



**मुख्य-आयुक्त का कार्यालय (सीमा शुल्क), गुजरात क्षेत्र**  
**OFFICE OF THE CHIEF COMMISSIONER OF**  
**CUSTOMS, GUJARAT ZONE**  
**CONVENOR, NAC 4/4A METAL PRODUCTS**

“कस्टम हाउस”, द्वितीय तल, अखिल भारतीय रेडियो के पास,  
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**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF NAC 4 & 4A (METAL PRODUCTS) - PERIODIC CONSULTATION WITH SECTORAL ASSOCIATIONS CONVENED BY THE CONVENOR OF GROUP 4 & 4A (METAL PRODUCTS)/ CHIEF COMMISSIONER OF CUSTOMS, AHMEDABAD ZONE, HELD ON 10.08.2026 AT 16:30 HOURS.**

A meeting with Sectoral Associations was held virtually on 10.08.2026 at 16:30 hours under the chairmanship of Shri Pranesh Pathak, Convenor of NAC 4 & 4A (Metal Products) and Chief Commissioner of Customs, Ahmedabad Zone, to deliberate upon the issues raised by SAMA as per the agenda points.

2. Following officers and trade representatives attended the virtual meeting. List has been prepared based on the available records, and any inadvertent omission is unintentional. The Department acknowledges the presence and appreciates the participation of all members/attendees.

| Sr. No. | Name (Shri/Ms.)   | Designation/Organisation                                             |
|---------|-------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1       | Nasim Arshi       | Pr. Commissioner, Kolkata Customs                                    |
| 2       | Pradyumn Tripathi | Commissioner, (Import-I)NCH Mumbai                                   |
| 3       | Nitin Saini       | Commissioner, Mundra Customs                                         |
| 4       | N. Naresh         | Commissioner, Chennai Customs                                        |
| 5       | Adesh Kumar Jain  | Additional Commissioner, CCO Customs Ahmedabad Zone                  |
| 6       | Shravan Ram       | Additional Commissioner, Customs Ahmedabad                           |
| 7       | Parry Vallal      | Additional Commissioner, Bhubaneswar Customs                         |
| 8       | Dipak Zala        | Additional Commissioner, Mundra Commissioner                         |
| 9       | Arshdeep Singh    | Joint Commissioner, NS-III, Mumbai-II                                |
| 10      | Ashwini Kapoor    | Deputy Commissioner, Ludhiyana Customs                               |
| 11      | Rajendra Singh    | Assistant Commissioner, ICD Sonipat                                  |
| 12      | Deepak Rai        | Assistant Commissioner, Noida                                        |
| 13      | S K Misra         | Assistant Commissioner, ICD Tarapur                                  |
| 14      | Sudip Dey         | Honorary Secretary, FFFAI                                            |
| 15      | Vaibhav Mutha     | Representative, Solar and Ancillary Manufacturers Association (SAMA) |
| 16      | Aajish Shah       | Representative, Solar and Ancillary Manufacturers Association (SAMA) |
| 17      | Karan             | Representative, FFFAI                                                |

|    |                |                      |
|----|----------------|----------------------|
|    | Rambhai        |                      |
| 18 | Vivek Singh    | Representative, SFAI |
| 19 | V. Minesh Raja | CEO, ACT Tradelink   |

3. At the outset, the Chair welcomed all the participants, departmental officers and stakeholders and thanked them for their participation in the meeting. The Chair informed that there were two main agenda points for consideration in the meeting, both of which had been raised by the **Solar Ancillary Manufacturers Association (SAMA)**. The first agenda point, relating to the applicability and enforcement of the **Aluminium and Aluminium Alloy Products (Quality Control) Order (QCO)** in respect of solar aluminium frames, was taken up first.

4. The Chair informed that SAMA, vide representation dated **13.06.2026**, had raised the issue of continued import of non-BIS-certified Solar Aluminium Frames falling under Chapter 76, despite applicability of the Aluminium and Aluminium Alloy Products (Quality Control) Order in respect of **IS 733/IS 1285**. SAMA had stated that substantial imports of non-BIS-certified solar aluminium frames continued during the period **01.10.2025 to 11.03.2026**, when the QCO was stated to be operational, and had requested that an effective mechanism be put in place for enforcement upon re-applicability of the QCO. The Chair informed that the matter had been looked into and that the initial observation was that the matter may appropriately be referred to **BIS for clarification regarding the applicability of the QCO and the relevant BIS standards to solar aluminium frames**. The Chair thereafter invited the views of the FAGs on the issue.

5. Sh. Nitin Saini, Commissioner, Mundra Customs, informed that the Association had raised the concern with him and had also made a representation in person during **March 2026**. He stated that SAMA had submitted that the hollow sections used for erection of solar panels are covered under the BIS requirements under the relevant QCO. However, he also informed that there was a contrary view from another association regarding the applicability of the BIS requirement to such goods. He further informed that **Mundra Customs had already approached BIS for necessary clarification and guidance on the matter**. He also stated that the application/enforcement of the BIS requirement in respect of the subject goods had subsequently been deferred and, at present, the requirement was not operational, with the compliance requirement understood to become applicable from **01.12.2026**. He informed that Mundra Customs would continue to follow up with BIS and obtain an authoritative opinion on the issue.

6. The SAMA representative, Sh. Aajish Shah, informed that he had met the Commissioner of Mundra Customs and had raised the issue before him. He acknowledged that Mundra Customs had already written to BIS for clarification and also stated that SAMA understood that the BIS requirement was presently not effective. However, he submitted that during the intervening period when the QCO was applicable, i.e. **from October 2025 to March 2026**, several consignments where, according to SAMA, BIS compliance was required had been cleared without such compliance. He further submitted that, upon enforcement of the BIS requirement from **01.12.2026**, the relevant standards, including **IS 733 and IS 1285**, would become applicable to aluminium extrusion products and that solar aluminium frames, being subsequent products made from aluminium extrusions, should accordingly attract the BIS requirement. The SAMA representative further extended the Association's cooperation and assistance in providing any technical

or other inputs that may be required for resolution of the issue.

7. The Chair thereafter invited any other FAG/field formation to share its views on the issue. As no further views were received, the Chair concluded that the matter would attain finality after obtaining and examining the clarification from **BIS** regarding the applicability of the relevant standards/QCO to solar aluminium frames. The Chair also requested SAMA to provide any further technical or documentary inputs which may be helpful in examination of the matter. One of the stakeholders suggested that a concerned official from **BIS may also be invited to participate in the next NAC meeting** to provide the organisation's views and clarification on the issue. The suggestion was positively considered by the Chair, who agreed that the concerned BIS official may be invited in the next meeting.

8. Thereafter, the second agenda point relating to **Tinned Copper Interconnect / PV Ribbon** was taken up for discussion. The Chair informed that SAMA, vide representation dated **26.07.2026**, had alleged that Tinned Copper Interconnect/PV Ribbon imported from China was being declared under **CTH 7409 31 00**, covering copper-tin base alloys (bronze), with a view to availing the **3% APTA concessional BCD**, instead of the tariff treatment applicable to the actual product. SAMA had furnished Bill-of-Entry-level data, technical literature and exporter-wise analysis in support of its representation. SAMA had also pointed out instances where apparently identical item codes, quantities and values had been declared under different tariff headings. The Chair noted that the data and allegations furnished by SAMA required independent verification from **ICEGATE/ICES**, along with appropriate technical examination of the goods. The Chair invited views from the participants on the issue.

9. Sh. Nitin Saini, Commissioner, Mundra Customs, informed that the issue raised by SAMA had been examined by them and that the concern appeared to be **prima facie valid**. He explained that there was a distinction between a **copper-tin alloy, i.e. bronze**, and **copper strips/wire having tin/solder merely applied as a surface coating**, as the two products are distinct and the relevant Chapter Notes of Chapter 74 also provide a distinction between them. He further informed that, on detailed examination of certain past consignments, the available data sheets appeared to indicate that the goods had a relatively higher copper content and, therefore, did not appear to constitute an alloy of tin base, i.e. bronze, in terms of the relevant Chapter Notes. He stated that the matter merits detailed examination and that Mundra Customs was in agreement with the concern raised by SAMA.

The Commissioner, Mundra Customs, however, clarified that **Mundra is not the assigned FAG-4A formation dealing with the concerned goods**. Nevertheless, he informed that he would look into the matter, including the Bills of Entry in respect of which Out of Charge had already been granted. He suggested that **a committee comprising the concerned FAGs/field formations may be constituted** to examine the issue in detail and recommend the further course of action.

10. The Chair thereafter invited any other views on the matter. As no further views were received, the Chair observed that, based on the discussion and the prima facie findings shared by the Commissioner, Mundra Customs, there appeared to be **prima facie substance in the concern raised by SAMA** regarding

possible declaration of refined copper with tin/solder coating under CTH 7409.31.00. The Chair welcomed the suggestion made by the Commissioner, Mundra Customs and agreed to constitute a **committee of the concerned FAGs within 1-2 days** for detailed examination of the issue. The Chair directed that the committee should examine the matter in a **time-bound manner and submit its report within 15 days**, including its findings regarding the classification issue, relevant technical characteristics of the goods, past clearances and any revenue implications, wherever applicable.

11. The Chair stated that **further action would be initiated on the basis of the findings and recommendations of the committee**. The possibility of taking up the matter with NCTC for suitable risk parameters/RMS intervention would also be considered based on the outcome of the examination.

12. Thereafter, owing to technical glitches and connectivity issues, the Chair reiterated the decision to constitute a committee for examination of the issue relating to **Tinned Copper Interconnect/PV Ribbon** and to obtain its report within the stipulated time.

13. There being no further points for discussion, the Chair thanked all the participants, departmental officers and stakeholders for their valuable participation and contributions. With these remarks, the meeting was formally concluded.

14. These minutes are issued with the approval of the Convenor of NAC 4&4A (Metal Products).

Yours faithfully,

(Jos Francis Vithayathil)  
Assistant Commissioner

**Copy to:**

1. The Under Secretary, Customs IV, CBIC, New Delhi.
2. All Nodal Pr. Commissioner/Commissioner of NAC - 4 & 4A Metal Products;
3. The Joint Director, DGTS, Ahmedabad;
4. The Joint Director, NCTC, Mumbai.
5. All the Member Sectoral Association/Trade representative