ICEDASH - Indian Customs EODB Dashboard

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ICEDASH is the Ease of Doing Business monitoring dashboard of the Indian Customs helping the public see the daily Customs clearance times of import cargo at all the major customs stations. The informative dashboard has been designed in collaboration with @ NICMeity and can be viewed at https://www.icegate.gov.in/Webappl/EODB wherein the clearances time of all Bills of Entry imported at various Customs Houses at Sea Ports, Air cargo complexes and ICDs can be viewed and can be compared to each other. This is aimed at improved monitoring and pace of Customs clearance of imported goods.

The world customs organization (WCO) has dedicated the year 2019 to the swift and smooth cross-border movement of goods, people and means of transport, with the slogan "**SMART borders for seamless Trade, Travel and Transport**." **SMART** stands for Secure, Measurable, Automated, Risk Management based and Technology driven. Customs, working with other agencies at the border, plays a pivotal role in facilitating trade and travel, and acting as the **Central Connecting and Coordinating Hub**. Customs, therefore, are making all out efforts in ensuring that the technology is leveraged to enhance the taxpayer services.

Time taken in customs clearance including the Documentary Compliance and Border Compliance are important parameters to evaluate. National Committee on Trade Facilitation (NCTF) has revised the medium term targets for Ease of doing business (EODB) time lines for release of cargo for imports as within 48 hours for Sea Cargo and within 24 hours for Air Cargo, Inland Container Depot and Land Customs Station. Indian Customs is doing all out efforts in order to bring down the same to within the target limit of 48 hours.

The public can view and compare the timelines for Bills of Entry (BEs) which are out of charged on a day along with the time taken for clearance for imports by AIR/ SEA or through ICD wise and ACC/Port wise across India. The dashboard shows total Bills of entry which are out of charged and %age of BEs cleared in < 48 hours, cleared between 48 and 72 hours; and cleared in >48 hours. The dashboard shows the performance in different colors as well with %age of BEs cleared within 48 hours shown in green.

ICEDASH is a landmark initiative towards transparency and towards making import clearances smooth across all ports in India. It will also help measure the efficacy of the various steps being in view of the implementation of the Trade Facilitation agreement which India has committee to fully implement-included the category B measures- by February, 2022. The TF Agreement encourages Customs to publish their measurement and average release times of goods.

The manner in which the Customs and other border agencies handle cargo at the borders significantly impacts the national competitiveness of the country. Cumbersome border clearance procedures are now posing greater barriers to trade than tariffs do; thus increasing transaction costs and lengthening delays to the clearance of imports, exports and transit goods. Accordingly, the simplification and harmonization of Customs procedures has always been high on the agenda of Customs reforms and modernization programs and especially are at the core of WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement.