



वित्त मंत्रालय / Ministry of Finance
राजस्व विभाग / Department of Revenue
सीमा शुल्क आयुक्त के कार्यालय / Office of the Commissioner of Customs
कस्टम हाउस नई हारबर एस्टेट / Custom House, New Harbour Estate
तूतुकुडि - 628 004 / Thoothukudi - 628004.
दूरभाष / Tel: 0461 2352655, 2352633 फैक्स / Fax 0461 2352019

PUBLIC NOTICE No.15/2015

Sub: Setting up of Customs Clearance Facilitation Committee
(CCFC) - Reg.

The Government has in recent times taken a number of measures to create an environment for ease of doing business and trade facilitation. The measures include the simplification of Customs procedures, reduction of documents, message exchange between Government agencies engaged in Customs clearance, and use of digital signature for electronic submission of Customs process documents. Continuing in this direction, it has now been decided with the approval of the Cabinet Secretary to establish a high-level administrative body at each Seaport and Airport with the responsibility of ensuring expeditious Customs clearance of imported and export goods.

2. In this regard it is seen that in terms of the Customs Act, 1962 read with the relevant rules and regulations, imported and export goods are subjected to certain legal and procedural formalities before being permitted clearance by Customs. These requirements include the submission of prescribed documents and adherence to laid down procedures before an appropriate legal order is given by the Customs officer permitting the importer/exporter to clear the goods for the intended purpose. If provisions of other Allied Acts are attracted in respect of the imported/export goods, permission to clear the goods is given by the Customs only after getting the suitable clearance/response/NOC from the Government Department/agency concerned. Some of the major Departments/agencies that are involved in Customs clearance process are as follows:

- (i) Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)/Port Health Officer (PHO)
- (ii) Plant Quarantine Authorities
- (iii) Animal Quarantine Authorities
- (iv) Drug Controller of India (CDSO)
- (v) Textile Commissioner
- (vi) Wild Life Authorities

3. In addition, the Port Trusts/Airport Authority/Custodians and Railways play a critical role in the Customs clearance process by providing the required infrastructure and facilities. Other local agencies concerned with logistics, manpower etc. which operate in the seaports and airports also facilitate the Customs clearance process.

Customs Clearance Facilitation Committee Members (as per Public Notice No.15/2015)

S.No.	Department / Agencies	Rank Assigned	Address	Contact No.	E-Mail ID
	Commissioner of Customs	Chairman	Custom House, New Harbour Estate, Tuticorin.	0461-2352655 0461-2352663	
2	Chairman, Port Trust, Tuticorin	Member	Port Trust, Tuticorin 628 004.	0461-2352890	info@vocport.gov.in
3	Dy. Regional Manager, Southern Railways or his/her representative	Member	Southern Railway, Madurai 625016.	0452-2308000 9003862000	
4	Assistant Drug Controller or his/her representative	Member	259/261, Annasalai, Chennai 600006	044-24311830 044-24321830	
5	Commissioner of Food Safety, FSSAI or his representative	Member	2nd Floor, Central Documentation Complex (South Wing), Chelvanai Port Trust, Rajaji Salai, Chennai. 600001.	044-25223212 044-25223213	aochennai@issai.gov.in
6	Plant Protection Officer	Member	4/194-A, CGE Colony, 5th Street, Tuticorin 628003.	8489110444	
7	Animal Quarantine Officer or his/her representative	Member	Animal Quarantine Certification Service Station, Velacherry Mam Road, Pallikaranai, Chennai 601302.	044-22460659	
8	Dy. Director, Textile Committee or his/her representative	Member	Raj Chambers, 978-A, Thadagam Road, Coimbatore. 641002.	0422-2473094 0422-2478758	cbe.tc.@nic.in
9	Additional Director, WLCCP or his/her representative	Member	Regional Dy. Director, Wild Life Crime Central Bureau, C2A, Rajaji Bhavan, Besant Nagar, Chennai. 600090.	044-24916706	santhivccb@gmail.com
10	District Environment Engineer, TNPCB	Member	C7 & C9, SIPCOT Industrial Complex, Meelavittan, Tuticorin 680 008.	0461-2324705	

4 Since the aforementioned regulatory agencies are critical contributors to the Customs clearance process of imported and export goods, a delay in receipt of a clearance from one regulatory agency holds up the Customs clearance of the said goods. Lack of adequate infrastructure in the seaport or airport or testing laboratories etc. also contribute to delay in the clearance of imported and export goods. Any other deficiency on account of other stakeholders also enhances the dwell time of cargo as well as the overall turnaround time of carriers. Another important reason for the delay is the improper coordination or absence of efficient coordination amongst Government agencies and other stakeholders involved in the Customs clearance process. Therefore, a view has emerged that these deficiencies can be best removed by institutionalizing at each seaport and airport an administrative mechanism with responsibility of expeditious Customs clearance of imported and export goods and for resolving related trade grievances in a time bound manner.

5 Accordingly, the Central Board of Excise and Customs, New Delhi has decided to set up a Customs Clearance Facilitation Committee (CCFC) at every major Customs seaport and airport with immediate effect with senior-most functionary of the other departments/agencies/stakeholders:

6 Accordingly a CCFC is set up in Tuticorin under Commissioner of Customs, Custom House, New Harbour Estate, Tuticorin-628 004 with members of the Committee are as per the annexure to this Public Notice.

7 The terms of Reference of the CCFC are as follows:

- (i) Ensuring and monitoring expeditious clearance of imported and export goods in accordance with the timeline specified by the parent ministry/Department concerned;
- (ii) Identifying and resolving bottlenecks, if any, in the clearance procedure of imported and export goods;
- (iii) Initiating Time Release Studies for improvement in the clearance time of imported and export goods;
- (iv) Having internal consultations to speed up the clearance process of imported and export goods and recommending best practices thereto for consideration of CBEC / Departments / Agencies concerned; and
- (v) Resolving grievances of members of the trade and industry in regard to clearance process of imported and export goods.

8 The CCFC shall meet once a month or more frequently, if considered necessary by the chair.

(Issued from File C.No.VIII/48/10/2015-Cus.Pol dated: 27.04.2015)


(P.V.SUBBARAO)
COMMISSIONER

To
As per Mailing List I, II and III,

F. No. 450/25/2013-Cus IV (Pt.)
Government of India
Ministry of Finance
Department of Revenue
(Central Board of Excise and Customs)

New Delhi, dated 18.05.2015.

To,
All Chief Commissioners of Customs / Customs (Preventive)
All Chief Commissioners of Customs and Central Excise
All Commissioners of Customs / Customs (Preventive)
All Commissioners of Customs and Central Excise

Sir /Madam

Subject: Dispensing with SDF form - reg.

Government has taken number of measures to enhance the ease of doing business. In this direction, a Committee constituted by Ministry of Commerce and Industry has also recommended the reduction of documents for import and export of goods in order to reduce transaction cost.

2. As per the extant provisions, an exporter is required to submit the SDF form along with Shipping Bills for export of goods. RBI has recently dispensed with the SDF in case of exports taking place through the EDI ports vide Foreign Exchange Management (Export of Goods and Services) (Amendment) Regulations, 2015' and A.P. (DIR Series) Circular No 101, dated 14.05.2015. Consequently, RBI has desired that the declaration of foreign exchange remittance under the Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999 (given below) may be made a part of the Shipping Bill.

"I/We undertake to abide by provisions of Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999, as amended from time to time, including realization / repatriation of foreign exchange to / from India."

DGFT has endorsed this proposal.

3. Accordingly, Board has issued Notification No 46/2015-Customs (N.T.), dated 18.05.2015 to incorporate the aforementioned declaration in lieu of SDF form in the Shipping Bill. Thus, declaration as mentioned in para 2 above should be furnished by exporters as part of the declaration in the Shipping Bill with immediate effect.

4. Chief Commissioners of Customs / Chief Commissioners of Customs and Central Excise are advised to sensitize the field formation working under their jurisdiction and issue suitable Public Notice / Trade Notice for guidance of trade and public.

5. Difficulty faced, if any, in implementation of aforementioned guidelines may be brought to the notice of the Board at an early date.

Yours faithfully,

(Pawan Khetan)
OSD (Cus-IV)