



प्रधान मुख्य आयुक्त सीमा शुल्क का कार्यालय,
OFFICE OF THE PR. CHIEF COMMISSIONER OF CUSTOMS,
 मुंबई जोन -I, दूसरी मंज़िल, नवीन सीमा शुल्क भवन, बेलार्ड इस्टेट,
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07-03-2024

**MINUTES OF CUSTOMS CLEARANCE FACILITATION COMMITTEE
 (CCFC) MEETING OF MUMBAI CUSTOMS, ZONE-I HELD ON 01.03.2024
 AT NEW CUSTOMS HOUSE, MUMBAI**

The 11th meeting of the Customs Clearance Facilitation Committee (CCFC) for the Financial Year 2023-24 of Mumbai Customs Zone-I for the month of February 2024 was held on 01.03.2024 (Friday) at 1200 Hrs in the Conference Hall, 2nd Floor, New Customs House, Mumbai under the Chairmanship of Shri Pramod Kumar Agrawal, Principal Chief Commissioner of Customs, Mumbai Zone-I.

2. The following officers/representatives attended the meeting:

SN.	Name	Designation
1	Shri Sunil Jain	Pr. Commissioner of Customs (G)
2	Shri Ashok Kumar P. Kothari	Commissioner of Customs (Audit)
3	Shri Vivek Pandey	Commissioner of Customs (Import-I)
4	Ms. Priya Goel	Commissioner of Customs (Import-II)
5	Ms. Hemlata Rai	Additional Commissioner of Customs, PCCO
6	Shri Neelesh Rautkar	Additional Commissioner of Customs, (Import-II)
7	Shri Mallinath Jeure	Additional Commissioner of Customs, (Import-I)
8	Shri Ajit U. Nair	Assistant Commissioner of Customs, PCCO
9	Shri D. R. Pardeshi	Assistant Commissioner of Customs, Export
10	Dr Karuna Dhale	FSSAI
11	Shri P. N. Wasnik	Assistant Director (Labs), Textiles Committee
12	Ms Suchita Ambetkar	O/o Assistant Drugs Controller (I)
13	Shri Dushyant Mulani	President, BCBA
14	Shri Mark S Fernandes	IMC Chamber of Commerce & Industry

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15	Shri Paresh K. Thakkar	BCBA
16	Shri Kiran Rambhia	BCBA
17	Shri Harsh Lapsia	BCBA
18	Shri Sanjeev Harale	BCBA
19	Shri Jitendra G. Vichare	Sunrich Logistic Pvt Ltd
20	Shri Sagar B Dabolkar	ISS Shipping
21	Shri Shriyal D Desai	ISS Shipping

3. At the outset, the Chairman extended his greetings and welcomed the members of the PGAs and trade representatives to the meeting of Mumbai Customs Zone-I. The Chair informed the trade members of the meeting held on 07.02.2024 organized by Mumbai Customs Zone I with the Top 25 importers of the Zone and the agenda points discussed in the said meeting. He emphasized that such measures help in trade facilitation and ease of doing business.

4. The Chair then enquired regarding the agenda points for the meeting. Ms Hemlata Rai, Additional Commissioner of Customs, Pr.Chief Commissioners Office (PCCO) informed that no agenda points have been received and she drew the attention of the Chair towards the action taken on the points discussed during the last meeting held on 31.01.2024.

4.1 In the last meeting, Shri Dushyant Mulani, had proposed that a meeting could be held between the Importers/Customs Brokers and the Commissioners of Customs, Import-I and Import-II to seek an explanation for delay in payment of duty. However, no such meeting has taken place. Shri Vivek Pandey, Commissioner (Import-I), drew the attention of the Chair towards the fact that major Bills of Entry which are due for duty payment belong to the following four categories.

- a. Bills of Entry with deferred duty payment
- b. Ex-Bond Bills of Entry
- c. Advance Bills of Entry
- d. Delay in regular clearance

He added that out of these four categories, Ex-Bond Bills of Entry contribute the most in delay of duty payment at large, affecting dwell time as well as revenue.

The Chair urged the trade members to pay duty on time for Ex-Bond Bills of Entry also or plan accordingly. Shri Dushyant Mulani, President, BCBA agreed to the proposal.

5. Ms Hemlata Rai, Additional Commissioner of Customs (PCCO) then presented the PowerPoint Presentation displaying the average time taken by importers for payment of duty after Assessment of Bills of Entry and time taken by the importers for replying to the queries raised.

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- i. Ms Hemlata Rai, Additional Commissioner of Customs (PCCO) informed that the average time taken for payment of duty from assessment has slightly increased for the month of February 2024 in comparison to the month of January 2024.
- ii. Ms Hemlata Rai, Additional Commissioner of Customs (PCCO) further briefed the Chair that in the month of February 2024, the number of Bills of Entry wherein duty is paid on the same day has improved with respect to the month of January 2024. She added that as compared to January 2024, number of Bills of Entry wherein duty is paid within 2-3 days from the date of assessment, remains unchanged in the month of February 2024 and the number of Bills of Entry, wherein duty has been paid between 10-30 days and more than 30 days, from the date of assessment has decreased in February 2024.

The Chair stated that the duty payment should be made within 3 days after assessment and urged Trade participants to take note of the same.

6. As regards the time taken by the importers to reply to the queries raised, Ms Hemlata Rai, Additional Commissioner of Customs (PCCO) informed that during the month of February 2024, the queries replied to 'within less than 6 hours' has decreased as compared to January 2024. The queries replied 'between 6-24 hours' in the month of February 2024 in comparison to the month of January 2024 remains at the same level. The queries replied 'between 24-72 hours' in the month of February 2024 in comparison to the month of January 2024 has also improved. As regards the query replied in 'more than 3 days' an improvement is seen in the month of February as compared to the corresponding data of January 2024.

7. The Chair stated that the number of queries raised for the month of February 2024 has reduced even further owing to constant monitoring at the senior level. The Chair then suggested that any issues in line with the representation received in the meeting of Top 25 Importers held on 27.02.2024 regarding liquid bulk, free period at MbPA, secured berthing area etc., can be discussed. He suggested to the trade representatives to submit sufficient economic grounds to the MbPA, so the feasibility of the demands may be assessed by MbPA.

8. Shri Dushyant Mulani, President, BCBA, conveyed gratitude that NACIN has collaborated with them for imparting training to the probationers of Embarkation Headquarters on the procedures of Import and Export.

9. Shri Dushyant Mulani informed that there is some confusion over the provisions of para 8.3 and 9.1 of Circular No.5/2016 dated 09.02.2016 regarding the acceptance of value in SVB cases. He added that many a times, CHAs are being asked by FAG officers to upload IR on E-sanchit, which they do not possess as it is an internal document of Customs. The Chair asked for specific instances, if any, pertaining to Mumbai Customs Zone I. The trade representatives could not provide

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any such specific instances pertaining to Mumbai Customs Zone I. The Chair insisted that such irregularity, if any, must be brought to the notice of the Chair. The Chair also directed Commissioner (Import-II) to start the practice of issuing letters to importers, if not being issued already, intimating the acceptance/non-acceptance of value in all cases.

10. Shri Kiran Rambhia, BCBA, requested an update regarding the non-functional scanners at CSD, Mumbai Customs Zone I. The Chair assured that the issue of non-functional Scanners is being raised at various forums. Shri Vivek Pandey, Commissioner of Customs (Import-I), informed the Chair that the Directorate of Logistics is currently negotiating for the procurement of scanners. The Chair further informed that automation of processes of Customs is underway and suggestions for the same was solicited from trade.

11. The Chair showed concern regarding the fact that even after the introduction of the amnesty scheme for advance authorization by DGFT, very few importers have availed of the benefit. Shri Dushyant Mulani responded that they have also circulated the details of the said Amnesty Scheme. The Chair emphasized that BCBA must exert its members to take benefit of such good schemes.

12. The Chair observed that on perusal of orders passed by Tribunal and various adjudicating authorities, it is sometimes found that there are lapses or non-compliance on the part of Customs Brokers. The Chair emphasized that the stakeholders of the International Trade must be well versed with the procedures involved. The Chair directed Pr. Commissioner (G) to draw a SOP, in consultation with BCBA, to ensure that Customs Brokers are well versed regarding their role/obligation. Shri Dushyant Mulani, President, BCBA welcomed the proposal and asked for 15 days to discuss the proposal before submission of comments to Pr. Commissioner (G). Shri Mark S Fernandes added to the discussion that they would make it mandatory for all their Members to sign an undertaking that they will regard the customs compliance with utmost sincerity or their licences will not be renewed.

13. Shri Paresh K. Thakkar cited the example of a Public Notice regarding amendment of the Bills of Entry, issued by JNPT and requested the Chair for issuance of a Public Notice along the same lines. The Chair directed Commissioner Import-I & Import-II for the issuance of a similar Public Notice.

14. Ms Hemlata Rai, Additional Commissioner of Customs (Export) informed the Chair that Export Commissionerate of Mumbai Customs Zone I has huge pendency of EPCG and DEEC/AA licences for want of EODC/Redemption Letters from DGFT, and a special drive has been started for the closure of such licences. She added that the Export Commissionerate desires co-operation of trade representatives in making this

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drive successful. Shri Dushyant Mulani, BCBA assured the chair that BCBA would also widely circulate the details of the said drive among their peers.

15. Ms Priya Goel, Commissioner, Import-II added to the discussion that there is huge pendency of SVB cases in Import-II Commissionerate. She requested for co-operation of trade representatives in order to clear the pendency. Shri Dushyant Mulani, BCBA agreed to co-operate for the same. The Chair then directed Commissioner, Import-II to share the list of SVB cases with BCBA.

16. As there was no further points for discussion, the meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the Chair.

This issues with the approval of Pr. Chief Commissioner of Customs, Mumbai Zone-I.

HEMLATA RAI
ADDITIONAL COMMISSIONER

Copy to:

1. Under Secretary, (CUS IV), CBIC, North Block, New Delhi.
2. All Commissioners of Customs, Mumbai Zone I.
3. All the Members of the CCFC Meeting by email.
4. BCBA, Mumbai by email.
5. AC/DC,EDI (with a request to upload the minutes on the Zonal website Office).