वित्तमंत्रालय/ Ministry of Finance
राजस्वविभाग / Department of Revenue
सीमाशुल्कआयुक्तकार्यालय / Office of the Commissioner of Customs
कस्टमहाउसनयीहारबरएस्टेट / Custom House, New Harbour Estate
तूत्तुक्कुडी – 628 004 / Thoothukudi – 628004.
E-mail:- **policycustut-2024@gov.in**

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e-office File No. GEN/EPC/MISC/148/2024-S and I Date:23-10-2026

MINUTES OF PERMANENT TRADE FACILITATION COMMITTEE MEETING

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The Permanent Trade Facilitation Committee (PTFC) Meeting was held on15.10.2026 at 16:30 hrs. in hybrid mode at Custom House, Tuticorin under the chairmanship of Shri. Devendra Vasudeo Nagvenkar, Principal Commissioner of Customs, Custom House, Tuticorin.

2. The Customs Officials and representative of CHAs/Trade who attended the meeting is mentioned in Annexure-A.

3. At the outset, the Chairman welcomed the participants of the meeting. During the meeting, the following agenda points were taken up for discussion and the details of the same are as below.

Agenda points raised by Tuticorin Ship Agents' Association (TSAA)–

Agenda Point No. 1:- Appreciation for Issuance of Office Order No. 33/2026 – Temporary Restoration of Supplementary Filing Facility under SCMTR for Console Cargo.

The Association placed on record its sincere appreciation and gratitude to the Commissioner of Customs, Tuticorin, for issuing Office Order No. 33/2026, permitting the temporary restoration of the supplementary filing facility under SCMTR for console cargo at Tuticorin Port for two days, from 09.10.2026 to 10.10.2026.

The Association expresses its appreciation for this timely initiative, which has helped resolve the HBL issues faced by the trade and facilitated the clearance of those goods.

On the other hand, the Amendment process of Inward manifest filed by Vessel Operator / Carrier / Freight forwarder and consolidator remains unresolved and it is due to technical issue in the ICEGATE / ICES System interface. Hope the matter will get resolved by the technical team of ICEGATE / ICES Systems.

Reply:- The Amendment process for the inward manifest is being routed through the SAM module under SCMTR, furthermore any system errors would be escalated to ICEGATE upon receipt from stakeholders. In this regard, two stakeholders approached the EDI Section reporting specific technical errors, and the same were promptly escalated to the ICEGATE team for necessary resolution.

Further, this office has issued a letter dated 15.10.2026 to DG Systems, requesting urgent corrective action and a permanent resolution of various system-related issues concerning Colombo trade, stuffing cancellation, SEZ LCL Shipping Bills, short shipment and EGM data transmission.

Additionally, in the said letter, it was also requested that, as a one-time measure, Version 1.5 be enabled for a period of 7 days so that the accumulated blockage of approximately 7750 cases are rectified.

(ACTION: AC, SCMTR)

Agenda Point No. 2:- Review of the Requirement for Export Transhipment Permission (ETP) for EXIM Cargo Transhipment through Kattupalli Port.

We had brought to the kind attention seeking clarification and review of the requirement for Export Transhipment Permission (ETP) for EXIM cargo transhipment through Kattupalli Port.

It has been brought to the notice of the Association that, pursuant to Chennai Customs Public Notice No. 158/2016 dated 13/07/2016, ETP from the Port of Loading (POL) is required for the movement of export cargo for transhipment through Kattupalli Port.

We wish to place on records that the Tuticorin Customs officials are guiding our members in this matter & we are confident that the procedure to be followed will soon be established.

It will be helpful if you can kindly issue an official communication on the Standard operating procedure to be adopted for movement from one Indian Port to another Indian port for transhipment.

Reply:- In this regard, M/s. Chakiat Shipping Services Pvt. Ltd., Tuticorin, approached EDI Section seeking guidance on the procedure for obtaining Export Transshipment Permission (ETP) for movement of export cargo through Kattupalli Port. Accordingly, necessary procedural and technical guidance, including the filing of the prescribed ICEGATE webform and compliance with the applicable bond requirements, has been provided to the Steamer Agent.

The Steamer Agent is presently undertaking the requisite formalities. Upon successful submission of the prescribed ICEGATE webform and compliance with the prescribed requirements, the ETP request will be processed by the jurisdictional Custodian Superintendent of Customs.

Further, a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) will be issued upon successful completion of the first clearance, to provide clear procedural guidance to all stakeholders and facilitate smooth transhipment of export cargo.

(ACTION: AC, EDI SECTION)

Agenda Point No. 3:- Follow-up on Faster Evacuation of Empty Containers – Request for Removal of Physical EIR Endorsement by Customs Preventive Officers.

TSAA seeks your kind assistance to enhance the ease of doing business by facilitating quick gate out of inbound empty containers. One of the suggestions was to doing away of the physical endorsement on the EIR (Equipment interchange receipt)

as a prerequicite for gating out the empty container from the container terminals namely DBGT & TICT.
Detailed representation had been submitted vide its Joint representation dated 01.11.2025, which was also raised during the PTFC meeting held on 31.07.2026.

Reply:- Subsequent to the representations made by the TSAA, the Terminals were physically inspected and the mode of movement of empty containers studied by the Customs Officers. To take it forward and ensure transparency and accountability, the Terminal Operators are being requested to ensure that all empty containers should be moved following these procedures:

i) One door of the empty container should be opened fully and kept that way in the truck so that bare visual examination will be sufficient.

ii) At least three time-stamped images of such containers should be captured by the OHCs taken in different angles; such images should be preserved by the Custodians for at least three months.

iii) The Green Gate through which such containers are exiting should also capture the containers so that the container numbers and the truck nos are clearly visible in the images.

iv) Customs Officer will continue to endorse the EIR copy.

v) This system will be verified randomly by the Customs at intervals. Once the satisfactory level of compliance is achieved, physical endorsement will be done away with.

Further, the terminal operators, namely M/s. TICT (JM Baxi) and M/s. DBGT, have been advised to provide suitable camera surveillance and boom barrier arrangements at the exit gates to facilitate effective monitoring and verification of empty container movements. The representatives of M/s. TICT and M/s. JM Baxi, have assured that the matter will be taken up with their technical team for implementation at the earliest.

Upon satisfactory implementation and verification of the proposed arrangements, the requirement of physical endorsement of EIRs by Customs Preventive Officers will be dispensed with, with a view to ensuring faster evacuation of empty containers and facilitating ease of doing business, without compromising Customs supervision and security.

(ACTION: AC, DOCKS)

Agenda Point No. 4:- Agenda point raised by Tirupur Exporter's Association (TEA):–

Kindly review the pending Drawback, RoSCTL, and IGST issues under Tuticorin Customs. The relevant details are provided below for your reference (List Enclosed).
You are requested to look into the above issues and take the necessary action to resolve the pending matters at the earliest.

Reply:- The list of Shipping Bills furnished by the Tirupur Exporters' Association (TEA) includes cases relating to pending Drawback, RoSCTL and IGST refunds. While some Shipping Bills are under normal processing, others are pending due to EGM-related errors and other system-related issues.
In this regard, the concerned exporters or their authorised Customs Brokers are advised to approach the respective Deputy/Assistant Commissioners of Customs, Custom House, Tuticorin, along with the relevant Shipping Bill details, error particulars and necessary supporting documents for case-wise examination and

resolution.
The pending cases shall be examined and necessary action taken in accordance with the prescribed procedures to facilitate the early processing and disbursement of eligible export incentives and refunds. Wherever required, unresolved system-related issues shall be escalated to ICEGATE/DG Systems for necessary resolution.

(ACTION: ACTION: AC, EDI/SCMTR/ DRAWBACK)

Agenda Points raised by Tuticorin Customs Brokers' Association: -

Agenda Point No. 5:- Difficulties Faced Due to Delays in the Recent Scanning Procedure

a) We would like to bring to your kind attention that maximum containers in the vessels are selected for scanning and Importers/Custom Brokers are facing difficulties in clearance due to delay in receiving scanning reports.
We kindly request you to take up the issue with the concerned officials in the Scanning Section to promptly endorse the scanning status in the EIR either "Scanning Clear" or marked for Examination," wherever applicable.
Alternatively, the scanning reports may kindly be communicated to the concerned Customs officials on an hourly basis, with timely updates also provided to the respective Custodian/CFS with easy reference of container details.
This timely communication will help us to plan the subsequent clearance procedures efficiently, avoid unnecessary delays, and expedite the clearance and delivery of import cargo.
We request your kind intervention and necessary action in this matter.

Reply:- As the stakeholders are aware, the Government had decided to implement 100% Non-Intrusive Inspection of all import (laden) containers. Hence the number of containers selected for scanning by the NCTC has steadily increased. However, the resources are yet to be augmented. The inconvenience caused are only short-term and shall be sorted out after the planned installation of another scanner in the CSD.

The stakeholders need to appreciate that though there is a steep increase in the number of containers selected for scanning, there had not been any resultant adverse cases of trucks queuing up outside the CSD Facility or extreme congestion of vehicles or unrest among the drivers. This has been achieved by de-linking scanning and the conveying the outcome of scanning. Container-laden trucks are quickly evacuated so as to reach their destination on time.
While scanning itself doesn't consume much time, the process of reading the images, applying the tools and arriving at a decision by the Officers require reasonable time. Accordingly, the scanning results are presently communicated to the concerned Shed Officers twice daily to facilitate timely action. Further, it is proposed to communicate the scanning results thrice daily to enhance operational efficiency, minimise delays and facilitate same-day delivery of containers.

(ACTION:AC, CSD)

b) Delay in Obtaining OCC of RMS facilitated Bill of Entry due to Delay in Receiving the Scanning result

Further to our representation No CB/C-02/D.57 DT 23/09/2026 and discussion in person, we request your good self to ensure timely availability of scanned report with easy reference to obtain OCC. Importers are raising concerns and objections due to

delay attributed by the change in scanning procedures.
Suitable SOP to be immediately implemented to resolve the delay in obtaining OCC of RMS facilitated bills of entry.
Reply:- NCTC (which generates the scanning list) doesn't distinguish or prioritize containers covered under RMS-facilitated Bills of Entry. Hence the response given for the previous point covers this situation also.

(ACTION: CLOSED)

Agenda Point No. 6:-Auto Registration of Bill of Entry and Issues faced:
At present most of the bills of entry are auto goods registered, once the vessel Entry inward is posted and those RMS facilitated bills of entry queries has been raised by RMS Cell.
In this regard if the bills of entry have not required to obtain PGA NOC or containers not selected for scanning may be granted OOC as per the Corrigendum dated 23.12.2022 issued to Facility Intimation 02/2019 (enclosed) by Commissioner of Customs, Tuticorin.
Reply:- In this regard, it is informed that Bills of Entry for which goods registration has been completed through the auto-registration facility are being processed for grant of Out of Charge (OOC), in accordance with the prescribed procedures. However, in cases where containers are selected for scanning or goods require NOC from the concerned PGAs, OOC is granted only after verification of the scanning reports or receipt of the requisite PGA NOCs, as applicable. In respect of RMS-facilitated Bills of Entry where neither container scanning nor PGA NOC is required, OOC is being granted in accordance with Facility Intimation No. 02/2019, read with the Corrigendum dated 23.12.2022, subject to compliance with the applicable Customs requirements.

(ACTION: CLOSED)

Agenda Point No. 7:-Unresolved Issues due to SCMTR in Exports:-
We are in receipt of your Letter dated 08.10.2026 and noted the same. We have circulated the same to our members and still we face hardship with the custodians to comply the process.
So, in this regard we request you to kindly issue a suitable instruction to custodians to comply and clear all the pending errors with a cut off time and facilitate the trade.
Reply:- In this regard, the Association is informed to furnish specific details of the difficulties or pending issues being faced under SCMTR, along with relevant particulars and supporting documents, if any, to enable examination of the matter and necessary action for resolution.
Further, this office has issued a letter dated 15.10.2026 to DG Systems, requesting urgent corrective action and a permanent resolution of various system-related issues concerning Colombo trade, stuffing cancellation, SEZ LCL Shipping Bills, short shipment and EGM data transmission.
Additionally, in the said letter, it was also requested that, as a one-time measure, Version 1.5 be enabled for a period of 7 days so that the accumulated blockage of approximately 7750 cases are rectified.

(ACTION: AC, SCMTR)

Agenda point raised by Mr. Karthikeyan. M representative of Tirupur Exporter's Association –

Agenda Point No. 8: Drawback amendment withholding & erroneous RoSCTL pre-payment demand.

M/s. S. P. Apparels Ltd. seeks your immediate attention to a critical issue with the Assistant Commissioner of Customs, ICD Tuticorin (letter C.No.VIII/06/01/2025-Part-I dated 10.09.2026).

1. Issue: After reclassification of our exports to CTH 6103.22, we requested Drawback Serial Number amendments. The Assistant Commissioner refuses, citing "system limitations," and demands pre-payment of alleged excess RoSCTL amounts, claiming Drawback and RoSCTL cannot be adjusted across ministries.

2. Submissions:

- Pre-payment demand lacks legal basis under Customs and Central Excise Duties Drawback Rules, 2017.
- ICEGATE system design dictates RoSCTL/RoDTEP scrolls follow Drawback scrolls. Amending Drawback HS Code aligns benefit flows, negating pre-payment.
- If local systems fail, administration must escalate to DG Systems, not penalize exporters.

3. Prayer: We request your intervention to:

- Direct immediate Drawback Serial Number amendment for subject Shipping Bills (CTH 6103.22).
- Set aside unwarranted RoSCTL pre-payment, acknowledging systemic dependencies.
- Refer technical modification to DG Systems if local resolution is impossible.
- Expedite Drawback scrolls to ease working capital.

Reply: In terms of Section 17 read with Sections 50(2) and 50(3) of the Customs Act, 1962, and CBIC Circular Nos. 17/2011-Customs dated 08.04.2011 and 39/2011-Customs dated 02.09.2011, the primary responsibility for self-assessment and for furnishing true, accurate and complete declarations in the Shipping Bill rests with the exporter. This includes correct declaration of the description, classification, quantity, value, Drawback Serial Number and other relevant particulars of the export goods, along with the authenticity and validity of supporting documents. Further, Regulations 2, 3 and 4 of the Shipping Bill (Electronic Integrated Declaration and Paperless Processing) Regulations, 2019, prescribe the framework for electronic filing of Shipping Bills and supporting documents under the self-assessment mechanism. Accordingly, any incorrect particulars or misdeclaration affecting the assessment may attract the provisions of Section 17, while the statutory responsibility for the correctness and completeness of the Shipping Bill declarations is governed by Sections 50(2) and 50(3) of the Customs Act, 1962.

The requested amendment of the Drawback Serial Number involves changes relating to the HS Code/classification and consequential implications for export incentives. It is informed that such amendments cannot presently be effected through the existing ICES functionality available to the Assistant Commissioner
(Drawback)

Further, amendments to Shipping Bills, including post-EGM amendments and post-export conversion of Export Entries under instrument-based schemes, are governed by Section 149 of the Customs Act, 1962, read with CBIC Circular No. 11/2025-Customs dated 03.04.2025, Notification No. 21/2025-Customs (N.T.) dated

03.04.2025 and Public Notice No. 18/2025 dated 23.05.2025 issued by Custom House, Tuticorin.

Accordingly, the requested amendments and any consequential implications for export incentives shall be examined in accordance with the provisions, conditions and procedures prescribed under the aforesaid Circular, Notification and Public Notice, subject to approval by the competent authority, wherever required. Any technical or system-related difficulties encountered in implementing the permissible amendments may be escalated to DG Systems/ICEGATE for necessary resolution.

Further, insofar as appellate remedies are concerned, Section 129A of the Customs Act, 1962 provides for appeals before the Customs, Excise and Service Tax Appellate Tribunal (CESTAT) against specified decisions or orders of the competent Customs authorities.

(ACTION:EXPORTER)

Agenda Point No. 9: Pending List for Exporter, Stuff, EGM, Short shipment & DBK Sup (List Enclosed)

Reply: It is informed that the pending export incentive claims are attributable to various reasons, including exporter-side queries, non-filing of stuffing reports, EGM-related errors, short-shipment discrepancies and other procedural requirements.

As per the provisions of the Customs Act, 1962, read with the Sea Cargo Manifest and Transhipment Regulations (SCMTR), 2018, CBIC Circular No. 12/2021-Customs dated 30.06.2021 and Public Notice Nos. 05/2026 dated 02.07.2026 and 09/2026 dated 13.08.2026 issued by Custom House, Tuticorin, the concerned custodians/CFS/ICD operators are responsible for timely and accurate filing of the prescribed stuffing reports and cargo movement messages, while shipping lines/authorised sea carriers or their agents are responsible for filing the EGM/Departure Manifest and rectifying related errors in accordance with Section 41 of the Customs Act, 1962 and the applicable SCMTR provisions. Further, with effect from 13.08.2026, supplementary IGM/EGM filing has been discontinued, and amendments are required to be carried out through the prescribed SCMTR amendment messages. Any non-filing, incorrect filing or related discrepancies shall be rectified by the respective stakeholders in accordance with the prescribed procedures. In cases involving short-shipment discrepancies and exporter-side queries, the concerned exporters or their authorised Customs Brokers are advised to approach the respective Customs Sections at Custom House, Tuticorin, along with relevant particulars and supporting documents for necessary verification and corrective action.

Further, the system-related issues have already been taken up with DG Systems vide letter dated 15.10.2026 for necessary corrective action and resolution. The pending claims shall be processed in accordance with the prescribed statutory provisions and procedures upon resolution of the relevant discrepancies and successful system validation, wherever applicable.

Accordingly, the replies furnished against Agenda Point Nos. 4 and 7, may also be referred to in this regard.

(ACTION: CUSTODIAN & AC, SCMTR/DRAWBACK)

Agenda Point No. 10: **Pending IGST Refunds – SB002 and SB006 Errors (List Enclosed)**

Reply: It is informed that the pending IGST refunds are primarily attributable to EGM-related errors, including SB002 and SB006.

The concerned shipping lines/authorised sea carriers and other stakeholders are required to ensure proper filing and correction of export manifest particulars, wherever applicable, in accordance with Section 41 of the Customs Act, 1962, read with SCMTR, 2018.

The concerned exporters/Customs Brokers are advised to approach the respective Assistant Commissioners of Customs with relevant Shipping Bill details, error particulars and supporting documents for case-wise resolution. Further, it is informed that fewer than 300 Shipping Bills involving SB002 errors are presently pending at the ICD, and the matter is being pursued with ICEGATE/DG Systems for early resolution. Eligible IGST refunds shall be processed upon successful system validation and fulfilment of the prescribed requirements.

(ACTION: ACTION: AC, EDI/SCMTR/ DRAWBACK)

Agenda Point No. 11: Non-generation of RoDTEP/RoSCTL Scrolls (List Enclosed):

Reply: It is informed that the generation of RoDTEP/RoSCTL scrolls has been affected by a system-related issue for over a month. The matter has already been taken up with ICEGATE/DG Systems and resolution is still awaited. The issue is being regularly pursued for early resolution and generation of the pending scrolls.

(ACTION: ACTION: AC, DRAWBACK)

4. The next PTFC meeting shall be held on **03.11.2026 @ 15:30 hrs** in Hybrid mode at Board Room of the Office of the commissioner of Customs, Tuticorin. The members are requested to submit agenda points for the meeting as early as possible.

Encl-As above

Digitally signed by
Devendra Vasudeo Nagvenkar
Date: 23-10-2026 17:56:48

(DEVENDRA V. NAGVENKAR)
PRINCIPAL COMMISSIONER

To,
The Members of the Permanent Trade Facilitation Committee.

a. Tuticorin Customs Brokers' Association
13A/2H, Briyant Nagar, 3rd Street Main, Tuticorin- 628 008

b. Tuticorin CFS Association
SF No. 1538/1A1, Plot No. 1, New Sundar Nagar, EB Colony Main Road, Tuticorin - 628 101.

c. Tuticorin Ship Agents' Association,
50, Beach Road, Tuticorin-628001

d. The Traffic Manager, VOC Port trust, Tuticorin
e. M/s. D.B.G.T. Terminal Limited, Tuticorin.

f. M/s. Tuticorin International Container Terminal.
g. Spices Board, World Trade Avenue, VOC New Port Tuticorin-628004
h. AEPC, Thiruppur
i. TEA, Thiruppur
j. M/s. Krishya Logistics LLP

Copy Submitted to:

1. The Chief Commissioner of Customs (Preventive), Trichy.

Copy to:

1. All the Deputy/ Assistant Commissioner of Customs, Custom House, Tuticorin.
2. The EDI Section- for uploading in the official website.

Annexure-A

Table-1
(List of officers who attended the PTFC meeting)

Sl. No.	Name of the officer (S/Shri)	Designation
1.	Shri. Devendra Vasudeo Nagvenkar,	Principal Commissioner
2.	Shri Kathirvel P	Deputy Commissioner
3.	Shri L.M. Kalaiarasan	Deputy Commissioner
4.	Shri. Joseph K C	Assistant Commissioner
5.	Shri. Joseph Israel	Assistant Commissioner
6.	Shri John Selvaraj R	Assistant Commissioner
7.	Shri. Dilip Kumar	Superintendent
8.	Shri Parveen Kumar	Superintendent

Table-2
(List of representatives from Trade/stakeholders who Attended the meeting).

Sl. No.	Name of Nominated Members (S/Shri)	Name of the Organization
1.	A S Ramaswamy	TCBA
2.	Cecil Machado	TCBA
3.	Karthikeyan. M	TEA
4.	J. Pinto Villavarayar	TCBA
5.	V Minesh Raja	TCBA

6.	J David Raja	TCFSA
7.	Christhu Raja	TCBA
8.	C Eswarasundar	APEC Tirupur
9.	Jeyanth	TSAA
10.	Srinivasan	TEA
11.	E. M Arun	DBGT Terminal
12.	S. Kandasamy	CFS