



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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C. No. VIII/48/58/2016-Cus.Pol

Date:06.03.2024

**MINUTES OF PERMANENT TRADE FACILITATION COMMITTEE (PTFC)
MEETING/CCFC MEETING HELD ON 05.03.2024 AT 11:30 HRS.
AT CUSTOM HOUSE, TUTICORIN**

The PTFC [Permanent Trade Facilitation Committee] Meeting / CCFC (Customs Clearance Facilitation Committee) Meeting was held on 05.03.2024 at 11:30 HRS at Custom House Tuticorin under the chairmanship of Shri. Vikas Nair, 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. Sree Hari Sankar P	Joint Commissioner
2.	Shri. D. Dinesh	Deputy Commissioner
3.	Shri. S Anil Kumar	Assistant Commissioner
4.	Shri. M. Kannan	Assistant Commissioner
5.	Shri. M. Chidambaram	Assistant Commissioner
6.	Shri. Menon Balraj	Assistant Commissioner
7.	Shri. Joseph K C	Assistant Commissioner
8.	Shri. C. Sundar Baskar	Assistant Commissioner
9.	Shri. S. Sundararajan	Assistant Commissioner
Sl. No.	Name of Nominated Members	Name of the Organisation
1	Shri. J Celestine	TCFSA
2	Shri Cecil Machado	TCBA
3	Shri. A.S. Ramasamy	TCBA
4	Shri. J. Pinto Villavarayar	TCBA
5	Shri. P Jeyanth Thomas	TCBA
6	Shri. E. M. Arun	DBGT
7	Shri V Minesh Raja	TCBA

8	Shri R Manekshi Fernando	DBGT
9	Shri R Sreedhar	TCBA
10	Shri R S Viji	TCBA
11	Shri R Senthil Murugan	VOC Port
12	Shri D R Yogesh	VOC Port
13	Shri S George Bush	Box Logistics

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 BY TUTICORIN CUSTOMS BROKERS' ASSOCIATION

Point No.: - 1. New IEC Alert

At the time of export when an exporter who holds new IEC, alert is being notified to SIIB department for 100% cargo examination and verification of the genuineness of the exporter.

Due this there is a delay in examination and clearance, which leads to missing of planned vessel and delivery schedule as per Consignee requirement. As timely export is critical, especially for a new entrant into Export, and missing a planned connection is likely to jeopardize the prospects of further orders, we request to kindly grant clearance with an undertaking from the exporter as per FTP para 1.8.

Reply: - The Commissioner informed that if the delay exceeds a day or two, the same may be brought to the notice of the concerned DC/AC for appropriate action.

(ACTION: SIIB SECTION)

Point No.: -2. Functioning of Direct Port Entry

For facilitating round the clock clearance of factory stuffed self-sealed export shipments at Tuticorin, there are two options i.e., Direct Port Entry of VOC Port as per the Notn No 01/2023 DT 27/06/2023 & 24 x 7 at CONCOR as per PN No 02/2015.

Few months back, the Direct Port entry of VOC Port seized to operate. Also, at CONCOR, there are challenges in availing 24X7 facility during late night / early morning hours.

In this regard we request to inform VOC Port Authority to operate the DPE facility as per Notification No. 01/2023 DT 23/06/2023 and also the functioning of Concor 24X7.

Reply: - The Commissioner informed that the issue will be discussed with VOC Port Authority. Moreover, a committee will be established by this office to explore the possibilities of clearance of factory stuffed self-sealed export shipments on 24X7 basis from other CFS as well.

(ACTION: POLICY SECTION)

Point No.: -3. Bill of entry Registration at ICD.

There is no provision for on line regularization / registration of bill of entry in the system for ICD filed bill of entry. For ICD filed bill of entry the regularization / registration has to be done by the inspector of ICD in the system and then only the bill of entry is getting regularized. This issue is pending for last few years, we have to approach ICD for regularization / registration of bill of entry every time.

Reply: - The Commissioner informed that this matter will be taken up with the DG Systems on priority basis.

(ACTION: EDI SECTION)

Point No.: - 4. Linking of PGA NOC

We are facing issues in auto linking of PGA NOC and the same has to be manually uploaded through Esanchit and linked with the bill of entry by the Assistant Commissioner and then OOC is granted.

This process is getting delayed and if the system is erratic, we are unable to upload the documents in Esanchit and process further and also sometimes PGA NOC is released late, we have to do the documentation on the next day.

We request to take up the issue with the PGA's for inter linking with our system.

Reply: - The Commissioner informed that the issue has already been resolved. Nonetheless, the magnitude/scale of the issue as stated above may be examined over the course of a month, and if the numbers are significant, it may be brought to the notice of this office again.

Point No.: - 5. E-BRC issues

The exporters are facing difficulties with the alerts and SCN issued for the purpose of submission of E-BRC. The E-BRC are very much available and possible to be seen by the officers on the system itself and the need to withhold the export shipments by giving an alert or by issuing SCN for the refund of Drawback amount with interest is not necessary.

After such receipt of SCN and alert in the systems, the exporters are providing all the E-BRC for immediate release of the alert by giving suitable reply for the SCN. The process of issuing Order-In-Original and releasing the alert is taking a long time as we are unaware the reason for delay in process.

Further, the manual permission approved by the Deputy / Assistant Commissioner for a temporary period of 15 days has been dispensed with and it is now being insisted on, for the submission of all the BRC for granting temporary release of the alert and for allowing of the export of cargo.

As the export shipments are being held up due to the issues of E-BRC, we request you to provide suitable solutions.

Reply: - The Commissioner informed that the IEC alert list will be communicated in due course. The exporter figuring in the said list may reach out to this office along with copy of e-BRC for removal of alert.

(ACTION: BRC SECTION)

POINT RAISED BY TUTICORIN SHIP AGENTS' ASSOCIATION

Point No.: - 1. VOC Port stakeholders really needs Customs to function 24x7 for processing Factory stuffed RFID sealed Export containers

Currently, there are two container terminals in VOC Port Tuticorin ie PSA Sical & DBGT. Both terminals put together handle an export volume of approx. 26000 – 28000 teus per month. Out of these 26000 -28000 teus export, approx. 45 % is factory stuffed. Since Tuticorin port is one of the select seaports , the export gate in can happen 24 x 7 x 365 basis. However, we reliably understand that the 24 x 7 facility at CONCOR is not functioning on 24 x 7 basis. During the night hours, it is reliably understood that the Customs clearance is happening only for few hours.

In the previous PTFC meetings, this matter was discussed and CONCOR was mention that Customs officials are having reluctance in processing export clearance during late night hours & on holidays & on the other hand Customs officials were stating that CONCOR doesn't provide adequate facilities for functioning of the Customs.

We can witness long queues of containers from evening 5 PM till 10 PM on many days. This is largely because the Factory stuffed export containers as well as CFS stuffed containers are processed only during the day hours and both categories of export containers bunch together and arrive at the Port / Terminal gate at the same time.

If the 24x 7 facility at CONCOR functions normally, the Factory stuffed export containers which arrive in the night hours can get cleared and be gated in during the night / early morning hours. This will, to a large extent, prevent bunching of Factory stuffed & CFS stuffed containers arriving VOC Port Gate / Terminal gate at the same time.

In the next 6 months, the 3rd container terminal TICT by JM Baxi is expected to commence operations. Once the operations commence, the export volumes are forecasted in increase drastically.

Only if 24 x 7 facility functions properly at Tuticorin, the surge in volumes can be handled.

Requesting Commissioner of Customs to kindly look into this matter of importance and facilitate the trade by ensuring 24 x 7 facility functions properly as envisaged by the policy makers.

Reply: - The Commissioner informed that a committee will be formed by this office to explore the possibilities of clearance of factory stuffed self-sealed export shipments on 24X7 basis from other CFS as well.

(ACTION: POLICY SECTION)

POINT RAISED BY V.O.C. PORT AUTHORITY

Point No.: - 1. Status of Ship-to-Ship Lighterage/Transshipment Operation at Anchorage of VOC Port - Customs Trade facility circular

It is informed that VOC Port has requested Customs from 2022 to issue a trade facility circular for Ship-to Ship lighterage / transshipment operation of Liquid Bulk, Break Bulk, Dry Bulk in a designated place within the Port anchorage area and the port has already submitted the requested details by the custom on this subject matter.

Further, Port has submitted copies of similar Trade facility circular issued in the various Customs Commissionerate like Kolkata, Bhubaneswar, Chennai and Cochin. But, still the issuance of the trade facility circular remains pending.

In light of the above, it is once again requested to issue a trade facility circular for Ship-to-Ship lighterage/Transshipment operation of cargo for both foreign & coastal vessels at the anchorage of VOC Port.

Reply: - The Commissioner informed that a meeting will be organized with the VOC port authority, STS operator concerned and this office wherein the feasibility of Ship-to-Ship Lighterage/Transshipment Operation at Anchorage of VOC Port will be discussed comprehensively. The meeting schedule will be communicated in due course.

(ACTION: POLICY SECTION)



(SREE HARI SANKAR P)
(JOINT 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.