Standing Order No. 14 /2019

Sub: STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE (SOP) for Short Landing of FCL/LCL Cargo-reg.

It has been brought to notice by various Stakeholders that they are facing hardship in amendment of Short Landing Shipments.

This issue has been discussed at Customs Clearance Facilitation Committee (CCFC) Meeting which was held on 08.03.2019 at JNCH and The Chair has directed to lay down a procedure/SOP in this regard.

As per Section 30 of the Customs Act, 1962, the person in-charge of the vessel shall, before arrival thereof at any Customs Station, deliver to the proper officer an Import Manifest by presenting electronically prior to the arrival of the vessel and at the foot thereof make and subscribe to a declaration as to the truth of its contents.

It has been represented in CCFC meeting that Import containers are short landed due to operational reasons (damaged cell guides, terminal equipment breakdown etc.). Often the short landed containers /shipments are of multiples BLs and multiple importers. The import short landed containers generally arrive on the next vessel. The present status of IGM amendment is cumbersome and involves excessive paper work including physical round to several sections such as Boarding, DC(PG), Import Noting etc.

The matters pertaining to IGM amendment are covered in Board Circular No. 14/2017-Customs dated 14.04.2017 and amendment request required due to short landing of containers falls under 'Any other amendment' category. The issue has been examined and as a trade facilitation measure, following procedure is prescribed for IGM amendment for Short Landing.

In view of the above, the procedure should have the following steps: -

1. The Shipping Line should inform Boarding Office of a Short Landing as and when they notice it at the time of off loading of Cargo;
2. This would be in the term of a request for a Short Landing Certificate accompanied by a report from the Master of the Vessel and another from the Terminal Operator confirming the Short Landing.
3. Boarding Office should verify the request with the Terminal and issue a Short Landing Certificate to the Shipping Line giving the Container Nos. that did not arrive, duly signed by Superintendent (Boarding). Alternatively, the Boarding (Superintendent) may endorse the application and confirm Short Landing on its hard copy itself.
4. Shipping Line shall then submit an application for amendment of IGM to Deputy Commissioner (Import Noting Section) via e-mail attaching the two documents mentioned at Para 2 above i.e. report from the Master of the Vessel and another
from the Terminal Operator confirming the Short Landing, the Short Landing Certificate/endorsement at para 3 above and proof of payment of amendment fees of Rs. 1000/-.

5. Deputy Commissioner (Import Noting Section) shall convey the approval of the amendment request to the Shipping Line via e-mail also. All requests should be disposed of on the same working day. Any requests received after 6 p.m. to be disposed of not later than 12 noon the next day.

The Import Noting Section shall create an official email ID for the purpose and shall inform the same to Shipping lines. It is also prescribed for safety & authenticity of all communication that Shipping line shall register their email ID, addresses, name of contact person & his mobile number with Import Noting Section.

This issue falls under the head ‘Any Other Amendment’ of Board Circular No. 14/2017-Customs dated 11.04.2017. Short Landing Cases is treated as major amendment and adjudication will arise where fraudulent intentions or substantial revenue implications are involved.

The responsibility of amendment in IGM rests solely with the Shipping Line/Agent, as they file IGM with Customs under section 30 of Customs Act, 1962. Before filing the Bill of Entry, it is, therefore, clarified that the fine/penalty imposed, if any, upon adjudication in such cases, shall be payable by the Shipping Line only or such other person as specified. No request for any amendment in the IGM from Custom Broker.Importer will be entertained as per Board Circular No. 14/2017-Customs dated 14.04.2017.

This procedure comes into operation with immediate effect. Any difficulties in the implementation of the same may be brought to the notice of the undersigned immediately.

Sd/-

(UTKAARSH R. TIWAARI)
COMMISSIONER OF CUSTOMS (G)
JNCH, NHAVA SHEVA, URAN, MUMBAI

Copy to:

1.) The Pr. Chief Commissioner of Customs, Zone-II, JNCH.
2.) All Commissioners of Customs, JNCH.
3.) All Addl./Jt. Commissioners of Customs, JNCH.
4.) The Dy. Commissioner of Customs, EDI, JNCH for uploading on the JNCH Website.
5.) Office Copy.