



वित्त मंत्रालय / Ministry of Finance

राजस्व विभाग / Department of Revenue

सीमा शुल्क आयुक्त कार्यालय / Office of the Commissioner of Customs

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PUBLIC NOTICE NO. 34 /2017

Subject: Customs - Implementing Electronic Sealing for Containers by exporters under Self-Sealing procedure prescribed by Circular 26/2017-Cus. Dated 1st July,2017 and Circular 36/2017 dated 28th August, 2017 - Reg.

Attention of all Exporters /Importers/Custom Brokers/ Clearing Agents / Steamer Agents/Shipping agents/Trade and Industry and Public is invited to the Board's Circular No.37/2017-Customs dated 20.9.2017 on the above subject. Representations have been received from several associations seeking information on the availability of RFID Tamper Proof One-time-bolt container seals. Several potential vendors have communicated with the Board & field formations regarding availability of seals and their intention to provide reader devices (for reading the seals) at select or all ports/ICDs. To clarify these issues, Board has issued the Circular No.37/2017, which may be downloaded from Board's website and carefully perused for details. Some of the important aspects of the above Circular are highlighted below-

2. In order to ensure that electronic seals deployed are of a reliable quality, the Board has adopted international standards laid down under ISO 17712:2013 for high security seals and prescribed that vendors intending to offer RFID seals should furnish certifications required under the ISO standard (para 3 of circular No.36/2017 dated 28.8.2017 refers).

3.1 To ensure uniformity in acceptance of the certificates submitted by vendors, required under ISO 17712:2013, it has been decided that all vendors proposing to offer RFID Tamper Proof One-Time-Bolt Container Seals to exporters for self-sealing, must submit self-attested certificates from seal manufacturers to the Director (Customs), CBEC, North Block, New Delhi before commencing sales. Where the certification is found to comply with the requirements of the ISO standard, the names of such vendors shall be put up on the Board's website (www.cbec.gov.in) for ease of reference of the trade and field formations, as soon as they are received.

3.2 The vendors shall also produce a contract or communication between the vendor and manufacturer, to serve as a link document and undertake that the seals for which ISO certifications are submitted are the same seals pressed into service.

3.3 Any time a vendor changes his manufacturer-supplier, he shall provide the documentation referred in para 3 of circular 36/2017-Customs to the CBEC, before offering the seals for sale.

3.4 Clarifications have also been sought regarding the type/specification of the web-hosted application. While each vendor may develop and design their own web-enabled application, the data elements prescribed under para 4 (a) of circular 36/2017-Customs have to be incorporated. For the purposes of consistency in process of communication with the customs stations and the RMD, each vendor shall provide information as specified in para 4 (b) of circular 36/2017-Customs to the department by email in excel format or any other format that may be specified by any field formation or RMD. This would permit ease of consolidation of multiple feeds at the customs station and data integration.

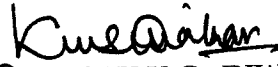
3.5 As a measure of data integrity and security of sealing, vendors are also required to ensure that the Tag Identification (TID) number is captured in their data base and the IEC code of the exporter is linked to the same at the time of sale of the seals. Upon reading at the Port / ICD, the software application shall ensure that the seal's identity is checked with its TID. Beyond this prescribed minimum feature, vendors will remain free to build upon any other features of RFID system for enhancing security / functionalities.

4. For the ease of reference of the exporters, vendors are advised to publicise on their website, name of each port / ICD where they have provided readers. Custodians and Customs brokers are also advised to proactively engage with vendors regarding availability of reading facilities at container terminals and ICDs so that there is no dislocation to logistics operations.

5. Considering the difficulties expressed by trade associations in locating vendors of RFID seals, the Board has decided that the date for mandatory self-sealing and use of RFID container seals is deferred to 1st November, 2017. The existing practice may continue till such time. It is also provided that exporters are free to voluntarily adopt the new self-sealing procedure based upon RFID sealing, if readers are in place at the customs station of export from 1.10.2017. .

6. Apprehensions have been expressed by some associations and trade bodies regarding the availability of reading facilities in hinterland ICDs. In view thereof, custodians of ICDs are requested to facilitate the process of receiving handheld readers or installation of fixed readers at the ICDs and to approach the Board in case readers are not made available by vendors at any ICD by 13th October, 2017.

7. Difficulties, if any, may be brought to the notice of this Office.


(के.वी.वी.जी. दिवाकर/K.V.V.G. DIWAKAR)
आयुक्त / COMMISSIONER

C.No.VIII/48/06/2016-Cus.Pol. (PF)
Customs Policy Section,
Custom House, Tuticorin.
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