



भारत सरकार

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

सीमा शुल्क मुख्य आयुक्त का कार्यालय, कोलकाता क्षेत्र

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF COMMISSIONER OF CUSTOMS, KOLKATA CUSTOMS ZONE

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MINUTES OF THE CUSTOMS CLEARANCE FACILITATION COMMITTEE (CCFC) MEETING HELD ON 04.07.2024

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The meeting of the Customs Clearance Facilitation Committee (CCFC) of Kolkata Customs Zone was held on 04.07.2024 at 12:00 Hrs. under the Chairmanship of Shri Madan Mohan Singh, Chief Commissioner of Customs, Kolkata Customs Zone. The meeting was conducted via Web Conference.

The following officers/representatives attended the meeting:-

Sl. No.	Name & Designation (Shri/Ms)	Organisation
1.	Shri Ataur Rahman	Commissioner of Customs (Port)
2.	Shri Gaurav Sinha	Commissioner of Customs (Preventive)
3.	Shri S. Devrajan	Additional Commissioner of Customs (CCO)
4.	Shri Brajesh Kumar Singh	Additional Commissioner of Customs (Port)
5.	Mrs Shilpi Shrivastwa	Joint Commissioner of Customs (CCP)
6.	Mr Melvyn P Toppo	Deputy Commissioner of Customs (Port)
7.	Shri Ranjit Kumar Hembram	Assistant Commissioner of Customs (AP & ACC)
8.	Shri Rajib Kumar Sinha	Assistant Commissioner of Customs (AP & ACC)
9.	Smt. Anindita Nag	Assistant Commissioner of Customs (CCO)
10.	Shri Ranjeet Kumar Prasad	Superintendent of Customs (CCO)
11.	Shri Sayantan Ghosh	Chairman, Airport Sub Committee
12.	Shri Javanta Sen	Vice President & Convenor. Customs Sub

12.	Shri Sayanta Sen	Chairman, Customs Sub Committee
13.	Shri Ajay Sharma	Chemical Examiner Grade-II, CRCL
14.	Smt. Debdatta Nandwani	Regional Head, FIEO
15.	Shri Arnab	FIEO
Some other officials of various Organizations were also present.		

The Chairman extended a welcome to all the members and opened the conference for discussion and directed, Shri S. Devrajan, Additional Commissioner of Customs, Chief Commissioner Office to proceed with the Meeting starting with the Agenda Points, which are as follows:

Issue 1	In the CBIC's Circular No. 2/2024 dated 08.03.2024, wherein it has been decided that the Chief Commissioners /Commissioners should henceforth: - i. Ensure representation of women in the PTFC and CCFC meetings, preferably through women associations. ii. Ensure inclusion of at least one agenda point from women perspective iii. Encourage the trade bodies/custodians to establish dedicated help desks and processing mechanism for women traders and women logistics service providers. iv. Support in upskilling women logistics service providers, freight forwarders and customs brokers by offering relevant training for women. In this regard, it has been directed that this Circular may be given wide publicity by issue of suitable Trade Notice Public Notice. Difficulties, if any, in the implementation of the above Circular may be brought to the notice of the Board.
Discussion during the Meeting	During the discussion, Shri S. Devrajan, ADC, CCO referred to the CBIC Circular No. 2/2024 dated 08.03.2024 related to the participation of women in PTFC and CCFC meetings. On behalf of the Chair, he requested all the participating Service Providers Industries CHA Association and Shipping Lines to provide opportunities for women candidates which would further enhance the representation of women in PTFC and CCFC meetings.
Issue 2	<u>Sponsored by Shri Sayantan kr. Ghosh, Chairman, Customs Sub Committee:-</u> Lab reports from Central Revenues Control Laboratory (CRCL) are not being received by trade in a timely manner and this delay is hampering EXIM consignments which are marked for such testing during export & imports. In most cases reports are being received after a week or 10 days. Further there is no clarity on method followed in releasing these

	reports – whether in FIFO manner or by any method. This may kindly be regularized where such release of reports can be released and tracked online without delays
Remarks of Department	<u>Comments from CRCL-Kolkata:</u> This laboratory follows FIFO only. It is pertinent to mention here that Live consignments are reported within 05 working days and the normal samples had been tapped to 07 working days depending on the queries raised in the test memo. This laboratory has been tirelessly working from last 03/04 months to report the normal/complex samples within 07 working days and now it can be seen that the samples are reported within 07 working days. The majority of samples received in this laboratory are online and are reported online from where its reported time can be seen.
Discussion during the Meeting	During the discussion, Shri Sayantan Ghosh stated that for import and export there is no visibility and timeline for release of the CRC Lab reports. He further highlighted that for provisional assessment cases, traders are required to furnish a bond/BG and take delivery, whereas for other cases, consignments are released based on submitted lab reports, posing challenges for traders. Specifically, in the export of parboiled rice, delays in lab reports have been problematic. Additionally, there is a circular for import consignments under Chapter 27 stipulating that cargo can only be released upon receipt of the lab test report. This situation causes suffering for traders, as typically 10-15 days are taken for issuance of the lab report and one cannot track at what stage the lab report is. Shri Ajay Sharma from CRCL explained that the report is being issued within 3-5 days. Since, the report is not given online, the report is sent to the Officer's id on the same day it is prepared. He further added that in case of export of rice, they are issued within three days and the same is sent on mail id of the concerned officer. In this context, Shri Sayantan Ghosh further stated that the CHA is not receiving any part of the report online. Additionally, he mentioned that in a shipment with a free time of 14 days, a report arrives within 7 working days. Shri Ataur Rahman, Commissioner of Customs, Port suggested since this issue keeps coming frequently even in the PTFCs, the Additional Commissioner in charge of CRCL may conduct a meeting with the trade and CRCL and come up with a SOP along-with indicative timelines for different kinds of samples so that there is some amount of transparency especially for live samples and in cases where there is no provisional assessment. The Additional Commissioner in charge of CRCL, may be asked to conduct a study the matter and give a report for further action in this regard. Mrs. Debdatta Nandwani, Regional Head, FIEO welcomed the above suggestion since it would help the trade in natural textiles, who have been facing this issue of delayed reports.

	Shri S. Devrajan, ADC, CCO assured that this too would be included as a point of reference in discussion with CRCL and Trade.
Direction of the Chair	The Chair endorsed the proposal as stated above by the Commissioner (Port) regarding the said point and directed that report in the matter may be submitted after consultation with all concerned.
Action to be taken	Principal Commissioner of Customs, (A&A) CRCL
Issue 3	<u>Sponsored by Shri Jayanta Sen, Vice President & Convenor – Customs Sub Committee:-</u> 1) Appointment of Nodal Officer / Helpdesk to assist Shipping Lines / Agents for implementation of SOP to run concurrently for initial 6 months period for smooth transition to SCMTR. 2) Request for a SOP to do ETP for using more than one transshipment Port within India – copy of letter from our member Shipping Line M/s Seabridge Marine Agencies enclosed for your perusal.
Remarks of Department	<u>Comments from Port Commissionerate:-</u> 1. The Nodal officer for SCMTR has already been appointed and a Public Notice No. 15/2024 dated 14.06.2024 has been issued. (copy of PN attached). 2. Regarding the issue of using more than one transshipment Port within India, a request was earlier submitted by M/s Seabridge Marine, based on which a letter had been sent to CCO for its onward submission to Board for consideration and modification in ICES, if approved (copy of the letter enclosed).
Discussion during the Meeting	1. During the discussion regarding the first point raised by the Customs Sub-Committee, Shri S. Devrajan, ADC, CCO informed that a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) has been issued as a Public Notice, nominating two officers who can be contacted in case of any issues that may arise. 2. Regarding the of more than one port of transshipment, Shri S Devrajan, ADC, CCO informed that the issue has already been taken up with the DG Systems. This issue was earlier raised by Seabridge Marine and referred to the Chief Commissioner's Office (CCO) by Port Commissionerate and CCO in turn referred this matter to DG System to explore the possibility of enabling the system with more than one transshipment., if permitted under existing laws .

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

This issues with the approval of the Competent Authority.

Signed by Devarajan S
Date: 10-07-2024 13:20:10

(Devarajan S)
ADDITIONAL COMMISSIONER
Chief Commissioner's Office
Kolkata Customs Zone

Dated: 10-07-2024

Copy to:

1. The Principal Commissioner of Customs (A&A)
2. The Commissioner of Customs (Port)
3. The Commissioner of Customs (Prev.), West Bengal
4. The Additional/Joint Commissioner of Customs (Port/A&A/CCP)
5. All Concerned.
6. DC(EDI) for uploading in Kolkata Customs Web Page.