



वित्तमंत्रालय/ **Ministry of Finance**

राजस्वविभाग/ **Department of Revenue**

सीमाशुल्कआयुक्तकार्यालय/ **Office of the Commissioner of Customs**

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Date: 11.03.2026

Public Notice No.03/2026

Subject: Procedure for allowing “Back to Town”(BTT) of Export Cargo where EGM has not been filed in view of ongoing war conditions in the Middle East region— Reg.

Attention of all Exporters, Customs Brokers, Shipping Lines, Terminal Operators, and other stakeholders is invited to the Board Circular No.10/20026 dated 10.03.2026 in F.No.450/198/2015-Cus-IV(Pt.1) (enclosed herewith) issued in light of the current geopolitical situation and ongoing war conditions in the Middle East region. This conflict has led to significant disruptions in maritime routes, suspension of bookings by major shipping lines, and the closure of key ports in the Gulf region. Consequently, a large volume of export shipments destined for these regions is currently stuck at Terminals, Container Freight Stations (CFS) and ICD at Tuticorin Customs.

2. To mitigate the hardship faced by the trade and to prevent the congestion of port terminals, the following relaxation in the procedure is prescribed for Back to Town (BTT) movement of such stranded export containers/shipping bills for which EGM has not been filed.

- On receipt of the containers in the CFS/ICD, as the case may be, and where the exporter desires to take the goods back to town, the Exporter or their authorized Customs Broker (CB) shall approach the concerned Assistant/Deputy Commissioner (AC/DC) of the respective CFS or ICD
- On receipt of the request, the customs officers concerned shall verify the Electronic Seal(e-seal) / Customs Bottle Seal on the CFS stuffed containers and match the details mentioned in the Shipping Bill and the stuffing records.
- If the seal is intact, the following procedure with reference to examination is being prescribed in respect of such cargo:

- In respect of containers in CFS, the goods will be de stuffed and

inspection of individual lots relating to the respective shipping bills shall suffice. In this case , no further examination shall be required to be carried out.

- Thus, the requirement for physical examination is hereby waived for such Shipping Bills before granting BTT permission. This waiver is intended to expedite the evacuation of cargo and reduce additional handling costs for the exporters
 - Further, in view of the prevailing circumstances, BTT- related fees/penalties leviable under the Customs Act,1962 or the Regulations there under, for these specific shipments is also be waived for the period specified as specified in the Circular No.10/2026 Customs dated 10.03.2026 in F.No.450/198/2015-Cus-IV(Pt.1).
3. This Public Notice shall come in to force with immediate effect and shall remain valid until further orders or until the normalization of shipping operations in the affected region.
4. Difficulty, if any, in implementation of this Public Notice may be brought to the notice of the undersigned.

Enclosed: As above.

(VIKAS NAIR)
Commissioner of Customs

Copy to:

1. The Chief Commissioner of Customs (Preventive) Trichy Zone, Trichy
2. All Additional/Joint/Dy./Asstt Commissioners of Customs, Tuticorin.
3. All sections under Custom House, Tuticorin
4. AC/DC, EDI for uploading on Tuticorin Custom house website.
5. Office copy

