



Minutes of the Customs Clearance Facilitation Committee (CCFC) meeting held on 12.05.2026.

Meeting of the Customs Clearance Facilitation Committee (CCFC) chaired by Shri. Brij Bhushan Gupta, Chief Commissioner of Customs, Mumbai Zone-III was held on 12.05.2026 at 3:00 P.M. in the Conference room, Air Cargo Complex, Sahar, Mumbai Customs Zone-III.

2. Following representatives of the Partner Government Agencies (PGAs) and that of the other stakeholders were present in the meeting:

Sl. No.	Name of the representative (Shri/Smt./Ms.)	Name of the Organisation
1.	Naresh Kumar	MIAL
2.	Gaurav Sabnis	MIAL
3.	Bhagudia Vijay N	MIAL
4.	Vishal V. Kamble	MIAL
5.	Dikshit Bhagat	MIAL
6.	Amit Kadam	MIAL
7.	Paresh Sangani	BCBA
8.	Kaushal Thakkar	BCBA
9.	Sanjeev Harale	BCBA
10.	Ketan Desai	BCBA
11.	Hiren Rupurel	BCBA
12.	Dushyant Mulani	BCBA/FFFAI
13.	Mithilesh Panday	GJEPC
14.	P.R. Upadhyay	CSC
15.	Hiren Joshi	AIASL
16.	Namrata Pahem	AIASL
17.	Mark S Fernandes	IMC
18.	Mandar Rane	MCSCAPL
19.	Mukesh Mardia	MCSCAPL
20.	Subodh Thakur	MCSCAPL

21.	Hamin Shely	MCSCAPL
22.	Mahesh Bowlay	Sequel One
23.	Shailesh Sharma	ACAAI

The Customs Department was represented by following officers:

Sl. No.	Name (Shri/Smt/Ms.)	Designation	Commissionerate
1.	Manish Chandra	Pr. Commissioner	Import
2.	Hardeep Batra	Commissioner	Export
3.	Santosh Kumar Mishra	Commissioner	APSC
4.	Neelesh Rautkar	Commissioner (In-Situ)	Import
5.	Kiran T.A.	Joint Commissioner	CCO
6.	Manvatkar Vijay Janrao	Addl. Commissioner	Export
7.	N. Pandiyaraj	Addl. Commissioner	Export
8.	Tagadi Manjunath	Addl. Commissioner	Import
9.	Priya Jadhav	Addl. Commissioner	General
10.	Harsh Singh	Addl. Commissioner	APSC
11.	Prakash Chaudhary	Joint Commissioner	Import
12.	Amar Prakash	Deputy Commissioner	Export
13.	Jai Singh Rathore	Assistant Commissioner	Export
14.	Jagdish Prasad Agrawal	Assistant Commissioner	CCO
15.	Jaywant Zemse	Assistant Commissioner	Export
16.	Suresh Kumar Meena	Assistant Commissioner	Export
17.	Rajesh S. Waghmare	Assistant Commissioner	Import
18.	Sanjay Kshirsagar	Assistant Commissioner	General
19.	I.Ramalingeswara Rao	Assistant Commissioner	Import
20.	M. Sree Harsha	Assistant Commissioner	Import
21.	R.V.Kenny	Assistant Commissioner	Admin(G)
22.	V.S. Chougule	Assistant Commissioner	Export
23.	Rakesh Kumar	Assistant Commissioner	Export

3. The Joint Commissioner of Customs, Chief Commissioner's Office, Mumbai Customs Zone-III welcomed the participants. All the participant introduced themselves and welcomed Chief Commissioner of Customs, Mumbai Customs Zone-III.

4. Two pending old agenda points of the earlier CCFC meeting held on

10.03.2026 and 15 new agenda point received for the current CCFC meeting were taken up for discussion.

5.1 Old Agenda Point-1: Non-availability of Crane /Forklift Facility for Handling Heavy Cargo

It was decided in last CCFC meeting that MIAL will discuss the matter internally and also with BCBA to provide a solution.

It has been decided between MIAL and BCBA that MIAL will provide the details of crane vendors, along with standard rates and contact details to BCBA. With regard to permanent availability of Crane facility at ACC premise, it has been discussed the same is not feasible seeing the space limitation and non-permanent requirement. MIAL requested that advance intimation for crane requirement may be provided by the trade so as to make timely arrangements.

(Point closed)

5.2 Old Agenda Point-2: Pedestrian side safety concern in Air Cargo Complex.

A meeting of BCBA with MIAL Security was held on 11.03.2026. It was decided to take various pedestrian safety measures including lane marking, Lighting enhancement, Signage and deployment of traffic marshals etc.

(Point Closed)

6.1 New Agenda Point-1: Issue in filing Refund application for Duty Paid Under Protest:

BCBA pointed out that the system requires "Reference details of Duty Paid under Protest"; however, no such reference is being generated at the time of duty payment, thereby preventing submission of refund claims. In this regard, BCBA has already represented the matter to DG Systems vide letter dated BCBA/SH/18:63/2026, but response is still awaited.

It has been informed that while making payment of duty in ICEGATE, an option is available under payment module for payment under PROTEST. It is a mandatory feature (* marked) wherein one of the radio buttons of 'YES' or 'NO' is to be selected. If 'YES' is selected, a reference number named "Customs House Protest Registration Number" is generated. This number is to be used while filing the Refund Claim for which the duty was paid

under Protest.

It was decided that BCBA shall advise their CHAs to ensure that the relevant box is properly ticked for generation of the registration number.

(Point Closed)

6.2 New Agenda Point-2: Non-generation of Online Test Memo and request for Manual Intervention

BCBA submitted that due to intermittent system issues, online Test Memos are not being generated, causing clearance delays and demurrage to importers. Further, higher-level approvals add to delays. Manual Test Memos may be permitted at Shed AC/DC level for timely clearance, particularly for CTH 25 consignments.

It is informed that issuance of Manual Test Memo with AC/DC approval cannot be given, as CBIC Instruction No. 14/2021-Cus dated 21.06.2021 permits the same only in system glitch cases and with approval of the ADC/JC. The relaxation is restricted to ADC/JC level to ensure supervisory control and prevent misuse.

It was decided that BCBA will provide details of the affected consignments and number of such cases/instances. Thereafter, further steps, if any required, may be decided.

(Action: BCBA)

6.3 New Agenda Point-3: Automated Goods Registration for AEO Exporters for AIR SHIPMENT in lines with BOARD CIRCULAR 06/2026 Dated 01.02.2026.

BCBA submitted that as per the Board Circular the said facility is only extended to SELF-SEALED Containers. It is requested to extend the same to Air Shipments wherein the goods are physically seen once the goods are carted inside the custom premises to AEO accredited Exporters to expedite the clearance.

It is discussed that the fundamental difference between sealed containerized Cargo and non-containerized Cargo (Air Shipments) is the sanctity of the goods after carting. Processing of export cargo at ACC is done as per the extant of Board instructions. Any automation of the registration process for AEO clients involves back-end system

configuration and policy decisions, by Board.

(Point Closed)

6.4 New Agenda Point-4: AEO Application Status to be publically Displayed /Shared:

BCBA submitted that once the AEO application is submitted, unless the importer/Exporter visits the AED Cell, the status of the same is not known. The status on the AEO Portal also give the information that the application is submitted but the current status remains unknown. BCBA Suggested that AEO Application Status to be known on the Portal or on the ACC Website for easy tracking.

It is informed that AEO applications are processed as per the timeline prescribed under para 4 of Board's Circular No. 33/2016-Customs dated 22.07.2016. Moreover, the applicant can see from the portal as to whether the application is pending with the Commissionerate here or forwarded to DIC.

Further, Instructions has also been issued to sensitize the officers for timely processing of AEO applications vide Office Order No. 08/2025-26 dated 21.01.2026. Public Notice No. 68/2026 dated 24.01.2026 constituting AEO helpdesk was also issued so as to provide proper guidance/updates to AEO applicants. Further, in order to make the trade aware of the provisions of AEO and to make them familiar with the required documents, it was decided that a seminar/workshop will be organised by BCBA also for the AEO aspirants/applicants wherein Customs shall offer necessary guidance on proper documentation and "dos and don'ts" for faster processing of applications.

(Action: BCBA)

6.5 New Agenda Point-5: Frequent Breakdown of CARR Systems

BCBA submitted that there are recurring breakdowns of CARR systems, particularly of MIAL. It is requested that a joint monitoring team, similar to the earlier arrangement, be reinstated to address and monitor such Issues.

MIAL informed that no specific incident/case of frequent breakdown of the CARR system has been reported or observed in the last one month.

It has been decided that henceforth all such CARR system breakdowns will

be reported by BCBA to MIAL and the same will be documented, so as to address the issue properly.

(Point Closed)

6.6 New Agenda Point-6: Air India Shortage of Labour

BCBA submitted that there is a shortage of labour for carting as well as post clearance handling, leading to congestion at the General Export Shed.

AIASL informed that the process for recruitment/deployment of additional manpower is already in progress.

It was decided that Air India would take up the matter with the higher authorities and revert with an appropriate solution.

(Action: Air India)

6.7 New Agenda Point-7: MIAL-Labour Shortage

BCBA submitted that there is a shortage of labour, especially after 10:00 PM, at the General Export Shed. Additionally, the Heavy Cargo Shed faces labour shortages both for carting and post-clearance movement of cargo.

MIAL informed that upon review of the sudden increase in tonnage, deployment of additional manpower has been planned. It has been reported that shortage of labour arose due to festive time. They have now made a buffer team to cater carting, loading works etc.

(Point Closed)

6.8 New Agenda Point-8: Preferential Entry of Union Vehicles

BCBA submitted that Union vehicles are reportedly being allowed entry at the expense of vehicles waiting in queue, resulting in delays, congestion, and operational bottlenecks. This issue is increasing in frequency.

MIAL informed that it was unanimously agreed by the Union, Local Villagers and CB that 10 vehicles from the lane and 3 vehicles from the Union/Local Villagers' side from the circle point will be released in a systematic manner, without hampering the vehicles queued in the lane. Seeing the congestion happening in evening time, it has been suggested that the first half of the day should be utilized for vehicle movement more.

(Point Closed)

6.9 New Agenda Point-9: Infrastructure issues delaying clearances

BCBA submitted that trade has highlighted infrastructure constraints, further aggravated by increased cargo volume in the last 6–8 months. The key bottleneck is the vehicle entry point at the cargo complex.

MIAL informed that due to increased tonnage, deployment of 02 Managers, 07 Operators and 44 additional Utility Hands has been planned, apart from 27 Utility Hands added during April 2026. Further, 04 additional Tugs are being inducted within the next one week.

It was informed by MIAL that the entry point at Gate-5 will be operational from December, 2026 onwards. For better management it has been suggested that the first half should be utilized for clearance of the cargo.

(Point Closed)

6.10 New Agenda Point-10: Delay in entry of Vehicles

BCBA submitted that vehicles currently take about 6–8 hours to enter the Air Cargo premises from queue entry.

MIAL informed that due to increased tonnage, deployment of 02 Managers, 07 Operators and 44 additional Utility Hands has been planned, apart from 27 Utility Hands added during April 2026. Further, 04 additional Tugs are being inducted within the next one week.

It was informed by MIAL that the entry point at Gate-5 will be operational from December, 2026 onwards.

(Point Closed)

6.11 New Agenda Point-11: Fire Safety Audit

BCBA raised concerns regarding the recent fire incidents at JWR and Connex CFS resulting in cargo loss, and requested a comprehensive fire safety audit at ACC Mumbai through a competent Government authority such as the Mumbai Fire Brigade to ensure compliance with safety norms and prevent recurrence of such incidents.

MIAL informed that fire safety audits are conducted by licensed agencies nominated by the Mumbai Fire Brigade, and compliance reports are regularly submitted by MIAL. Further, comprehensive audits are carried out every six months by the ARFF–Fire Prevention Team.

It was decided that ARFF-Fire Prevention Team will conduct an audit on 20th May 2026.

(Point Closed)

6.12 New Agenda Point-12: Utilization of SNZ infrastructure at Bharat Diamond Bourse, Mumbai during non-SNZ periods for diamond viewing and exhibition activities:

GJEPC submitted that in view of recent geopolitical developments affecting global diamond trading hubs, approval may be granted for issuance of a Public Notice permitting utilization of SNZ infrastructure during non-SNZ periods for conducting diamond viewing sessions and buyer interactions in India, as per the proposed framework.

Matter has been discussed in detail. GJEPC was further asked about the legal liability of foreign entities. GJEPC informed that they will revert with the clarification. Matter is being examined accordingly.

The matter will be taken up by APSC Commissionerate.

(Action: GJEPC, APSC Commissionerate)

6.13 New Agenda Point-13: Retrospective applicability of height variance provision for re-import of cut and polished diamonds:

GJEPC submitted that Notification No. 18/2025-Customs dated 20.03.2025 introduced a tolerance limit of ± 0.01 mm for height variation, the same was absent in Notification No. 16/2014-Customs. Such consignments were provisionally cleared since 2014 against bank guarantees. Adjudication orders are now being issued for past consignments.

The matter has already been taken up with the Board and retrospective benefit has not yet been granted.

(Point Closed)

6.14 New Agenda Point-14: Clarification on Import Consignments under FTP Scheme- Supply by Foreign Buyer

GJEPC submitted that Notification No. 56/2000-Cus, as amended by Notification No. 47/2022-Cus dated 07.09.2022 read with Circular No. 18/2022-Cus dated 10.09.2022, limits the BG requirement under Para

4.44 imports to 25% of the bond debit value. However, some Customs formations continue insisting on 1.5× duty BG citing legacy provisions. Clarification may be sought from CBIC that the BG requirement shall not exceed 25% of the bond debit value.

The matter has already been taken up with the Board.

(Point Closed)

6.15 New Agenda Point-15: Import of Sawn Diamonds

GJEPC submitted that Difficulties in complying with Clause 110 led to provisional clearance of simply sawn diamond consignments against Bank Guarantees. The issue was subsequently addressed vide Notification No. 30/2024 dated 23.07.2024 and Notification No. 70/2024 dated 23.10.2024 granting relief for imports made between 01.07.2017 and 01.02.2022.

The matter has already been taken up with the Board.

(Point Closed)

7. The next CCFC meeting is scheduled to be held on 14.07.2026.

This issues with the approval of Pr. Chief Commissioner, Mumbai Customs Zone-III.

AGRAWAL

COMMISSIONER

Commissioner-Customs-Zone-III-Mumbai

JAGDISH PRASAD

ASSISTANT

DC/AC-I-O/o Chief

Copy to:

1. The Under Secretary (Cus.IV), CBIC, North Block, New Delhi.
2. All Pr. Commissioner/Commissioner of Customs, Zone-III
3. All the Members of CCFC (Through e-mail).
4. The DC/EDI, ACC (With a request to upload the minutes on the zonal website)
5. Action owners.

Digitally signed by
Jagdish Prasad Agrawal
Date: 20-05-2026
23:24:40