

I/1035109/2023



भारत सरकार

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

सीमा शुल्क मुख्य आयुक्त का कार्यालय, कोलकाता क्षेत्र

**OFFICE OF THE CHIEF COMMISSIONER OF CUSTOMS, KOLKATA
CUSTOMS ZONE**

सीमा शुल्क सदन, 15/1 स्ट्रैंड रोड, कोलकाता- 700001

CUSTOM HOUSE, 15/1 STRAND ROAD, KOLKATA- 700001Fax No. 91-33-2231-3289; E-mail: ccu-cuskoa@nic.in**MINUTES OF THE CUSTOMS CLEARANCE FACILITATION COMMITTEE
(CCFC) MEETING HELD ON 23-02-2023**

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The meeting of the Customs Clearance Facilitation Committee (CCFC) of Kolkata Customs Zone was held on 23-02-2023 at 04:00 PM, at the Board Room, Custom House, 15/1, Strand Road, 2nd Floor, Kolkata – 700001, under the Chairmanship of Shri Anil Kumar Gupta, Chief Commissioner of Customs, Kolkata Customs Zone.

The following officers/representatives attended in the meeting:-

Sl. No.	Name & Designation (Shri/Ms)	Organisation
1.	Shri Ataur Rahman	Commissioner of Customs (Port) & (AP & ACC)
2.	Shri Ranjan Khanna	Commissioner of Customs (Preventive)
3.	Shri Sushil Kale	Additional Commissioner of Customs (AP& ACC)
4.	Shri Dharmendra Pratap Singh	Joint Commissioner of Customs(CCO)
5.	Shri Bheem Ratna Rawat	Joint Commissioner of Customs (AP & ACC)
6.	Shri S. Devrajan	Joint Commissioner of Customs (Port)
7.	Shri Piyush Katiyar	Joint Commissioner of Customs (Port)
8.	Shri Naveen Rana	Deputy Commissioner of Customs (Port)
9.	Smt. Anindita Nag	Assistant Commissioner of Customs, (CCO)
10.	Shri Anupam Kumar Singh	Assistant Commissioner of Customs, (CCO)
11.	Shri Rajib Kr. Snha	Assistant Commissioner of Customs (Nepal & Bhutan)
12.		

I/1035109/2023

	Shri Paritosh Kumar	Superintendent of Customs (CCO)
13.	Shri Indranil Das	Preventive Officer (CCO)
14.	Shri Sudip Dey	President / CCHAA
15.	Shri Jayanta Sen	ASIC
16.	Shri Kaushik Ghosh	Assstt. Director, GJEPC
17.	Shri Pankaj Parekh	Regional Chairman, GJEPC
18.	Shri Arnab Chakraborty	ME/FIEO
19.	Shri Pramod Kumar Srivastava	National President, NACFS
20.	Shri Debashis Dasgupta	A. L. Logistics/CFS
21.	ALI HAIDER	CCHAA
22.	Shri Sampad Mitra	A. L. Logistics/CFS
23.	Shri Sujit Chakraborty	President, WBCHA
24.	Shri Tanay Kumar Pal	SATM
25.	Shri Ravi Shankar Rajhans	TM

Shri Dharmendra Pratap Singh, Joint Commissioner of Customs (CCO), greeted all the members/stakeholders of CCFC meeting and requested the Chair to commence the meeting.

The Chair extended a warm welcome to all the members, custodians & stakeholders of CCFC Meeting.

The Chief Commissioner of Customs then asked Shri Dharmendra Pratap Singh, Joint Commissioner of Customs to take up the issues of Agenda points and pending paras.

AGENDA POINTS DISCUSSED IN THE CCFC MEETING:

Issue – I	Sponsored by Sr. Asst. Traffic Manager, SMP-Kolkata.
Point – 1.	LEO and OOC after Customs clearance is not getting transmitted to Port system on real time basis it is getting delayed so users are submitting hard copy of screenshots of same from ICEGATE at Port EXIM portal.
Comments of Department	This is to mention that no such issues have been reported in EDI Section till date either by Port officials or Customs (Docks) officials. Hence, the stakeholders may be requested to provide screen shots of their modules for sample cases from different stages after OOC and LEO for specific Bills of entry and Shipping Bills so that the same will be escalated to Directorate General of System and Data Management (DG Systems) for resolution the issue.
	The Sr. Traffic Manager, SMPK said that since the inception of NLP-National Logistics Portal from December, 2022 the clearances are not

I/1035109/2023

Discussion in the meeting	getting updated on real time basis and it is a common occurrence for all ports. This is happening due to problem in handshake of Customs and Port System. A meeting regarding the same has also been held in Delhi. The Chair inquired whether any written correspondence regarding the matter has been submitted to the DG Systems. The Sr Traffic Manager, SMPK responded that they had done so
Direction of the Chair	The Chair directed the SR Traffic Manager, SMPK to submit the hard copy of the correspondences to DG Systems so that the matter can be taken up with DG Systems for early resolution of the problem.
Point - 2.	Customs Immigration checking after arrival of vessel gets delayed most of the times for which vessels are unable to start work immediately after berthing, getting delayed to start the operation so missing the sailing tide after completion of work. It not only hampering the productivity of the terminal but also increasing logistics cost here due to excess idle time of vessel.
Comments of Department	Upon arrival of any vessel in docks, Customs Officers complete boarding formalities immediately thereafter. Generally, Shipping Agents prepare the declaration forms and other related papers on behalf of the master of the vessel. Sometimes, it has been observed that when the Boarding Officer of Customs went on board, no Shipping Agent was found present there. As a result of that boarding formalities get delayed because without boarding papers made ready, necessary clearance could not be granted. But such things do not happen regularly. When a vessel arrives in working berth, soon after boarding, Inward Entry is being granted by the boarding Officer, as the NSD-III Office remain open 24X7. If the vessel is arriving at non-working berth, then Inward Entry is being done when the vessel shifted to working berth. There is no such delay, as alleged, occurred on Customs part at NSD-III.
Discussion in the meeting	The Sr. Traffic Manager, SMPK mentioned that the updation of system takes time and there has been a maximum of 8-10 hours time gap.
Direction of the Chair	The Chair directed Shri Naveen Rana, DC, Port to ensure that entry into system is done and updated immediately after boarding. He also directed DC, Port to take up live cases and submit a report regarding the issue.
Point - 3.	For vessels going to berth at 3,4,5 NSD, generation of the scanning list is getting delayed & sometimes it is shared one day after the vessel arrival. It is also hampering the container delivery of that vessel as without getting scanning list not a single container can be delivered. Increase of idle times making Kolkata Port unattractive compared to neighbor ports.
Comments of Department	On arrival of vessel in working berth, Inward Entry is granted in ICES immediately at NSD-III. After granting Inward Entry, CMAO list is generated and thereafter the mail regarding scanning list forwarded by NCTC, Mumbai to all the stake holders against that Vessel's IGM Number.
Discussion in the meeting	Shri Piyush Katiyar, Joint Commissioner, Port informed that a Standing Order No. 07/2021 dated 30.03.2021 issued by JNCH is available which has guidelines regarding the time span. (Para 6 of Page 12)

I/1035109/2023

Direction of the Chair	The Chair directed to examine the Standing Order issued by JNCH (SO No. 07/2021 dated 30.03.2021) and issue it on similar lines.
Point - 4.	Customs need to publish the scanning list in their website or may intimate the respective stakeholder via electronic platform so that concerned stakeholders can see it and can take appropriate action.
Comments of Department	Entire process is handled by NCTC, Mumbai. Hence, necessary inputs in this matter, will be forwarded to them.
Discussion in the meeting	It is informed by the Commissioner of Customs (Port) that on arrival of vessel in working berth Inward Entry is granted in ICES immediately as NSD-III. After granting Inward Entry, CMAO list is generated and thereafter the mail regarding scanning list is forwarded by NCTC, Mumbai to all the stakeholders against that Vessel's IGM Number.
Direction of the Chair	The Chair mentioned that the objective was well taken. It has been informed that NCTC are mailing the details to the stakeholders.
Point – 5	At present, STS operation is allowed only for cargo destined to Bangladesh & Srilanka and vessels cannot call any Indian port. Now Port is getting proposals to lighter mother vessel by small feeder vessels for sending cargo, i.e. LPG, to Bangladesh & Srilanka after that the mother vessel may be allowed to call SMPK for discharging the remaining cargo for Indian consumers.
	In this regard, it is to mention that: 1. Presently, the Ship-To-Ship (STS) lightering operations for LPG (Refrigerated Propane and Refrigerated Butane) at SMPK Anchorages for transshipment of the same to Bangladesh & Myanmar only through small daughters' vessels are being carried out according to the Trade Facility Notice No. 01/2021 dated 03.02.2021 and Public Notice No. 23/2022 dated 30.05.2022 issued by this office. The Trade Facility Notice No. 01/2021 dated 03.02.2021 was issued by the department, on request of SMPK, in coherence with the facility notices 02/2018 dated 01.05.2018 and 01/2019 dated 19.03.2019 both issued by CC (P), Bhubaneswar. 2. It was noticed that during all the STS operations till date, the Shipping agent/line has not fulfilled all the conditions stipulated in the Trade Facility Notice no. 01/2021 dated 03.02.2021, read with Public Notice 23/2022 dated 30.05.2022. They have repeatedly requested for certain relaxations in the conditions stipulated in Trade Facility Notice & PN. Few such relaxation sought for, even traverses Section 116 of the Customs Act, 1962. 3. The issue of STS for Indian Port as well as Foreign Ports, being carried out in Eastern Coast of India, under Kolkata Customs Commissionerate and Bhubaneswar Commissionerate involves multiple jurisdictions and local orders issued by respective

I/1035109/2023

Comments of Department	Commissionerate from time to time. Initially, the permission was accorded for limited period on the request of SMPK to facilitate the trade. 4. Due to growing demands of trade for various combinations of STS (lighterage of LPG gases for India imports, STS of other commodities including dry bulk cargo, STS transshipment to foreign countries, Conversion and reversion of stationary tanker vessel/ floater, lighterage for India and STS for foreign country for cargo brought in one mother vessel etc.), a uniform set of guidelines across all dealing ports are needed to facilitate the trade. 5. Further, till now Trade Facility Notice and Public Notice were issued on request of SMPK only. Kind attention is drawn to the Section 143AA of the Customs Act, 1962, wherein it is specifically mentioned that Power to simplify or provide different procedure, etc., to facilitate trade is entrusted with the Board. In light of the above facts, the matter was placed before the Commissioner of Customs (Port), Custom House, Kolkata with request to forward the matter to CBIC for issuance of consolidated guidelines/ instructions in this regard. Thereafter, the Commissioner of Customs (Port), Custom House, Kolkata vide Note-133 dated 20.02.2023 of e-office file no. GEN/COMP/Misc/78/2021-ADMN-O/O PR COMMRCUS-PORT-KOLKATA, has directed to prepare a comprehensive reference to Board, including the position so far, new requests, and our suggestions on various issues.
Discussion in the meeting	The Commissioner of Customs (Port) mentioned that the STS operation is in a pilot project mode and can be expanded only after stabilization. There are issues related to the sensitivity of cargo.
Direction of the Chair	The chair directed the Commissioner, Port to examine the issue and submit the report for onward submission to the Board with a request to issue an SOP for uniform implementation in all ports and till that the expansion of present regime may not be possible.
Issue – II	Sponsored by Assistant Director, GJEPC, Kolkata
Point - 1	Hand- Carriage of Gems & Jewellery to be allowed from Kolkata ACC : At Kolkata airport facility of hand carriage of Gems & Jewellery was originally available but since last few years this has been withdrawn. In the absence of such facility, it is a great impediment for export promotion tour and mainly while attending overseas exhibition. Our member exporters have to detour their consignment through Delhi Airport which is great physical inconvenience , additional two days of time consumption and also financially very expensive. Under this circumstances, many a time our member exporters forgo the business. We, therefore, earnestly request to permit the hand carriage facility from ACC Kolkata. The SOP as adopted by the Delhi Customs has already been provided

I/1035109/2023

	to both ACC Kolkata and G.M. Cargo, ACC Kolkata.
Comments of Department	The instant matter has been discussed in the last few TFC Meetings chaired by the Commissioner of Customs (AP&ACC) and he is very much cognizant of the issue and the impediments faced by trade due to the non-implementation of the personal carriage facility of gems and jewellery bound for export. The facility was suspended due to some nefarious activities intercepted by customs which has brought into fore certain lacuna on the security measures that are already in place and the same needs to be reexamined meticulously before re-implementation of the hand carriage facility from Kolkata Airports. However, this Commissionerate is aware of the apprehensions raised by GJEPC and related stakeholders due to the non-extension of hand carriage facility from Kolkata Airport, and it is assured that the instant matter is being pursued on priority basis under the supervision of the Joint Commissioner of Customs, AP&ACC, Kolkata.
Discussion in the meeting	The Chair mentioned that hand carriage of gems and jewellery is being only allowed in Delhi Airport. Shri Bheem Ratna Rawat, Joint Commissioner, CCO mentioned that the matter is under consideration and loopholes are being identified.
Direction of the Chair	The Chair instructed the Commissioner (Airport &ACC) to examine the issue w.r.t the P.N./SOP issued by the Delhi Customs Zone and submit a report within a week.

The Chief Commissioner of Customs then asked all the participants/stakeholders to discuss any other issues that they might want to.

Other issues discussed during the meeting:-

Other Issue I	Shri P Srivastava raised a point regarding inclusion of SMPK in the list of Ports exempted by DGFT with regard to production of PSIC for import of metallic scrap as container scanner is now operational at Kolkata Port.
Direction of the Chair	The Chair mentioned that correspondence regarding the same has been made with DGFT. He directed Shri Dharmendra Pratap Singh, JC, CCO to inquire into the present status of the case and take up the matter with the Board.
Other Issue II	A common issue was raised by the stakeholders regarding setting up of a Turant Seva Kendra at Haldia for bond submission, bond defacement, country of origin and physical verification of documents for which they have to come to TSK, Custom House , Kolkata.
Discussion in the meeting	The Commission of Customs (Port) suggested that instead of commissioning of a separate TSK at Haldia, it will be examined if officers posted at Haldia, can be allocated the mentioned duties for facilitating trade and issue order to that effect.

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

This issues with the approval of Chief Commissioner of Customs, Kolkata Customs Zone.

I/1035109/2023

Date: 27-02-2023

(Dharmendra Pratap Singh)
JOINT COMMISSIONER
Chief Commissioner's Office
Custom House, Kolkata - 700 001

Copy to:

1. The Principal Commissioner of Customs (AP & ACC);
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

Signed by Dharmendra
Pratap Singh
Date: 27-02-2023 11:17:07
Reason: Approved