



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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Date:17-07-2026

MINUTES OF PERMANENT TRADE FACILITATION COMMITTEE MEETING

The Permanent Trade Facilitation Committee (PTFC) Meeting for the month of July, 2026 (Hybrid Mode) was held on 13.07.2026 at 3:30 hrs. at Custom House Tuticorin under the chairmanship of Shri. Devendra Vasudeo Nagvenkar, Principal Commissioner of Customs, Custom House Tuticorin.

2. The Customs Officials 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.

A. POINTS RAISED BY TUTICORIN CUSTOMS BROKERS' ASSOCIATION

Agenda Point No. 1 :- Delay in filing of IGM by Feeder Operators

We bring to kind notice that off late filing of IGM is delayed by feeder vessel operators and sometimes IGMs are filed in the last hour before vessel arrival. The sailing time from Colombo to Tuticorin is hardly 10 hours, and we have to file the B/E within 24 hours before update of entry inwards, failing which the B/E attracts late filing fine as per Sec 46 of Customs Act. As there are frequent shut out of containers at transshipment port and the bill of entry filed under advance noting has to be amended for quantity, weight, and delete the shut-out containers, we prefer to verify the IGM and file the bill of entry. So, we kindly request you to issue suitable instructions to feeder operators to file the IGM in advance, so that we can file the Bill of Entries as per IGM without late filing fine. Further TCBA vide letter dated

16.07.2026 also reiterated the above problem while filing of Bill of Entries.

Reply: -: Tuticorin Ship Agents's Association (TSAA) informed that the followings are the reason for delay filing of IGM

- The transit time from Colombo to Tuticorin is generally around 10 to 8 hours, leaving only a limited time window for completion of all statutory formalities.
- A common feeder vessel operator handles cargo for multiple Main Line Operators (MLOs), typically consolidating IGMs relating to 20–25 different MLOs for a single vessel call.
- Colombo Port frequently experiences weather-related disruptions, yard congestion, and Internal Terminal Transfer (ITT) delays, resulting in container shut-outs and last-minute changes to the final load list.
- In view of the SCMTR requirements, the feeder vessel operator has to wait for the confirmed load list from Colombo after the vessel sails. Subsequently, the respective MLOs are required to amend their IGMs in the SCMTR system and provide the approved files to the feeder vessel operator.
- After the vessel sails from Colombo, the terminal is required to provide the final load-related files to the Colombo agent. The Colombo agent verifies the details and forwards the TDR and other relevant information to the feeder vessel operator. Upon receipt, the feeder vessel operator verifies the data, prepares the IGM, obtains any amended IGM files from the respective Main Line Operators, and thereafter consolidates and files the IGM. This entire process generally requires about 3 to 4 hours and is essential to ensure the accuracy of the manifest. Nevertheless, feeder vessel operators always endeavour to complete the filing at the earliest possible opportunity.
- Thereafter, the feeder vessel operator collates the approved IGM files received from all the MLOs and files the consolidated IGM within the prescribed timeline before the vessel's arrival. This entire process is carried out within a very limited timeframe and involves considerable coordination among multiple stakeholders.

In view of the above operational and regulatory constraints, further reducing the available processing time is practically challenging. Nevertheless, TSAA have conveyed the concerns expressed by TCBA to the feeder vessel operators and requested them to make every possible effort to file the IGM at the earliest feasible opportunity without compromising the accuracy of the manifest.

(ACTION: Closed)

B. POINTS RAISED BY Mr. KARTHIKEYAN.M, Manger Export and Import, TEA

Agenda Point No. 1. - The pending IGST refund as represented at the PTFC Meeting is shown below.:

S. No	Shipping Bill Number	Shipping Bill Date	Return Month	Invoice Number	Invoice Date	Response Code	Processed On	Port	EGM Status	Gateway Egm Status	IGST Amount
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1	1374505	2026-03-10	03-2026	SPAL/9254/25-26	2026-03-10	SB006	2026-07-01	INT UT6	N.A	NO RECORD FOUND	81854
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Reply:- Shipping bill is pending due to Error Code SB006, which is a Gateway EGM-related error. The exporter/Shipper may get the error rectified by revalidation of the concerned shipping bill in the PRO Section the Tuticorin Commissionerate. Accordingly, the exporter/Customs Broker is advised to rectify the error code and thereafter the shipping bill will be processed further for IGST refund and other benefits.

(ACTION: Closed)

Agenda Point No.2- Need for a Structured SCMTR Error Rectification Mechanism.

In the same manner that the Customs Department, through DG Systems, has provided a well-defined step-by-step EGM and IGST error rectification mechanism for exporters and stakeholders, it is requested that a similar structured rectification framework be established for SCMTR-related errors and exceptions. As SCMTR is envisaged to be the future backbone of cargo reporting and Customs compliance, stakeholders require a transparent and documented process to identify, track, and rectify data mismatches, validation failures, amendment requirements, and system-generated errors. At present, despite extensive review, no comprehensive publicly available guidance or rectification workflow could be located for SCMTR-related issues.

Reply:- Stakeholders concerned may familiarize themselves with SCMTR processes including advisories, message implementation guides. Further FAQs on the subject matter is readily available on ICEGATE website i.e.(<https://www.icegate.gov.in/advisories/scmtr>) which can made use of by Stakeholders.

(ACTION: ICEGATE)

- The next PTFC meeting shall be held on 29.07.2026 @ 3.30 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

(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

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 Jai Aravindh	Joint Commissioner
3	Shri B Vinayak	Joint Commissioner
4.	Shri Kathirvel P	Deputy Commissioner
5	Shri. Joseph K C	Assistant Commissioner
6.	Shri. Joseph Israel	Assistant Commissioner
7.	Shri Ravi Kumar T	Assistant Commissioner
8.	Shri. Dilip 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.	A. Wenisch Fonseka	TCFSA
5.	V Minesh Raja	TCBA
6	J David Raja	St. John ICD
7	Sankran Shekhran, Deputy Director	APEC Tirupur