

MINUTES OF CUSTOMS CLEARANCE FACILITATION COMMITTEE(CCFC)
MEETING HELD ON 25.11.2024

As per CBEC Circular No. 13/2015-Customs dated 13.04.2015, the Customs Clearance Facilitation Committee (CCFC) held its periodic meeting on 25th November 2024, at 3:30 PM in the Conference Hall, Room No. 103, New Customs House, near IGI Airport, New Delhi-37. The meeting was chaired by Sh. Samanjasa Das, Principal Chief Commissioner of Customs (DZ). The meeting was attended by the following: -

S. No.	Name	Designation/ Organisation
1	Samanjasa Das	Pr. Chief Commissioner, Delhi Zone
2	Vinayak Chandra Gupta	Pr. Commissioner, TKD-Import
3	Dheeraj Rastogi	Pr. Commissioner, ACC (Import)
4	Shailesh Kumar	Commissioner, TKD-Export
5	Vashistha Chaudhary	Commissioner, PPG
6	Gopal K Jha	Commissioner (Audit)
7	Vishnu Kumar	ADC, ACC (Import)
8	Anuj Kr. Pandey	ADC, Airport
9	Monika Yadav	JC, SIIB, ACC Exports
10	Preeti Sinha	JC, ACC Import
11	Nikhil Mohan Goyal	JC, CCCU- Delhi Zone
12	Neha Yadav	DC, ACC Import
13	R.Ravichandran	AC, SIIB (Export)
14	Santosh Arora	AC (Customs Audit)
15	Devendra Singh Bhadoria	President (DCBA)
16	Anita Taneja	MC Member (DCBA)
17	Mahendra Singh	Member ACAA
18	Rajesh Kr. Jain	Regional Plant Quarantine, Delhi
19	Anthony Demelh	Senior Manager, CDCMIPL
20	Tarun Sabharwal	AGM, DIAL
21	Rajiv Goel	EICI
22	Bharat S Bisht	CSCI
23	Surinder Singh	Sr. Manager Operations, CDCTMIPL
24	Praveen Bhardwaj	Manager Operations , CDCTMIPL
25	Naresh Kumar	AGM-OPS, CSCI
26	B Saravan Babu	FEDEX
27	Kuldeep Sahroha	Secretary, DCBA
28	Vipan Jain	Chairman- Delhi Chapter, ACFI

The agenda items, which had been collected from the members in advance, were discussed as follows:

1. Delhi Customs Website Not Updated:

The Delhi Customs Broker Association (DCBA) raised concerns regarding: (a) Delay in updating contact details on the Delhi Customs website, especially mobile numbers of officers, which are crucial for trade facilitation.

(b) Lack of updated Customs Notifications on the website, which affects trade facilitation and awareness.

The Department confirmed that updating of the website is ongoing, with contact details being updated regularly. The suggestion to include officers' charge details will be addressed soon. Additionally, Notifications are being updated on the CBIC website, with links provided on the Delhi Customs website.

2. Outreach Programme:

The DCBA suggested starting outreach programs (possibly online) to sensitize trade and Customs brokers (CBs) about trade facilitation initiatives.

The Department noted that regular interactions with trade and CB Associations are held through individual meetings or formal channels like PTFC meetings. Further, TSK (Turant Suvidha Kendra) has been continuously serving the need of trade/CBs for faster clearance of goods by establishing effective co-ordination among Assessment Groups, SIIB, Import Shed and Bond Section. ACC Export has introduced an "open house" initiative for stakeholders to meet with Customs officers. ICD, Tughlakabad (Export) has organised "Samadhan Mela: Special Drive for Disposal of pending IGST and Drawback claims" from 25th to 27th November, 2024 for clearance of pending IGST/Drawback claims. More formal outreach programs will be considered in the future.

3. RES Package for SB or BE Filing:

The DCBA raised concerns about the non-functionality of the RES package by NIC, which hampers ease of doing business and raises concerns about data security.

The Department acknowledged the issue, stating that the RES system is managed by NIC. They were asked to submit a representation to DG (Systems) and office of Pr. Chief Commissioner, Delhi Customs Zone.

4. Difficulties in Amendment of B/E:

DCBA mentioned that trade is facing difficulties in amending Bills of Entry (B/E) at FAG level despite the clear guidelines in Circular No. 45/2020.

The Department clarified that amendments like changes in invoice details, short shipments, or bond conditions should be approved by PAG. Delays occur when required documents are not uploaded on E-Sanchit. Stakeholders are advised to ensure that the correct documents are uploaded. The draft regulation for amendment under Section 149 of the Customs Act is already in public domain. Further, all Commissionerates were directed to examine the issue.

5. Delay in Cancellation of Bank Guarantees and Bonds for CAROTAR COO Verification:

The DCBA raised concerns about the delay in the cancellation of Bank Guarantees (BGs) and bonds for COO verification, which has led to funds being blocked.

The Department explained that COO verification timelines are governed by trade agreements, and delays are being actively followed up to ensure timely completion.

6. Issuance of Tax Invoices for Handling Empty Containers:

The DCBA pointed out that empty container depots are not levying GST correctly.

The Department clarified that this issue is related to CONCOR (Custodian) and GST authorities, and the trade was advised to submit a detailed representation to the relevant authorities.

7. Restoration of 24-Hour Free Period for Export Consignments:

The DCBA requested for an extension of the free period for export consignments to 24 hours due to delays caused by inadequate screening infrastructure.

They were informed that the matter needs be addressed by the relevant custodians and operators for providing necessary infrastructure such as installation of more X-Ray facilities, and a detailed representation be submitted to ACC (Export).

8. Increased Logistics Cost:

The DCBA pointed out that logistics cost by Air Export has increased manifold as the CTOs have levied unapproved charges from AERA and also charging for the services which is not required/requested.

The issue pertains between DCBA & Custodians. Custodians were asked to examine the issue in detail.

9. Automation of EGM Number Generation:

The Air Cargo Forum India (ACFI) suggested automating the EGM number generation process, similar to the IGM process.

The Department confirmed that airlines are responsible for automating this process by filling SB and AWB numbers. Further, a Committee has already taken up the issue.

10. Auto Update of IGM Info After Flight Check:

The Air Cargo Forum India suggested automating the update of IGM information after flight checks.

The Department explained that Section 31 of the Customs Act, 1962 requires permission from a Customs Officer before unloading goods, meaning automatic updates cannot be implemented. Further, a Committee has already taken up the issue.

11. Dispense with Manual I.F.O. Permission Before Flight Check:

The Air Cargo Forum India suggested dispensing with manual I.F.O. permission before flight checks.

The Department clarified that under Section 31 of the Customs Act, goods can only be unloaded after permission from a Customs Officer. However, the Department is working with DG Systems to enable electronic forwarding of requests for permission.

12. Manual E.F.O. Permission for Cargo Release:

The Air Cargo Forum India recommended dispensing with manual E.F.O. permission for cargo release, as goods can only be released after LEO.

It was suggested that this suggestion may be taken up with CISF, airlines, and carriers. Further, a self-contained note may be submitted so that issue can be examined.

13. Auto Identification of Packages for Examination:

The Air Cargo Forum suggested that packages requiring examination should be auto-identified immediately after the truck dock message to avoid delays.

The Department raised concerns about potential misuse as system remarks are visible only after registration, post truck docking. Further, if in any consignment, there are 100 packages, it is not possible to select one or two packages & allow others.

14. No Need to Hold BOE at Shed Level for AEO Clients:

The Air Cargo Agents Association of India recommended expediting clearance for Authorized Economic Operator (AEO) clients by waiving the requirement to hold the Bill of Entry (BOE) at the shed level.

The Department responded that 95% of BOEs filed by AEO clients are RMS facilitated, and minimal intervention is required. Also, as per NAC data, RMS facilitation has increased. Only those Bill of entry of AEO Clients which are marked by RMS are taken up for examination.

15. BOE Delays with FAG Officers for AEO Clients:

The Air Cargo Agents Association of India raised concerns about delays in BOE clearance for AEO clients after queries.

The Department agreed that queries are resolved expeditiously but noted that delays sometimes occur due to delayed responses from the importers. For escalation, the services of TSK may be utilized.

16. Provisional BOE Pending in Customs:

The Air Cargo Agents Association of India requested that Customs prioritize resolving pending provisional BOEs.

The Department clarified that provisional assessments occur due to issues like SVB investigations, misclassification, and sample testing. A dedicated team is monitoring these cases, and stakeholders are encouraged to report specific instances.

17. ASI Officer Unavailability:

The Courier Terminal Operators raised concerns about the absence of an ASI officer, causing delays in processing customs-marked shipments.

The Department suggested to approach the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) to ensure availability of the proper officer at the NCT at least twice a week to streamline the clearance process. They were asked to give a detailed representation to Commissioner, ACC(Export).

18. JA Officer Availability Issues:

The Courier Terminal Operators pointed out inconsistent availability of the Jewellery Appraiser (JA) officer, leading to delayed clearances.

The Department informed that permanent deployment of the JA officer at NCT, ACC Export has been done to facilitate smoother operations.

19. Disposal of U/S 48 Shipments:

The Courier Terminal Operators highlighted the congestion caused by unprocessed U/S 48 shipments, occupying valuable terminal space.

The Department assured that the early disposal process is underway and NOCs from SIIB and Custodians are being sought promptly. They were asked to raise the matter in detail during PTFC and submit representation to Office of the Pr. CC, Customs, Delhi Zone.

20. Order-In-Original Shipment Pending Disposal:

The Courier Terminal Operators reported that shipments under Order-In-Original (OIO) remain uncleared after exceeding the 90-day appeal period, causing terminal congestion.

The Department confirmed that OIO disposal is ongoing. The Custodians were requested to share a list of cases where OIOs have been issued but goods remain uncleared, to Commissioner, ACC (Export) and copy to the Pr. CC, Customs, Delhi Zone.

21. Accumulated SIIB Hold:

The Courier Terminal Operators raised the issue that over 70 tons of shipments are under SIIB hold.

The Department assured that these shipments are being addressed promptly as part of the ongoing OIO disposal process. They were asked to give a detailed list of such shipments to ACC (Export) and copy to the Pr. CC, Customs, Delhi Zone.

In the end, the house was opened to all wherein certain suggestions related to disposal of goods and issue of fees levied by Custodians were discussed. It was informed that disposal of goods is being done on priority and for issue of fees levied, needs to be taken up with the Custodians.

The meeting ended with the vote of thanks to all attendees from the Pr. Chief Commissioner of Customs, Delhi Zone.

**Signed by Nikhil Mohan
Goyal**

Date: 16-12-2024 15:07:22

(Nikhil Mohan Goyal)
Joint Commissioner
CCCU, Delhi Zone