



वित्तमंत्रालय/ Ministry of Finance
राजस्वविभाग / Department of Revenue
सीमाशुल्क आयुक्तकार्यालय / Office of the Commissioner of Customs
कस्टमहाउसनयीहारबरएस्टेट / Custom House, New Harbour Estate
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C. No. VIII/48/58/2016-Cus.Pol

Date: 04.07.2023

**MINUTES OF PERMANENT TRADE FACILITATION COMMITTEE (PTFC)
MEETING/CCFC MEETING HELD ON 28.06.2023 AT 15:00 HRS.
AT CUSTOM HOUSE, TUTICORIN**

The PTFC [Permanent Trade Facilitation Committee] Meeting / CCFC (Customs Clearance Facilitation Committee) Meeting was held on 28.06.2023 at 15.00 Hrs. at Custom House Tuticorin under the chairmanship of Shri. K. V. V. G Diwakar, Commissioner of Customs, Tuticorin.

2. The following officers/members from the other agencies/ CFSs attended the meeting:

Sl. No.	Name of the officer	Designation
1.	Shri. P. Thanasekaran	Additional Commissioner
2.	Shri. P. Sree Harisankar	Joint Commissioner
3.	Shri. T. Siddharthan	Deputy Commissioner
4.	Shri. D. Dinesh	Deputy Commissioner
5.	Dr. S. Anil Kumar	Assistant Commissioner
6.	Shri. M. Kannan	Assistant Commissioner
7.	Shri. G. Munisamy	Assistant Commissioner
8.	Shri. M. Chidambaram	Assistant Commissioner
9.	Shri. Menon Balraj	Assistant Commissioner
Sl. No.	Name of Nominated Members	Name of the Organisation
1.	Shri. A. S. Ramasamy	Secretary TCBA
2.	Shri. Sasi Kumar S	E.C. Member, TCBA
3.	Shri. J. Pinto Villanarayan	Jt. Secretary TCBA
4.	Shri. K. Vijay Kumar	M/s Ambertex Universal Export
5.	Shri. V. Minesh Raja	M/s Act Link Logistics (P) Ltd
6.	Shri. R. Karthikeyan	Bengal Tiger Line
7.	Shri. S. Sagayaraj	SEACON TSAA/ AB. Sec
8.	Shri. S. M. Moorthi	SSS SHIP TSAA/ EC

9.	Shri. S. Rajkumar	Secretary TCFSA
10.	Shri. J. Celestine Villavarayar	President TCFSA
11.	Shri. P. Sohney	MAERSK
12.	Shri. Vijay	MAERSK
13.	Shri. Deebu Thomas	PSA SICAL
14.	Shri. Palanikumar J	PSA SICAL
15.	Shri. E. M. Arun	DBGT
16.	Shri. Lakshamanar	Sri Jayakrishna Logistics
17.	Shri. A Shunmuga	Shaanu Logistics
18.	Shri P Karuppasamy	Field Staff
19.	Shri. B. Sarath Sriram	Sea princess Logistics
20.	Shri. Yogesh D.R.	VOC POA
21.	Shri. Rajamoney. S	AV Overseas Cargo Pvt. Ltd
22.	Shri. Vijay Raghavan	Indian Shipping Services

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 and solution.

POINTS RAISED FOR CONSIDERATION

1) Auto Linking of PGA:-

We are facing issues on auto linking of NOC of PGA's (Plant Quarantine, FSSAI & Animal Quarantine) through single window system.

Especially for Plant quarantine clearance, earlier we faced linking issues rarely and now almost all the BEs are not linking with Plant quarantine. Kindly note that, while at the time of BE processing all BEs shows "PQ NOC needed" but at the time of application process with Plant quarantine website it shows as 'Invalid BE Number'. So we have to give the BE number manually to complete the process and in such cases the NOC will not be linked with ICE gate single window system. Also we are facing the same issues with FSSAI & Animal quarantine in certain cases.

Due to these issues, we have to link NOC manually through Assistant Commissioner's menu which results in abnormal delay in clearance of cargo and leads to additional cost such as Shipping Line detention and CFS ground rent charges.

(Tuticorin Customs Brokers Association)

Reply: An E-mail on this matter has been sent earlier to DG System and ICEGATE. However a reminder email has also been sent on 19.06.2023. Again, the issue will be escalated to DG System for resolution.

(DC/EDI Section)

2) Challenge in scanning of export container:-

Certain exports containers are selected for scanning irrespective of whether it is RFID sealed or CFS stuffed.

There are three scanners at Tuticorin Port & out of the three scanners, it is reliably understood that the two older scanners namely the Gamma Ray mobile scanner as well as the fixed scanner are not used currently as it is mostly out of order. Only the Drive through scanner installed by VOC Port during 2021-22 is being used for scanning.

The newly installed Drive through Scanner, as per design while it is conducive for scan containers placed in 40'ft truck, it is unfortunately not conducive for scanning 20ft container in a 20ft Taurus truck as there is no space between the container and the cabin of the vehicle.

Predominantly, 20'ft containers are transported in 20ft trucks due to various factors such as ease of placement at stuffing point, lower tariff etc.

The challenge faced by the trade is that when a 20' container is moved in a 20'ft container & then selected for scanning. As the two older scanners are not used, scanning is possible only using the newly installed drive through scanner. Unfortunately, this scanner is not able to scan 20ft container in 20ft Taurus truck.

Therefore, the exporter / Custom broker who is handling the export has no other option but to demount the 20'ft container from the 20ft truck and to be mounted back onto a 40ft truck prior to arrival at scanning location. This involves few documentary changes as well as results in increase in transaction cost and transaction time. There are actual cases wherein the shipment missing the targeted vessel due to this.

We request to kindly arrange for some modalities so that the export shipment stuffed in 20ft container and moves in 20ft truck without having to be demounted from 20ft truck and get remounted on 40ft truck.

(Tuticorin Customs Brokers Association)

Reply: The issue will be taken up with Directorate of Logistics to make Mobile scanner operational.

(DC/Scanning)

3) Issuance of CB license and letter for Form C endorsement:-

After implementation of CBLMS application for new license / Form C extension, the Custom broker has to submit request through CBLMS portal and approval is also granted through portal.

In this regard there is no provision for generating license copy and also letter has not been issued.

We request to kindly issue a license copy for new license and letter for form C endorsement as it is required for registration with Port authorities and other related agencies.

(Tuticorin Customs Brokers Association)

Reply:- For Form C , there is no 'Generate License' option available in CBLMS portal. Customs Brokers are getting messages in their registered mobile and also getting emails in their registered email.

For new license, 'Generate License' option is available in CBLMS portal and new license is generated and forwarded to custom broker.

(AC/CBLR Section)

4) Request for trade facilitation - Customs clearance on second Saturdays on over time basis :-

As you are aware, commodities such as readymade garments, perishable commodities such as onions and potatoes, refrigerated cargo such as seafood, eggs, and bananas contribute a substantial share of exports out of Tuticorin port.

Also, most of these shipments go to Colombo for transshipment onto mother vessels or for local consumption. The transit time between Tuticorin to Colombo is 10 hours and there is a daily vessel sailing to Colombo including on Saturday, Sunday and Monday

Requesting you to kindly facilitate Customs Clearance of export consignments on Second Saturday as it will tremendously support the Indian Exports during these challenging economic situations prevailing globally.

If the Customs clearance of exports happen on Second Saturday, some of the benefits for the export trade are tabulated below...

i) Commodities such as Onions and potatoes will connect the immediate vessel sailing on Saturday / Sunday and arrive on time at Colombo without the need for waiting till Monday. This improves the marketability of Indian produce and compete with same cargo arriving for other neighbouring countries such as Pakistan & Malaysia.

ii) Commodities such as Readymade garments can connect be loaded on the immediate vessel sailing on Saturday / Sunday and arrive on time at Colombo and connect on the immediate Mother Vessel connection at Colombo on Monday & Tuesday. This will result in reducing the delivery time by 7 days & help the exporter to maintain the consistency in delivery schedule.

iii) Commodities such as seafood, eggs and bananas can be loaded on the immediate vessel instead of waiting for vessel on Monday, Tuesday which will enable not only connection onto immediate Mother vessel but also save two days of electricity, plugging, monitoring charges at Tuticorin.

Considering all these, requesting you to kindly reintroduce Customs clearance of export consignments on Second Saturday on OT basis as a trade facilitation measure. The exporters will definitely benefit out of this facility and will be thankful to Tuticorin Customs Commissionerate for such a useful facilitation measure.

(Tuticorin Customs Brokers Association)

Reply:- As requested, provision for Customs clearance on second Saturdays on the basis of payment of over time charges shall be considered.

[AC/CFS]

5) Functioning of E Office:-

Due to slow functioning of E Office, there is a delay in approval of note order, especially on import clearance. There is no mechanism for tracking the status also.

(Tuticorin Customs Brokers Association)

Reply:- E-office is exclusively meant for the departmental officers to discharge their official work in an effective manner. Provision for tracking of file by the trade cannot be given. In case of any delay, issue may be taken up with JC/ADC concerned.

(AC/CRU Section)

6) Communication of the decision taken on the goods seized or detained:-

The seized/detained goods undergo the process of adjudication or appeal through official or legal forum and orders [including Order-in-Original] are issued after quite a long period of storage in a CFS. However, the CFSs [who provide Customs Area for storage of such seized/detained goods] are unaware of such orders issued by official or legal forum since a copy of such order is not shared by the Customs Authority. It may not be out of place to mention herein that the role of CFS for disposal of cargo in most of the cases is mentioned in the operative portion of such orders. Due to this lack of communication, CFS is not in a position to adhere to the time-scheduled disposal process.

We request the Customs authority to share a copy of the order invariably to CFS irrespective of the status of the issuing authority whether official or legal.

(Tuticorin CFS Association)

Reply:- The Adjudication/appeal orders are communicated to only the concerned Importer/Exporter. After issuance of the order, an intimation will be given to CFS.

(AC/Disposal Section)

7) Functioning of CFS on 2nd Saturday:-

Functioning of CFS on 2nd Saturday. Letter No. TCFSA/2023/06/23 dated 07.06.2023. Customs permission required

(Tuticorin CFS Association)

As requested, provision for Customs clearance on second Saturdays on the basis of payment of over time charges shall be considered.

[AC/CFS]

8) Maersk Line Issue:-

Maersk Line Issue: Letter No. TCFSA/2023/06/26 dt. 07.06.2023 regarding Import movement to CFS/ICD as per Customer/ CHA's Choice.

(Tuticorin CFS Association)

Reply :- Directed M/s. Maersk Line to strictly follow Public Notice No.02/2012 dated 02.02.2012 and reply to letters issued from the department in this regard may be given at the earliest failing which further actions would be initiated.

(AC/CFS)

9) Clearance of Long pending un-cleared / seized containers lying in CFS:

Clearance of Long pending un-cleared / seized containers lying in CFS due to various issues. Letter No. TCFSA/2023/06/24 dated 06.06.2023 submitted by the Association

along with the detailed list submitted to The Commissioner of Customs, Custom House, Tuticorin.

Seek suitable action for speedy clearances of these containers.

(Tuticorin CFS Association)

Reply :- The details submitted by the CFS Association are being reconciled with the data available with this office and suitable action will be taken in all the cases.

(AC/Disposal Section)

10) Unclaimed/Uncleared cargo:

- Permission to undertake volume estimation survey – to quantify the coal on a/c of Mv. Vishva Ekta (14-15/0867) lying uncleared in the Port approx. 3398.918 MT. (Recent Port Lr.dt.19.05.2023)
- NoC w.r.t Lot No.43/2018 (27 wind turbine blades) in line with CBIC C. No. 50/2005 dt.01.12.2005, 49/2018 dt.03.12.2018 and Customs Dept Lr.dt.16.06.2020 for early disposal. (Recent Port Lr.dt.19.04.2023)

(VOC POA)

Reply :-

- The Survey method to quantify the coal will be examined and informed as per disposal manual
- The goods comes under the category VII of disposal manual. It will be examined and informed as per disposal manual.

(AC/Disposal Section)

11) Status of Ship Lighterage/Transshipment Operation at Anchorage of VOCPA - Customs Trade facility circular :-

Port, vide letter dated 11.01.2022, 11.02.2022, 27.05.2022, 01.09.2022, 07.10.2022, has requested to issue a trade facility circular to carryout lighterage/Transshipment operation in Anchorage since a few operators shown interest to carry out ship to ship operation at Anchorage and awaiting for facility circular from Customs.

(VOCPOA)

Reply: - Similar practice followed in other Custom Commissionerates has been called for and after receipt of the same, the issue will be considered.

(AC/Policy Section)

12) Status of Notification of VOC Port as a Custodian of DPE facility in Truck Parking Terminal:-

It is to inform that, VOC Port, vide letter dated 29.05.2023 & 07.06.2023, has requested to denotify CWC as the custodian of the Direct Port Entry facility (DPE) at the Truck Parking Terminal of VOC Port and notify the VOC Port Authority as the custodian of the DPE facility at the Truck Parking Terminal (TPT). Further, It is informed that Port, vide letter dated 19.06.2023, has terminated the lease agreement made between VOCPA

and CWC subject to payment of all pending dues. Hence, It is requested to speed up the process of notification of VOC Port as a custodian of DPE facility in TPT.

(VOCPOA)

Reply:- Notification is already issued dated 27.06.2023 and uploaded on the website. M/s. VOC Port Trust may intimate their readiness to start operation so that the officers can be posted.

(AC/Policy Section)

13) ROSCTL subsidy is not available in ICEGATE:-

We are following this for nearly One year to HELPDESK@ICEGATE.GOV.IN but every time they say the problem is resolved and closing the Ticket and again we have to make a new complaint.

ROSCTL Scroll number generated for those shipping bills were also received from ICEGATE helpdesk but still it is not available in ICEGATE ID

Our Shipping bills for the period between 01.01.2021 to 31.12.2021 is not available in icegate, but before and after that period were available.

(Lotus)

Reply:- No pendency with the department. The unavailability in ICEGATE ID of ROSCTL has to be rectified by the ICE-GATE helpdesk only. This office also will take up the issue to ICE-GATE.

(AC/Drawback Section)

14) Returnable Tools Kits & Accessories Permission:

Any service person/ service technician entering the port with his returnable tools kit and accessories in this tool's kit/ bag, agent can give a letter with the tools kit details and get the same approved by the officer at the gate itself.

(Tuticorin Ship Agents' Association)

Reply: The above issue will be examined and suitable remedial action will be taken.

[DC/Docks]

15) Laptop Permission:

In the present day of working, lap-top is a must and many people require this facility along with them. It is understood that permission is not given at the green gate for those persons carrying lap-top. They are made to hang around for getting permission and large amount of time is being spent on this cause. This could be simplified by authorizing the officer at the gate itself to issue passes in such cases.

(Tuticorin Ship Agents' Association)

Reply: The above issue will be examined and suitable remedial action will be taken.

[DC/Docks]

16) Custom Clearance of export shipments on second Saturdays:

For transporting the approx. 2600 TEUs of export laden per month out of Tuticorin, the vessel placement at VOC Port, Tuticorin on weekly basis is as follows:

- A) 7 sailings from Tuticorin to Colombo
- B) 2 sailings from Tuticorin to Mundra
- C) 1 sailing from Tuticorin to Penang-Port Klang, Hong Kong, Qingdao, Shanghai, Ningbo, Shekhou.
- D) 1 sailing from Tuticorin to Jabel Ali
- E) 1 sailing from Tuticorin to Male

On any given week, gate will be OPEN status for at least 4 vessels on every Saturday & Sunday.

However, on second Saturday, the gate in/ landing in of export containers are very marginal. We reliably understand that it is due to arrival of only the factory stuffed Customs Cleared in 24x7/ DPE facility alone.

As export consignments consist of highly transit sensitive garments and other cotton-based items, perishable items like onions and reefer containers, If Customs clearance of factory stuffed as well as CFS stuffed export cargo is facilitated by Tuticorin Customs, it will benefit the exporters to get timely connection as well as bill of lading for negotiation. Moreover, the vessel operators too will get benefitted to get adequate volume and thereby reasonable vessel utilization.

As Government of India is taking various measures to reduce Logistics cost and improve connectivity by offering 24x7 service around the year & it will be helpful to the exporters as well as the vessel operators if Customs clearance can be permitted on 2nd Saturdays.

(Tuticorin Ship Agents' Association)

Reply:- As requested, Customs clearance on second Saturdays will be granted on the basis of payment of over time charges.

(AC/CFS)

17) 100 % Customs inspections of Export Goods:

We formed new organization, M/s Ambertex Universal Export Private Limited, on 18.10.2022 for exporting the RMG to our overseas consignee up to their satisfaction and delivered the goods on time.

Our major cargos are being selected for 100% Customs examination which is causing delay in Let Export/Stuffing formalities etc., and unable to meet the consignee ETA requirements. Previously our shipments were moved earlier in the name of Ambertex Universal Exports and all the business are being diverted into our new firm.

It is humbly requested to help to remove the 100% Examination alert from the system.

(M/s. Ambertex Universal Export Private Limited)

Reply :- The issue will be examined after supply of relevant documents to the authority.

[AC/Export]

18) Postponement of G-Card Examination:

The Tuticorin Customs Brokers Association requested the Commissioner to postpone the date of G-Card Examination due to local festival.

Reply:- The Commissioner, Custom House Tuticorin in response to this request have directed to reschedule the G-Card Examination date from 29.07.2023 to 12.08.2023. A Public Notice will be issued in this regard.


(P. THANASEKARAN)
(ADDITIONAL COMMISSIONER)

To
The Members of the Permanent Trade 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) PSA SICAL Terminal Limited, Tuticorin.
- (f) D.B.G.T. Terminal Limited, Tuticorin.

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.