



वित्तमंत्रालय/ **Ministry of Finance**
राजस्वविभाग/ **Department of Revenue**

सीमाशुल्कआयुक्तकार्यालय/ **Office of the Commissioner of Customs**
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E office F.No-GEN/TECH/PN/51/2026-POL

Date:07-07-2026

Public Notice No.06/2026

Subject: Implementation of Risk-Based Selective Boarding of Vessel at Tuticorin Port- Reg.

Attention of the members of Trade and Industry, Shipping Lines/Agents, Steamer Agents, Port Terminal Operators, and all other stakeholders is invited to the provisions of Section 37 (Power to board vessels) of the Customs Act, 1962, and the Imported Stores (Retention on Board) Regulations, 1963. Attention is also invited to the CBIC Circular No. 26/2026-Customs dated 15.05.2026 issued regarding the standardization of procedures relating to the grant of Entry Inward and Vessel Sail-out Clearance.

2. The Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) has observed that varying practices across ports linking administrative clearances with the physical boarding of vessels by Customs officers cause avoidable bottlenecks and operational delays in the commencement and completion of cargo operations.

3. Consequently, it has been decided that the physical boarding of vessels by Customs officers under Customs house, Tuticorin Commissionerate shall be carried out based on advance risk profiling. This targeted assessment, which utilizes a suitable risk-based parameter mechanism, will curtail physical boarding by about 50% arriving vessels. The assessment shall be based on the past compliance records, operational behaviour, the nature of the voyage, the last port of call, the vessel's current itinerary, and the nature of the cargo being transported. Additionally, declarations made by shipping lines or the Master of the Vessel, such as crew effects, ship stores, and vessel satellite devices, will also be taken into consideration to identify potential discrepancies, unusual quantities, unauthorized equipment, or any other parameters relevant to national security and cargo safety.

4. The Terminal Operators shall email a tentative list of berthing vessels to the Boarding office every Monday. The Superintendent (Docks) shall evaluate these vessels based on their history in Tuticorin Port. The final clearance for physical boarding will be granted by the Superintendent (Docks) following the review of mandatory documents submitted in advance by the shipping lines.

5. The Superintendent (Docks) will submit a weekly report to the Deputy/Assistant Commissioner, Docks, Customs House, Tuticorin Commissionerate, every Monday, detailing the total number of vessels physically boarded during the previous week along with the specific risk-based justifications for each inspection.

6. For vessels that are not selected for physical boarding under the risk based screening mechanism, the Master of the Vessel and the appointed Shipping Agent carry an elevated legal and operational responsibility to ensure absolute compliance with Section 37 of the Customs Act, 1962, and the Imported Stores (Retention on Board) Regulations, 1963. Since administrative clearances like Entry Inward are granted based purely on advance electronic data, the Master and Agent bear full liability for the absolute accuracy, completeness, and truthfulness of all submitted declarations, including detailed inventories of ship stores, crew effects, and vessel satellite communication devices.

7. Furthermore, the Master remains strictly accountable for safeguarding all declared onboard stores, ensuring that no restricted, high-duty, or unmanifested goods are illegally unladen or consumed while the vessel resides within Indian territorial waters.

8. The Agent shall also ensure that any logistical updates, itinerary changes, or documentation amendments are communicated immediately to the Boarding Superintendent.

9. It is reiterated that the cargo discharge shall proceed unhindered immediately upon the grant of Entry Inward and the sailing operations will be as per the advance Port Clearance order.

10. Any difficulties faced in the implementation of this comprehensive procedure may be brought directly to the notice of the Deputy/Assistant Commissioner of Customs (Docks), Custom House, Tuticorin Commissionerate.

(DEVENDAR V. NAGENKAR)

Principal Commissioner of Customs
Custom House, Tuticorin

To:

- i. Members/ Trade Associations as per mailing list.
- ii. All ADC/JCs, Custom House, Tuticorin
- iii. All AC/DCs, Custom House, Tuticorin
- iv. EDI Section, Customs House, Tuticorin for uploading in the website
- v. Notice Board, Custom House, Tuticorin

Copy submitted to:

The Chief Commissioner of Customs (Preventive), Trichy