



वित्तमंत्रालय/ Ministry of Finance
राजस्वविभाग/ Department of Revenue
सीमाशुल्कआयुक्तकार्यालय/ Office of the Commissioner of Customs
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Date: As signed

PUBLIC NOTICE No. 07/2026

Subject: Implementation of Risk-Based Selective Boarding of Vessels at VOC Port, Tuticorin– Reg.

Attention is invited to the provisions of Section 37 of the Customs Act, 1962, which empower Customs officers to board vessels, the Imported Stores (Retention on Board) Regulations, 1963 and CBIC Circular No. 26/2026-Customs dated 15.05.2026 issued with the objective of standardizing procedures relating to the grant of Entry Inward and Vessel Sail-out Clearance.

2. Mandatory physical boarding of vessels often result in avoidable delays and operational bottlenecks. With a view to facilitating trade while ensuring effective Customs control, a risk-based approach to physical boarding is to be adopted.

3. Accordingly, it has been decided that physical boarding of vessels by officers of Tuticorin Customs shall be undertaken only on the basis of advance risk assessment. Under this mechanism, only vessels identified through risk profiling shall be selected for boarding, thereby substantially reducing routine physical boarding of arriving vessels.

4. The risk assessment shall, inter alia, consider:

- the compliance history of the vessel, shipping line and agent;
- operational behaviour and previous compliance record;
- the nature of the voyage and the last port of call;
- the vessel's current itinerary;
- the nature of cargo carried;
- declarations submitted by the Master and the Shipping Agent;
- particulars relating to crew effects, ship stores and communication equipment;
- and

- any intelligence inputs, discrepancies, unusual quantities, unauthorized equipment or other parameters relevant to national security and Customs enforcement.

5. To facilitate advance risk assessment, the Terminal Operator(s) shall forward a tentative list of vessels expected to berth during the succeeding week to the Boarding Officer every Monday. The designated Boarding Officer shall assess the vessels based on the prescribed risk parameters. Approval for physical boarding shall be accorded by the Deputy/Assistant Commissioner concerned after scrutiny of the mandatory documents submitted electronically in advance by the Shipping Agent.

6. A weekly report indicating the total number of vessels physically boarded during the preceding week, together with the risk-based justification for each boarding, shall be submitted to the Commissioner of Customs, Tuticorin through the proper channel.

7. For vessels not selected for physical boarding under the risk-based mechanism, the Master of the vessel and the appointed Shipping Agent shall continue to remain fully responsible for compliance with Section 37 of the Customs Act, 1962, and the Imported Stores (Retention on Board) Regulations, 1963. Since Entry Inward is granted on the basis of advanced electronic documentation, they shall also be responsible for the completeness, accuracy and authenticity of all declarations submitted, including inventories of ship stores, crew effects and communication equipment.

8. The Master shall ensure the safe custody of all declared onboard stores and shall ensure that no restricted, prohibited, dutiable or undeclared goods are unlawfully landed, consumed or otherwise dealt with while the vessel remains within Indian territorial waters.

9. The Shipping Agent shall promptly inform the Boarding Officer of any changes in the vessel's itinerary, operational schedule or documentation requiring reassessment of the vessel's risk profile.

10. Cargo discharge operations shall commence immediately upon grant of Entry Inward without awaiting physical boarding, wherever boarding is not considered necessary under the prescribed risk parameters. Similarly, vessel sail-out clearance shall be governed by the procedure prescribed under CBIC Circular No. 26/2026-Customs dated 15.05.2026 and other applicable instructions.

11. Difficulties, if any, in the implementation of this Public Notice may be brought to the notice of the Deputy Commissioner (Policy), Tuticorin Customs House.

NAGVENKAR)

(DEVENDRA

PRINCIPAL COMMISSIONER

To:

- Members/ Trade Associations as per mailing list.**

- ii. **All ADCs, 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