसंख्या/POINT NO. 7</u>: Delay in Faceless Assessments:

(a) Members have shared several instances of delays being experienced in Faceless Assessments

(b) Intermittent challenges are being experienced with AEM functionality

(c) Escalation mails to TSK being met with lack of timely support and reply

<u>IRE PAU/Response</u>. After receiving the grievances through email, TSK Section forward the grievances immediately to the concerned port or group and perusing it till disposal as per Standard Order. Further, a compilation of all grievances is being sent to WhatsApp Group at "faceless assessment rollout" group on regular basis. Apart from this, if any issue arises, the trade may bring to the notice of the concerned Commissioner for necessary coordination with FAG or PAG, as the case may be.

(बिन्दुसमाप्त/ Point Closed)

कार्यबिन्दुसंख्या/POINT NO. 8:

100% Examination orders are being given very frequently and on certain occasions, Examination orders are also directing to check mis-declaration and concealment.

<u>y</u>तिक्रिया/Response: The examination orders are given as per the RMS instruction and with necessary permission. This issue is frequently taken up in NAC meetings and no considerable increase in such cases are recorded in recent times. Further, trade was suggested that they may bring particular instances to the notice of the concerned Commissionerate and the matter will be looked after.

(बिन्दुसमाप्त/ Point Closed)

<u>कार्यबिन्दुसंख्या/POINT NO. 9</u>: Frequent queries being raised by docks and RMS centre

We would like to bring to your kind notice that officers in RMS OOC cell and Docks are frequently raising queries for BE which are already assessed. Many of these queries relate to assessment which is already done and in RMS center queries are marked on the hard copy. This is resulting in delay in import consignments.

We request that queries should kept to minimum and escalation mechanism be provided to the trade to report such cases.

<u>sticise</u> If the queries are raised as per the guidelines of RMS, then nothing can be done about it as it is bound to be followed by the officers and if the queries go beyond the RMS instructions then the permission of competent authority is required. Further, trade is requested to bring such issues to the notice of the concerned Commissioner in writing for each particular case.

<u>कार्यबिन्दुसंख्या/POINT NO.10</u>: BE Assessed under Second Check with Comments given for Testing, Huge Complications for Trade

(a) There have been instances reported by members that FAG Officers are assessing BE under second check, however in instructions marking for Sample Testing.

(b) This practice must be deeply discouraged as it causes significant confusion and delay in clearance at the CFS

(c) CFS Officers are insisting for either first check or provisional clearance, and thereby changing nature of assessment which is not in line with the FAG Assessment

(d) If the FAG officers so require, they are within their rights to assess BE Provisionally and formally require drawl of samples for Testing, however the practice of assessing under Second Check and adding aspects in Comments is unwarranted and is causing delay in clearances.

<u>y</u>तिक्रिया/Response: It was discussed that this is not a regular phenomenon, this situation happens only in certain cases in which prohibited goods or restricted goods are involved and in such cases without test report, goods cannot be allowed for home consumption. Hence, in such cases test report is compulsory. But, it was also suggested that if trade feels that in particular case orders given are not reasonable then such instances should be brought to the notice of the concerned Commissioner immediately for resolution/action.

(बिन्दुसमाप्त/ Point Closed)

<u>कार्यबिन्दुसंख्या/POINT NO.11</u>: Resolution of Erroneous/ Inapplicable/ Wrong Examination Orders

(a) It has been noticed recently that there are many commodities which are having Direct CTH, and are being marked by FAG Officer for Testing/Sample Drawing. There are several hurdles being experienced after the comments by FAG Officer.

(b) If officer has justifiable reason, if the product CTH/Duty Structure depends on grade or nature of composition-like in case of CTH 27 commodities, it is well known by the trade that samples may be required to be submitted, and in such cases BE is marked Provisionally.

(c) However, it has been noticed in several commodities, which are having direct CTH, and which are regularly imported raw materials by actual user manufacturers, the FAG Officers at time of Assessment are asking for Previous Test Report, or resorting to Marking Bill of Entry Provisionally for Assessment. Such practices are causing delay in assessment

<u>प्रतिक्रिया/Response:</u> Issue is the same as Point No. 10 discussed above.

(बिन्दुसमाप्त/ Point Closed)

कार्यबिन्दुसंख्या/POINT NO.12: Frequent downtime in ICEGATE

Since past few days trade and industry is facing tremendous delay in clearance of import and export consignments on account of frequent breakdown, downtime, slow functioning of ICEGATE System. This has resulted in following: -

1) Delay in generation of shipping bill numbers

ii) Delay in movement of factory seal container from factory due to non-generation of shipping bill numbers.

iii) Non-working of Public Enquiry module to track S/bill Status

We urgently seek your intervention to mitigate the technical issue in working of ICEGATE as trade is facing delay in clearance and movement of export consignment. Till the issues are resolved in EDI / ICEGATE system we request that Movement of factory sealed container from exporters' premises be permitted in case of delay in generation of shipping bill number.

<u>प्रतिक्रिया/Response</u>: The mechanism is already developed so that trade can send email directly to ICEGATE. Whenever such instances happen, it should be brought to the notice of the ICEGATE and also to the concerned Commissioner. The matter will be taken up with DG Systems/ICEGATE for immediate resolution.

Furthermore, regarding delay in generation of shipping bills number, it is requested that specific instances may be provided to this office so that issue can be escalated to DG Systems.

(बिन्दुसमाप्त/ Point Closed)

7. CSLAकेद्वाराउठायागयाकार्यबिन्दु <u>/AGENDA POINTS RAISED BY CSLA</u> :

कार्यबिन्दुसंख्या/POINT NO. 13: Scanning Issue

a) ICD Import Containers:

This was discussed at the previous PTFC & CCFC meetings as well. However, despite assurances, the problem still persists.

The Shipping Lines are still required to secure manual permissions to change the scanning from SCAN-D to SCAN-M, to allow scanning of ICD import containers inside the Terminal. Please find attached copies of several such permissions obtained by the lines recently.

The idea of getting all such containers scanned at BMCT will not help and will only create chaos due to congestion and related issues. The ICD bound import containers selected for scanning MUST be allowed to be scanned at the VERY SAME TERMINAL where they are discharged, instead of moving them to another Terminal for scanning.

Currently, manual permissions are required to be obtained for getting the containers scanned in the Terminal of Discharge. Ideally, no such manual permissions should be required & standing instructions should be issued by JNCH allowing containers selected for scanning to be automatically scanned at the terminal of discharge. This would help towards the "EASE OF DOING BUSINESS".

b) **Same Domestic & Foreign TP Containers** are selected multiple times (both at transshipment& gateway port). Same TP containers should not be selected multiple times, this is adding huge additional cost and increasing transit time /dwell time of such containers. Please find below details of such multiple selection of TP Containers.

<u>ufclistal/Response</u>: This issue has already been dealt & resolved in previous meetings of the PTFC meeting. However, if trade continues to face problem, the matter should be brought to the notice of the concerned Commissioner, NS-III for examination and follow up with NCTC, if required. Further, Minutes of the meeting can be used by the trade for necessary compliance by the officers.

(बिन्दुसमाप्त/ Point Closed)

8. WIBWAकेद्वाराउठायागयाकार्यबिन्दु /AGENDA POINTS RAISED BY WIBWA :

कार्यबिन्दुसंख्या/POINT NO. 14: Bond notification - Duty Limit

JNCH is following the practice of writing the duty limit on the license/notification of bonding. However, other custom houses are not mentioning the same. This is also not given in the guidelines issued by the board. The practical difficulties faced by the bondholders is that sometimes, some big clients have a rush of cargo and they can pay insurance charges for one month. However to get a change in the duty limit is a tedious and long process wherein the bond department is insisting on a five year audit for every enhancement. Either the limit be removed or enhancement be given unconditionally. All other checks and audits can be done as a matter of routine. In case of enhancements, the enhancement is kept pending for audit and other queries, however, the in bond and out bond activities continue, if limit is not exceeded. So, there is no logic in holding the enhancement to ransom. No special consideration is given to AEO-LO bond holders either.

प्रतिक्रिया/Response: The Chair stated that the matter should be brought to the notice of the concerned Commissionerate and will be taken up by them separately

(बिन्दुसमाप्त/ Point Closed)

9. The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the Chair.

10. This issues with the approval of the Commissioner of Customs, NS-I.

11. Any amendments to these minutes be provided within the next five working days.

12. Minutes are placed on the JNCH website and also sent through emails to the members.

(I. Ramalingeswara Rao) स.आयुक्त,सीमाशुल्क/Asstt. Commissioner of Customs, मूल्यनिरूपणमुख्य(आयात)/Appraising Main (I), जे.एन.सी.एच.,न्हावाशेवा/ JNCH, Nhava Sheva.

सेवामें /To,

पी.टी.एफ.सी. केसभीसदस्योंकोईमेलकेमाध्यमसे /All the Members of PTFC (through email)

प्रतिलिपि/Copy to :(ईमेलकेमाध्यमसे)

- 1. मुख्यआयुक्त,सीमाशुल्क,मुंबईअंचल-II/Chief Commissioner of Customs, MUM Zone-II;
- 2. प्रधानअपरमहानिदेशक,करदातासेवामहानिदेशालय,मुंबई/The Principal Add. Director General, Directorate General of Tax Payers Services, Mumbai Zonal Unit, room No 138/139, New Custom House, Mumbai-400001(mzu-dgtps@gov.in);
- 3. लोकपाल,अप्रत्यक्षकर,मुंबई/The Ombudsman, Indirect Taxes, Mumbai;
- 4. सीमाशुल्कआयुक्त, मुंबईअंचल-II/ All Pr. Commissioners / Commissioners of Customs, Mumbai Zone-II;
- 5. सभीअपर/संयुक्तआयुक्त,जेएनसीएच,न्हावाशेवा /All ADCs/JCs JNCH, Nhava Sheva;
- 6. सभीउप/सहा.आयुक्त,जेएनसीएच,न्हावाशेवा /All DCs/ACs JNCH, Nhava Sheva;
- सहा/उपआयुक्त, ईडीआई, जेएनसीएच,न्हावाशेवाकोअविलंबवैबसाइटमेंअपलोडकरनेकेलिए/AC/DC, EDI, JNCH, Nhava Sheva, for uploading in JNCH website;
- 8. कार्यालयप्रति/Office Copy.