

Advisory on
Sea Cargo Manifest and Transshipment Regulations 2018

It is to inform that Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Custom (CBIC) vide notification No. 38/2018-Cus (NT) dated 11.05.2018 read with notification No. 65/2018-Cus (NT) dated 30.07.2018 and 88/2018-Cus(NT) dated 30.10.2018 have notified Sea Cargo Manifest and Transshipment Regulations 2018, which came into force on 1st of March, 2019. This regulation supersedes the earlier regulations of Import Manifest (Vessels) Regulations, 1971, Export Manifest (Vessels) Regulation, 1976 and Transportation of Goods (Through Foreign Territory) Regulations of 1965. The new regulation stipulates changes in timelines and requirements for advance notice by shipping lines (vessels) arriving in India and Exports through shipping lines (vessels) out of India.

The Indian Entity representing the Master of the vessel shall have to be registered with the Indian Customs to transact business under the new regulations and shall be called Authorised Sea Carriers(ASC). The agents acting on behalf of the Authorised Sea Carrier(ASC) shall be called as Authorised Sea Agents (ASA). As per the new regulations, the Authorised Sea Carrier (ASC)/Authorised Sea Agent (ASA) shall submit an Arrival Manifest electronically, prior to departure from the last port of call to the Indian Port of call. And similarly submit a Departure Manifest electronically before departure from the Indian Port of call. The submission of Arrival and Departure Manifest shall have to be complied with by the ASC/ASA before departure from the last port/customs station of call to every Indian customs station and Departure then on respectively.

Registration/Application process to operate under New Sea Cargo Manifest and Transshipment Regulations (SCMTR),2018 is now open at ICEGATE Web Portal <https://icegate.gov.in>. Please login with your ICEGATE ID/Password to submit the application. Non-registered users can first register themselves as per Registration Advisories available under Downloads Section on ICEGATE website home page and the details of the application process has

been given in the Technical Guide also available under Downloads Section on ICEGATE website home page.

After submission, the application will be routed to ICES for approval by jurisdictional customs officer. The Appraising Officer (EDI) is authorized officer for approval of the application in ICES application from (Ent_APR) role at this port. Appraising Officer (EDI) will verify all the pending applications along with the supporting documents like address proof etc., approve them and wherever necessary, raise a query to the applicant.

It is also informed that one of the first manifests which is being developed under the new regulations is the Customs Inland Manifest (CIM) which would cover the inland movement of any cargo. The CIM to be filed by the exporters availing the facility of e-Seal as per Board's circular 26/2017 dated 01.07.2017 read with circular 36/2017 dated 28.08.2017 has now been made operational. The CIM will have to be filed by the exporter just before the export cargo leaves the factory/premises of the exporter and would help in tracking the cargo till it reaches the port of export. The technical guidance on the SCMTR including the Customs Inland Manifest, and the message format of CIM have both been uploaded on ICEGATE web portal for the benefit of the Trade. The CIM will have to be filed for each rail/truck carrying the cargo separately but can have cargo pertaining to multiple Shipping Bills. It is requested that outreach sessions may be conducted for exporters availing the benefit of e-Seal to:

A. Obtain ICEGATE registration immediately, if not obtained already, and submit application from their login to operate under the new regulations.

B. Go through the technical guidance note and message format of the CIM and start filing the same. To assist the exporters, a downloadable Excel based utility has also been made available on ICEGATE. The exporters can use this utility to fill the required information for CIM and generate the required JSON file automatically which can be sent to ICEGATE by email at the designated email id.

C. Start filing the Shipping Bills in advance since the SB number has to be quoted in the CIM, which in turn has to be filed before the goods leave exporter's premises.

The CIM filed by the exporters for the e-Sealed cargo would have, among other things, the details of the vehicle, containers and the respective e-Seals. These details would be shared with RMS for real time tracking of the cargo from the exporter's premises till the port of export. On arrival of the vehicle at the port of export too, the preventive officer at the gate (PREV_OFF) has been given the option in the System to enter the CIM number and check the actual vehicle/seal/details against the declarations made in the CIM. The preventive officer can enter whether or not the details match and whether e-Seal has been tampered with, depending on the reading from the e-Seal reader device. These details will also be shared with RMS to further strengthen its risk analysis. This would further help RMS in facilitating e-Sealed cargo without examination wherever e-Seal is found to be intact and untampered, thereby benefitting the exporters.

The option for CIM approval is given in PREV_OFF role. The vehicle, container and e-Seal details will be displayed on the main manifest tab for verification. The officer will have to submit his report on this screen by feeding status for each container and e-Seal in the Cont. Code and Seal Code fields. For a more detailed verification before submission, other details of cargo and supporting documents can also be verified by the officer.

It is decided that various stakeholders, from shipping lines to custodians, exporters using the e-Seal facility as per Board's Circular No.26/2017 dated 01.07.2017 read with Circular No. 36/2017 dated 28.08.2017, may immediately submit the application on the ICEGATE portal.