



वित्तमंत्रालय / Ministry of Finance

राजस्वविभाग / Department of Revenue

सीमाशुल्कआयुक्तकार्यालय / Office of the Commissioner of Customs

कस्टमहाउसनयीहारबरएस्टेट / Custom House, New Harbour Estate

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Date: 22-08-2024

**MINUTES OF CUSTOMS CLEARANCE FACILITATION COMMITTEE
(CCFC) MEETING/CCFC MEETING HELD ON 07.08.2024
AT 16:30 HRS. AT CUSTOM HOUSE, TUTICORIN**

The CCFC (Customs Clearance Facilitation Committee) Meeting for the month of August-2024 was held on 07.08.2024. at 16:30 hrs. at Customs House Tuticorin under the chairmanship of Shri. K.R. Uday Bhaskar, I.R.S., Chief Commissioner of Customs (Preventive), CCP Zone, Trichy.

2. The following Customs Officials have attended the meeting: -

Sl. No.	Name of the officer	Designation
1	Shri Vikas Nair, I.R.S.	Commissioner
2	Shri P. Ram Mohan, I.R.S.	Additional Commissioner
3	Shri Vijaya Krishna Velan K, I.R.S.	Additional Commissioner
4	Shri Sree Hari Sankar P, I.R.S.	Joint Commissioner
5	Dr. G. Praveen Gavaskar, I.R.S.	Deputy Commissioner
6	Shri S. Anil Kumar, I.R.S.	Assistant Commissioner
7	Shri M. Chidambaram, I.R.S.	Assistant Commissioner
8	Shri Balraj Menon, I.R.S.	Assistant Commissioner
9	Shri G. Munisamy, I.R.S.	Assistant Commissioner
10	Smt. Prema K, I.R.S.	Assistant Commissioner
11	Shri Joseph K C, I.R.S.	Assistant Commissioner
12	Shri T Sarath Chander, I.R.S.	Assistant Commissioner
13	Shri S. Sundararajan, I.R.S.	Assistant Commissioner

14	Shri P. Ramesh	Superintendent
15	Shri K. Vishwanathan	Superintendent
16	Shri Bharat Singh Meena	Superintendent
17	Shri S. Thinakaran	Superintendent
18	Smt. J. Racheal Christina	Superintendent
19	Shri Naresh Kumar	Inspector
17	Shri Anand Kumar Singh	Inspector

3. The following stakeholders or representative of trade had participated in the meeting: -

Sl. No.	Name of Nominated Members	Name of the Organisation
1	Shri J Celestine Villavarayar	TCFSA
2	Shri S. Raj Kumar	TCFSA
3	Mrs. Angeline Koilraj	TCFSA
4	Shri A Rajesh	TCFSA
5	Shri Cecil Machado	TCBA
6	Shri A.S. Ramasamy	TCBA
7	Shri R. Sreedhar	TCBA
8	Shri Sasi Kumar S	TCBA
9	Shri S. Sagayaraj	TSAA
10	Shri V. Varun Kumar	TICT (JM Baxi)
11	Shri Vijaya Selvan	TICT (JM Baxi)
12	Shri E.K. Peter	TICT (JM Baxi)
13	Shri E. M. Arun	DBGTT
14	Shri Nivedha Nagarajan	CWC
15	Shri S. Muthuramalingam	CWC
16	Shri Sivapakash M	CWC
17	Shri N Somasundaram	TP Solar
18	Shri V. Srinivasan	TP Solar
19	Shri J. David Raja	St. John ICD

20	Dr. Hari Sankar S. S	FSSAI
21	Shri P Vijay Anand	TSAA
22	Shri P. Jeyanth Thomas	TSAA
23	Shri R. Prabhakar	VOC Port
24	Shri D. R. Yogesh	VOC Port
25	Shri Vasanthakumar S	PQS

At the outset, the Chairman welcomed the Officers, members from other agencies and trade representatives. During the meeting, the following issues raised by the members were taken up for discussion.

Points raised by Tuticorin Custom Brokers' Association:

Point 1: Conduct of G Card Examination:

In August 2023, the G Card exam was conducted at the Custom House, Tuticorin. Out of the 114 candidates who appeared, only 2 G Card holders passed the exam. Given the need to enhance the knowledge and skills of H Card holders, especially with the significant increase in the volume of business at Tuticorin Port compared to previous years, a request was made to the Chief Commissioner to conduct the G Card exam at the earliest opportunity. Currently, around 50 to 60 candidates are willing to take the examination.

Reply: The Chief Commissioner assured that a request will be made to NACIN to conduct the examination at the earliest, possibly by the end of this year.

(Action: CBLR Section)

Point 2: Direct Port Entry (DPE) facility:

The 3rd container terminal (TICT) at VOC Port is expected to commence operations on 1st October 2024. The dredging of the basin and channel to a depth of 14.5 meters is also expected to be completed by September 2024. This will allow mainline vessels with a draught of up to 14.2 meters and a capacity of 9,000 TEUs to call at Tuticorin Port, leading to a significant increase in cargo movement.

Currently, at VOC Port, 45% of the export containerized cargo is factory stuffed (self-sealed), and the implementation of the DPE facility is underway at Tuticorin Customs. The Chairperson was requested to ensure that this DPE facility

is commenced in a timely manner, preferably before October 2024, to efficiently handle the anticipated surge in export volumes at VOC Port.

Reply: All-out efforts will be made to implement the DPE facility at the earliest.

(Action: Policy Section)

Points raised by Tuticorin Ship Agents' Association:

Shri P. Jeyanth Thomas, Secretary of Tuticorin Ship Agents' Association expressed the gratitude to the Commissioner of Customs for issuing Public Notice No. 13/2024 dated 03.07.2024, which facilitates the filing of Bills of Coastal Goods on a 24/7 basis at the Wharf instead of at the Custom House, Tuticorin.

Apart from the above, highlighted the ongoing developments at VOC Port, such as -

- i. commencement of the 3rd container terminal at the 9th Berth,
- ii. bulk cargo operations at NCB II & III berths,
- iii. the exclusive use of Coal Jetty II for other bulk cargo discharges,
- iv. the addition of more crawler cranes, mobile cranes, barge cranes, and 3 barges to support anchorage operations, and
- v. the dredging of the basin and channel up to 14.5 meters within the next two months, the number of vessels calling at VOC Port, Tuticorin, is expected to increase significantly.

In this context, increase in the number of officers at the wharf to facilitate the timely commencement and completion of boarding formalities by Customs on board the vessels were requested by the association. It was also requested that the entry inward may be granted immediately upon completion of boarding formalities to facilitate the commencement of discharge of bulk cargo at the earliest, similar to that of containerized cargo, the movement allowed after all Customs formalities are completed.

Reply: Instructions have been given to the administration of Custom House, Tuticorin, to allocate additional staff at the Wharf in the future to accommodate the anticipated increase in vessel traffic and to ensure the smooth and timely handling of boarding formalities and other Customs procedures.

(Action: Estt/Vigilance Section)

Points raised by TICT (J.M.Baxi), 9th Terminal:

Shri P. Jeyanth Thomas, Terminal Head of TICT informed that they are planning to commence operations at the 3rd Container Terminal by September 2024 and have proposed implementing a Semi-Automated Gate Process for import deliveries. This initiative aims to simplify the clearance process by Customs officers. Cooperation from the department has been sought to ensure the smooth implementation and success of this new system.

Reply: As and when required, the necessary cooperation will be provided by the department to facilitate ease of doing business and ensure the swift implementation of the new processes.

(Action: Policy Section)

Points raised by the Traffic Manager, V.O.C. Port:

Shri R. Prabhakar, Traffic Manager expressed TPT's gratitude to the Commissioner of Customs for issuing Public Notice No. 13/2024 dated 03.07.2024, which facilitates the filing of Bills of Coastal Goods on a 24/7 basis at the Wharf instead of at the Custom House, Tuticorin.

They informed that the timeline for the DPE facility will be submitted to Customs shortly and requested to issue the public circular/in-principal approval for the DPE Facility.

Also, the Traffic Manager informed that Ship-to-Ship transshipment in Anchorage is a new business avenue for the Port and explained the advantages of the Port to carry out ship to ship transshipment in Anchorage of VOC Port. In earlier, Ship to Ship lighterage operation in anchorage was carried out in VOC Port. Hence, requested to issue a ship-to-ship transshipment facility circular at the earliest for the benefit of the Port and nation.

Reply: Regarding the DPE facility, a response has already been provided. Concerning the Ship-to-Ship cargo transfer facility at the outer anchorage, the department will assess the feasibility and take suitable action accordingly.

(Action: Policy Section)

(VIJAYA KRISHNA VELAN K)
(ADDITIONAL COMMISSIONER)

To,

The Members of the Customs Clearance Facilitation Committee.

- a. Tuticorin Customs Brokers' Association
No. 50, Beach Road, Opp. State Bank of India, Tuticorin- 628001
- b. Tuticorin CFS Association
No. 108A, V.E. Road, Opp. DSF Grand Plaza, Tuticorin- 628002.
- c. Tuticorin Ship Agents' Association,
50, Beach Road, Tuticorin-628001
- d. The Traffic Manager, VOC Port trust, Tuticorin
- e. D.B.G.T. Terminal Limited, Tuticorin.
- f. Tuticorin International Container Terminal, Tuticorin
- g. FSSAI, First Floor, CHD Building, V.O.C. Port,
New Harbour Estate, Tuticorin – 628 4
- h. PQS, No. 4/90, CGE Colony, 4th Street, Tuticorin – 628 003

Copy Submitted to:

1. The Chief Commissioner of Customs (Preventive), Trichy.
2. Directorate General of Taxpayer Service, Customs & Central Excise, C.R. Building, I.P. Estate, New Delhi-110109.
3. Additional Directorate General of Taxpayer Service (Chennai Zone), 26/1 Mahatma Gandhi Road, Nungambakkam, Chennai-600034.

Copy to:

1. All the Deputy/ Assistant Commissioner of Customs, Custom House, Tuticorin.
2. The EDI Section- for uploading in the official website.