



भारत सरकार

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

सीमा शुल्क मुख्य आयुक्त का कार्यालय, कोलकाता क्षेत्र

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF COMMISSIONER OF CUSTOMS, KOLKATA ZONE

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Date: #ApprovedDate#

MINUTES OF THE CUSTOMS CLEARANCE FACILITATION COMMITTEE (CCFC)
MEETING HELD ON 25.09.2025

The meeting of the Customs Clearance Facilitation Committee (CCFC) of Kolkata Customs Zone was held on 25.09.2025 (Thursday) from 4.00 P.M. onwards in Hybrid Mode through Video Conferencing under the Chairmanship of Shri Ramavath Srinivasa Naik, Chief Commissioner of Customs, Kolkata Customs Zone.

The following departmental officers and stakeholder representatives attended the meeting in the Board Room, Custom House, Kolkata: -

DEPARTMENTAL OFFICERS		
Sl. No.	Name of the Attendees (S/Sh)	Designation & Commissionerate/Organisation
1	Dr. Shivaji Hanumant Dange	Pr. Commissioner (AP&ACC)
2	Vinayak Azaad	Pr. Commissioner (Preventive, W.B.)
3	Shiv Pratap Singh	ADC (CCP)
4	Dharam Raj	ADC (CCP)
5	Gautam Kumar	ADC (Port)
6	Mohsina Tabassum	ADC (Port)
7	Sukhbir Singh Ahuja	ADC (Port)
8	Ajeet Kumar	ADC (AP & ACC)
9	Amit Bhardwaj	ADC (AP & ACC)
10	Shilpi Srivastava	JC (AP & ACC)
11	Sovon Kumar Mandal	JC (AP & ACC)

12	S.T Bhutia	AC (Port)
13	Debashis Mukhopadhyay	AC (Port)
14	Ujjwal Roy	AC (CCO)
15	Manoj Kumar Chaudhary	Superintendent of Customs (CCO)
16	Tariprasad Das	Preventive Officer (CCO)
STAKEHOLDER REPRESENTATIVES		
17	Tanay Kr. Pal	Senior Asst. Traffic Manager, SMPK
18	Koushik Mukherjee	SMPK
19	S.K Ghosh	Hony. Secretary, CCHAA

The following departmental officers & stakeholder representatives attended the meeting in virtual mode through Video Conferencing.

DEPARTMENTAL OFFICERS		
Sl. No.	Name of the Attendees (S/Sh)	Designation & Commissionerate/Organisation
1	Ranjit Kumar Hembram	AC (Port)
2	Chandra Sekhar Pathak	Preventive Officer (CCO)
PGA/TRADE REPRESENTATIVES/IMPORTER'S REPRESENTATIVES		
3	Saroj Kumar Meher	AO, FSSAI
4	Dr. Kaustav Chakraborty	PHS, PHO, Kolkata
5	Mannu Choudhary	President, CCHAA
6	S.K. Mondal	APEDA, Kolkata
7	Manvendra Singh	BIS, Kolkata
8	Pramod Kr. Srivastava	President, NACFS
9	Kaushik	GJEPC, Kolkata
10	Harekrishna Patra	Manager, RBI
11	*Name Not Available*	Land Port Authority of India, Petrapole
12	*Name Not Available*	Regional PQS, Kolkata
13	Jiten Mahato	*Unspecified Organisation Details*

The meeting commenced with a welcome address by Shri Nitin Chand Negi, Additional Commissioner (CCO), who extended cordial greetings to all participants. The Chair thereafter conveyed his welcome to the departmental officers and representatives of various stakeholder organizations. The ADC (CCO) then requested the participants to introduce themselves to the Chair. This was followed by presentation on the Status Report pursuant to minutes of the CCFC meeting held on 26.08.2025 wherein the issues were briefly discussed and officers/representatives concerned were requested to apprise the committee of the action taken. The issues, corresponding directions of the chair & action taken pertaining to the last CCFC meeting are as follows:

Issue No. 1	• Sponsored by: Calcutta Custom House Agents Association • Issue in Brief: DPD (Direct Port Delivery) consignments are being inappropriately moved from the dock to Balmer Lawrie CFS even after Out-of-Charge (OOC) and Shed Delivery Order (SDO) are issued at Port within 48 hours of vessel's LLD. • Direction of the Chair: ➤ ADC (Port) to conduct a separate meeting & examine P.N. 04/2019 (Port). ➤ Port Authorities of SMPK to examine feasibility of keeping undelivered DPD containers at Port for further period. • Action Taken: Shri Ajeet Kumar, ADC informed that a meeting in this regard was conducted on 22nd September, 2025 wherein the issue was deliberated upon. Sh. Tanay Kr. Pal, Sr. Asst. Traffic Manager, SMPK confirmed that they were present in the said meeting. On the point of inappropriate movement of consignments from dock to Balmer Lawrie CFS, it was requested to provide specific instance in this regard. It was found that DPD containers are delivered as per PN 04/2019 (Port). DPD containers not taken delivery within 48 Hours (excluding Saturday/Sunday/Holiday) at Port are shifted to B/L CFS as per MoU with SMPK.
Issue No. 2	• Sponsored by: President, National Association of CFS • Issue in Brief: Multimodal Export Movement Under Single ETP • Direction of the Chair: ➤ Necessary steps to be taken to ensure the required functionality is made available in the system, if so feasible. ➤ Interpretational issue, if any exists, to be suitably interpreted. • Action Taken: Shri Ajeet Kumar, ADC informed that there is no provision of multiple ETPs in the current ICES System as clarified by the DG Systems. Export containers from ICD Durgapur may be transported by train from B/L CFS to Nhava Seva as similar

	transhipment is taking place between different ICDs to gateway port through ICD TKD.
Issue No. 3	• Sponsored by: Foreign Exchange Department, RBI, Kolkata • Issue in Brief: Designation of Customs Nodal Officers for taking up issues of tracking and reconciliation of cash & barter based proceeds of trade with Nepal & Bhutan. • Direction of the Chair: ➤ AC (EDI) in Port, AC (EDI) in AP & ACC and AC (Systems) in CCP may be appointed as the Nodal Officers to liaise with the RBI Officials for such issues. • Action Taken: Shri Nitin Chand Negi, ADC (CCO) informed the Chair that orders designating Nodal Officers in this regard have been issued by the 03 Commissionerates and the details of such Nodal Officers shall be communicated to the RBI shortly.

The Additional Commissioner (CCO) then outlining the agenda items scheduled for the present CCFC meeting. The agenda points along with the corresponding responses received from the respective jurisdictional Commissionerates of this Zone, the discussions held thereon and the directions issued by the Chair are detailed below.

Sponsored By: Sr. Asst. Traffic Manager, SMP-Kolkata		
Agenda Point No.1	Issue Description	<u>Container Scanner Operation Hours</u> • Issue: Current operational hours (10:00–18:00 hrs) of container scanner facilities are insufficient, causing congestion in scanner bound traffic during peak hours leading to delayed clearance and increased demurrage charges for importers/exporters, affecting overall supply chain efficiency.
	Discussions during the Meeting	➤ In response, Sh. Gautam Kumar, ADC (Port) stated that capacity wise, there are no such issues as the number of containers selected for scanning in a day (around 100) remains well within the daily scanning capacity of the container scanners (around 350). ➤ He stated that this issue mostly pertains to the peculiarity at the Port and the scanner bound traffic having to wait through traffic no-entry timings at CSD. However, he assured that congestion issues, if any, will be taken care of and enquired with the AC, CSD regarding any congestion. ➤ AC, CSD informed that a meeting on the issue had already been held and further submitted that, as per terms of the contract, the working hours of the hired technicians/operators of the scanners are from 10A.M to 6 P.M only. ➤ In response to the Chair's enquiry, the AC, CSD clarified that traffic restrictions (no-entry timings) are applicable only between 09:00 A.M.–11:00 A.M. and 05:00 P.M–07:00 P.M., and that trailer movement with containers is permitted

		during the remaining hours. ➤ With the Chair's permission, Mr. Mannu Choudhary (President, CCHAA) raised concerns from Industry and EXIM stakeholders regarding repeated instances where containers flagged as 'Not Clean' in scanning were found to be free of irregularities upon examination, resulting in cost implications for importers.
	Direction of the Chair	➤ The Chair noted that CSD's current capacity exceeds daily container volume presented for scanning, with no reported scanning delays. ➤ Mr. T. K Pal (SMPK) raised concerns about gate-side congestion being reported to them, citing police feedback. The Chair remarked that the underlying cause of the congestion needed to be identified. ➤ Mr. Pal further observed that the 09:00–11:00 A.M. traffic no entry window remains underutilized. In response to the Chair's enquiry, the Additional Commissioner, CSD, reported that number of containers received prior to 10.00 AM is typically more or less around 10. ➤ The Chair then requested the SMPK representatives to furnish specific data pertaining to gate entry and scanning execution timings of containers at CSD to effectively address the issue of congestion. ➤ Reiterating the department's commitment to trade facilitation, the Chair assured that, should any congestion be found attributable to capacity constraints or scanner operating hours, appropriate remedial steps such as extended working hours or an additional shift will be considered. Under present circumstances, no necessity arises to extend the working hours of CSD. ➤ The Chair noted that scanning is a non-intrusive process with over 90% facilitation, and assured that a study would be undertaken to assess the proportion of such cases and review the quality of assessment or any other issue, if required to improve this situation. Action Owner: Port Commissionerate
Agenda Point No. 2	Issue Description	<u>System Integration Issues</u> • IGM Data: There is incomplete or delayed transmission of IGM Line Nos in the port system from EDI, affecting import application filing. Due to receipt of incomplete IGM Data for bulk/breakbulk vessels, the shed has to manually enter the details for such vessels. • OOB & LEO Transmission: Data relating to OOB & LEO are not getting transmitted automatically creating inconvenience for port staff while processing.
	Discussions during the	➤ The Chair identified that this is a technical issue between EDI & PCS. He then

Agenda Point No. 3	Meeting	enquired whether such issues are happening in other ports across the country. ➤ Mr. Tanay Kr. Pal responded that this may not be happening in other ports where there is some PPP projects where they are getting data directly from the users which is not the case with SMPK which gets the data from NIC & ICES.
	Direction of the Chair	➤ The Chair noted that the issue falls beyond the present forum's purview and can only be escalated to DG Systems on behalf of the Port Authorities. ➤ He advised the Port Authorities to depute their PCS officials prior to the next meeting to engage with DG Systems, facilitated by this office, to ascertain the issue and explore possible resolutions. Action Owner: Port Authority (SMPK)
	Issue Description	<u>Sale & Auction Bottlenecks</u> Lime Stone Auction at KPD DK-II: The Customs Office at KPD is not issuing the Bill of Entry for the auction post joint re-inventory of Lime Stone lying at KPD DK-II by the surveyor duly signed by Customs PO after discrepancy in cargo quantity (Qty found: 140 MT but as per 1st & 2nd auction, the cargo quantity was 250 MT) was found with the survey report mentioning the reason for less quantity. • Unclaimed Containers at NSD: NOC has been issued by the Customs for 10 containers which require de-stuffing for survey and inventory/valuation and subsequent restuffing. However, no covered shed or equipment support available inside the NSD docks for the said destuffing work. • DRI Detained Containers: Multiple letters sent to JC of Customs (Port) seeking removal permission of DRI detained containers are pending responses. • Stall of SDC Permitted Survey: The permission granted by the Special Disposal Cell for survey and valuation of 165 Nos. of retrieved containers of M.V. Marin Trust 01 could not be completed due to non-availability of covered shed and necessary equipment support for destuffing work.
	Discussions during the Meeting	➤ Referring to Point 1 of this agenda item, Mr. Koushik Mukherjee (SMPK) stated that the cargo was relocated within the Port due to operational exigency and is now secured, though its value has depreciated. ➤ Regarding Point No. 4, he also mentioned that the owner of this export cargo has requested for permission to send 45 Nos. of 40' Containers out of the total 165 Containers back to town.
	Direction of the Chair	➤ The Chair directed that the auction be expedited to avoid further complications, reiterating that while auction is the Port Authority's responsibility, Customs is concerned with duty assessment and realization.

		➤ He advised SMPK to submit supporting documents with justification, and instructed ADC (Port) to provide necessary assistance. ➤ Regarding the 19,000 tons of duty-paid remnant cargo imported by the vessel, the Chair advised submission of certified documents confirming its linkage to the relevant Bill of Entry, following which clearance may be considered by the department. ➤ On the issue of DRI-detained containers, the Chair clarified that this office is not authorized to issue NOC, but can coordinate with DRI officials upon receipt of formal communication from the Port Authority. ➤ On Points 2 and 4, the Chair noted that the matter pertains to SMPK's internal infrastructure issues and suggested exploring Balmer Lawrie's covered sheds and equipment for inventory/survey purposes as they have some MoU with them. ➤ Regarding Point 4, he stated that if the exporter seeks to return the cargo back to town, permission may be granted upon submission of a proper application and compliance with due procedures, including reversal of any export incentives claimed. Action Owner: Port Authority (SMPK) & Port Commissionerate
Sponsored By: Foreign Exchange Department (FED), RBI, Kolkata		
Agenda Point No. 4	Issue Description	<u>ICEGATE & IDPMS/EDPMS Reconciliation Issues</u> Exporters/importers are facing difficulties due to non-reflection of SBs & B/Es in I/EDPMS & ICEGATE leading to reconciliation issue.
	Discussions during the Meeting	Mr. Harekrishna Patra, Manager (RBI) explained the issue and highlighted that whenever a customer approaches them, they fail to address the issues until and unless entries are made in the ICES and also, they don't have the details of Customs officers who can be reached out for such issues.
	Direction of the Chair	➤ The Chair informed that nodal officers have already been designated by the commissionerates to address such matters. ➤ For non-reflection of Shipping Bills and Bills of Entry in EDPMS/IDPMS, the Chair advised RBI to instruct importers/exporters to apply to Customs for resolution. ➤ He explained that for exports, claims are verified and the system is refreshed to transmit data to the authorized bank again. For imports, this facility is unavailable; hence, a system-generated copy of the Bill of Entry is certified and handed over to the importer on their request. Action Owner: No further action required

Agenda Point No. 5	Issue Description	<u>Trade with Nepal-Bhutan via Cash/Barter</u> - A significant portion of trade proceeds from Nepal and Bhutan are received in cash or through barter, complicating tracking and reconciliation. - FED of RBI suggests sensitization programmes at border points (Phuentsholing, Jaigaon, Raxaul, Kakarbhitta) & requests designation of nodal officers to address/resolve informal settlements & mismatched proceeds—over 90% of outstanding EDPMS entries pertain to these two countries.
	Discussions during the Meeting	- Sh. Vinayak Azad, Principal Commissioner (Preventive, W.B), clarified that no official barter trade exists with either country, and as per field inputs, all trade proceeds are routed through NEFT. AC (Naxalbari) has been appointed to examine related matters. - He sought details from the agenda sponsor on the volume & significance of informal trade that might be happening within local communities. - Mr. Patra (RBI) clarified that Nepal and Bhutan account for 90% of EDPMS pendency. This issue arises particularly when there are multiple exporters with multiple AD bank under a single SB. In such cases, the entry is typically made only for a single exporter and a single AD Bank, resulting in reconciliation challenges and delayed closure. - The Principal Commissioner acknowledged Customs' concern over uncaptured trade proceeds and resolved to appoint a nodal officer to liaise with RBI on such issues.
	Direction of the Chair	➤ The Chair was satisfied with the resolution provided the Principal Commissioner (Preventive, W.B). Action Owner: Preventive Commissionerate, W.B
Agenda Point No. 6	Issue Description	<u>Sharing Contact Details of Customs Nodal Officers</u> FED Requests credentials of Nodal officers to facilitate direct liaison with RBI officials on reconciliation and system-related issues as per directive from the CCFC Meeting dated 26.08.2025 to appoint three nodal officers (AC (EDI/System) in Port, AP & ACC, and CCP).
	Discussions during the Meeting	Shri Nitin Chand Negi, ADC (CCO) informed that orders designating Nodal Officers in this regard have been issued by the 03 Commissionerates and the details of such Nodal Officers shall be communicated to the RBI shortly. - Port : Shri Debashis Mukhopadhyay, AC (EDI, Port) - AP & ACC : Md. Khabibur Rahman, AC - Preventive (W.B): Mohit Nirmal Guria, AC, Hq. Systems Branch, CC(P), Kolkata.

Agenda Point No. 7		The RBI official thanked the Chair for this initiative.
	Direction of the Chair	The Chair was satisfied with the resolution. Action Owner: CCO
	Sponsored By: Calcutta Custom House Agents Association, Kolkata	
	Issue Description	<u>E-Bond Debiting Issues:</u> Due to persistent problem in online bond debiting for certain categories of bonds in ICEGATE for several months, members of trade are compelled to submit physical bonds for debiting permission creating delays of 2-3 days. Besides the urgency conveyed to resolve this issue, it has also been proposed to conduct training session to familiarize members with E-Bond operations to address difficulties faced.
	Discussions during the Meeting	1. Mr. Mannu Choudhury, President (CCHAA) stated that the issue was raised when no training was conducted on e-Bond implementation. Now that, in the meantime, Port Commissionerate has conducted a training session to address the difficulties faced, he expressed his appreciation for the department's proactive initiative in this regard. 2. He further sought clarification as to whether consent of the State Government has been taken for implementing e-Bond since Registrar of the State Government is the stamp issuing authority for the bonds. 3. Shri Sukhbir Singh Ahuja, ADC (Port) informed the consent of the state has been taken for the state of West Bengal and they are accordingly issuing e-Bonds. For other states, the consent has not been obtained and the department is also not insisting on it. As regard the training on e-Bond, a training session was conducted on 18th of September. At present, only the issue pertaining to Test Bond is pending and the same has been escalated to DG, System for resolution. In the meantime, these are being allowed on manual basis.
	Direction of the Chair	➤ The Chair acknowledged the successful implementation of e-Bond and e-BG in the zone and advised that any operational difficulties should be promptly brought to the department's notice for resolution. ➤ The Chair appreciated the initiative of the AP & ACC Commissionerate in scheduling an upcoming e-Bond training session, as informed by Mrs. Shilpi Srivastava, Joint Commissioner (AP & ACC). Action Owner: No action required

Agenda Point No. 8	Issue Description	<u>Commodity Testing – Lab Allocation:</u> Lack of clarity on lab assignments for specific commodities from proper officers results in clearance delays. It has been requested for issuance of clear guidelines on lab allocation and validity period for lab certificates to avoid repeat testing.
	Discussions during the Meeting	The CHAA representative highlighted two key issues: lack of clarity among officers regarding lab allocation for certain export items like mica, and non-adherence to Circular No. 23/2004, where textile samples are unnecessarily retested despite valid prior test reports with the essential parameters remaining the same for the commodity. He requested officer sensitization to ensure proper lab routing and compliance with the six-month validity provision for textile test reports.
	Direction of the Chair	➤ The Chair stated that the upgraded CRCL can test most commodities, with exceptions sent to nearby government labs. Officers are aware of the six-month validity rule for test reports and generally follow it; repeat testing occurs only with specific concerns. ➤ If any specific instance is noticed where this is not followed by the officer, the Additional Commissioner concerned may be approached for redressal. ➤ The Chair emphasized that an open-door policy is in place for resolving trade-related grievances, allowing stakeholders to directly approach officers beyond the formal CCFC and PTFC mechanisms for redressal. Action Owner: No action required
Agenda Point No. 9	Issue Description	<u>Empty Container Return Timings:</u> Current restricted timings for return of empty containers are misaligned with 24×7 EXIM operations. It has been requested to allow container returns round-the-clock to reduce congestion & delays in container turnaround.
	Discussions during the Meeting	The CCHAA representative raised concerns about limited operating hours at private empty container yards, which close around 5–6 P.M., causing delays in depositing containers after examination—especially for bigger lots. He requested that these facilities be made operational 24×7 to enable round-the-clock container returns, thereby improving turnaround time and reducing congestion.
	Direction of the Chair	The Chair clarified that private container yards operate independently under shipping lines or other private entities and are not notified by Customs. Regulation of their working hours is beyond departmental control. He advised that any request for extended operations should be pursued through mutual understanding with the operators, as the department cannot intervene in such matters.

		Action Owner: No action required
Agenda Point No. 10	Issue Description	<u>Installation of Container Scanner at Haldia:</u> There has been a long-standing demand from trade for installation of Container Scanner at Haldia. It has been requested to provide update on installation status and commissioning timeline.
	Discussions during the Meeting	Shri Sukhbir Singh Ahuja, ADC (Port), informed that the scanner is expected to arrive in Haldia by October and will be fully operational by year-end. He confirmed that the AERB survey and site analysis are complete, with all pre-installation approvals secured except the Fire NOC. The CCHAA representative appreciated the update on the commissioning timeline.
	Direction of the Chair	The Chair was satisfied with the clarification. Action Owner: No action required
Sponsored By: President, National Association of CFS		
Agenda Point No. 11	Issue Description	Multimodal export movement under single ETP: System doesn't support filing of two separate ETPs for multimodal export movement via Rail and Road from ICD Durgapur to the gateway port of JNCH via INCCU1 Rail terminals/Balmer Lawrie Rail Terminals.
	Discussions during the Meeting	1. Shri P. K. Srivastava (President, NACFS) requested the Chair for appropriate resolution of this issue so as facilitate export cargo movement from ICD to JNCH via the rail terminals at Balmer Lawrie. 2. He cited the operational model at ICD Tughlakabad which is taking over export shipments from other locations and then routing it to the gateway port under the same TP, and requested similar approval for the proposed movement.
	Direction of the Chair	The Chair identified two components of the issue: ➤ EDI Functionality – Whatever way the EDI provides for such movement in ICD Tughlakabad, the same practice can be followed here also since multiple ETPs for a single SB workflow can't be generated as clarified by DG Systems. ➤ Container Loading – Export containers for gateway Port may be loaded at Railway siding in consultation with Balmer Lawrie CFS. Action Owner: Port Commissionerate

All the members of trade expressed their sincere appreciation to the Chair for the constructive deliberations and the meeting concluded with a vote of thanks by Shri Nitin Chand Negi, ADC (CCO).

This issues with the approval of the Competent Authority.

Digitally signed by
ABANTI SALUI
Date: 10-10-2025
14:25:44

#ApprovedByName#
#ApprovedByDesignation#
Chief Commissioner's Office,
Custom House, Kolkata.

Copy to:

1. Sr. PS to Chief Commissioner of Customs, Kolkata.
2. P.S. to Pr. Commissioner of Customs (A&A)/ Pr. Commissioner of Customs (Port)/ Pr. Commissioner of Customs (Prev.), West Bengal.
3. All Additional/Joint Commissioner of Customs (Port/A&A/CCP)
4. All the Stakeholders
5. DC(EDI) for uploading on Kolkata Customs Web Page.