



**OFFICE OF THE CHIEF COMMISSIONER OF CUSTOMS**  
**AHMEDABAD CUSTOMS ZONE**  
**CONVENOR, NAC 4/4A METAL PRODUCTS**  
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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 25.05.2026 AT 15:30 HOURS.**

A Meeting with Sectoral Associations was held virtually on 25.05.2026 at 15:30 hours under the chairmanship of Shri Pranesh Pathak, Convenor of NAC 4 & 4A (Metal Products) and Chief Commissioner of Customs, Ahmedabad Zone, to deliberate on key challenges in customs processes, particularly those arising from faceless assessment, classification complexities, and valuation-related disputes.

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       | Nitin Saini          | Commissioner, Mundra Customs,                       |
| 2       | Manish Kulhary       | Commissioner, Ahmedabad Customs                     |
| 3       | Varinder Kaur        | Commissioner, Ludhiana Customs                      |
| 4       | N. Naresh            | Commissioner, Chennai Customs                       |
| 5       | S Sathianarayanan    | Additional Commissioner, CCO Customs Ahmedabad Zone |
| 6       | N. Madhusudhna Reddy | Additional Commissioner, Chennai Customs            |
| 7       | Vikram Phadke        | Additional Commissioner, NCH, Mumbai Customs        |
| 8       | Parry Vallal         | Additional Commissioner, Bhubaneswar Customs        |
| 9       | Pallav Saxena        | Joint Commissioner, Noida Customs                   |
| 10      | Santha Meena M       | Deputy Commissioner, Chennai Customs                |
| 11      | Munish Kumar         | Deputy Commissioner, Ahmedabad Customs              |
| 12      | Sudip Kumar Dey      | Honorary Secretary, FFFAI                           |
| 13      | Bharat Malik         | Representative, MCBA, FFFAI                         |

3. At the outset, the Convenor extended a warm welcome to all representatives and other stakeholders attending the meeting. The Convenor noted that two agenda points had been submitted by the Federation of Freight Forwarders' Associations in India (FFFAI). These points were taken up sequentially for discussion during the meeting.

**4.1 Agenda Point No. 1: Federation of Freight Forwarders Association in India (FFFAI) highlighted that in respect of BE No. 8886274 Dt 25.04.2026 the value has been enhanced without giving any query or a chance to be heard.**

(i) The Convenor advised that if the Speaking order under Section 17 of Customs Act 1962 has not been issued the same may be issued at the earliest after giving an opportunity of being heard to the importer, thereafter the convener asked the concerned Nodal Commissioner to apprise this matter.

(ii) Shri N. Madhusudhana Reddy, Additional Commissioner, Chennai, informed that the importer is a regular importer and that the value has been increased with the importer's concurrence. Nevertheless, they are in the process of issuing a speaking order, which will be issued after granting a personal hearing to the importer.

He further informed that assessments are being regularly monitored, and instructions have been given to officers to pass orders only after obtaining the importer's concurrence in cases of value addition. In the event of any difference of opinion, orders should be passed promptly after providing the importer with a personal hearing.

(iii) The convener remarked that the issue raised by the association has been addressed, adding that the speaking order be issued at the earliest.

**4.2 Agenda Point No. 2: FFFAI has requested for acceptance of Office Memorandum F. No. 24/2/2019-METAL dated 06.02.2026 issued by Ministry of Mines to DGFT for accepting NFMIMS registration before Out of charge.**

(i) The Convener remarked that, since the matter currently lies with the DGFT, we should wait for some time. If necessary, a letter may be written to the Board requesting them to take up the matter with the DGFT. Thereafter, the Convener opened the floor for attendees to share their views on the matter.

(ii) Shri Sudip Kumar Dey, Hon. Secretary, FFFAI, stated that these provisions are from the line ministries to the DGFT, so DGFT may be taking some time. It would be helpful if the officers could adopt a little less harsh approach during the adjudication process. After all, this is essentially a data collection system that can be updated at any point before the Out of Charge. He further added that these requirements can be treated as similar to normal PGAs, where No Objection Certificates are needed just before OOC. Mandating registration prior to the import consignment and penalizing failures with severe fines, calculated as a

percentage of the consignment's value appears disproportionate and inconsistent.

(iii) Shri Nitin Saini, Commissioner, Mundra, clarified that the assertion regarding officers imposing redemption fines based on the value of consignments is entirely incorrect. He emphasized that the redemption fine is merely a token amount, imposed uniformly regardless of the consignment's value. He further stated that if the association has any such orders, they may submit them for examination. He further added that the department must adhere strictly to the literal wording of the notification and cannot dilute its provisions.

(iv) The Convener observed that as the Commissioner, Customs Mundra had clarified, the redemption fine imposed during adjudication is merely a token amount and not unduly harsh. However, he advised the Nodal Commissioners to be considerate and take due cognizance of all relevant facts while deciding in the matter as per law.

5. As there were no further points for discussion, the Convenor thanked all the participants for their valuable contributions and active participation. With these remarks, the meeting was formally concluded.

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

Yours faithfully,

S.Sathianarayanan  
ADDITIONAL COMMISSIONER  
Date: 08-06-2026

**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