



प्रधान मुख्य आयुक्त सीमा शुल्क का कार्यालय,  
**OFFICE OF THE PR. CHIEF COMMISSIONER OF CUSTOMS,**  
 मुंबई जोन -I, दूसरी मंज़िल, नवीन सीमा शुल्क भवन , बेलाई इस्टेट,  
**MUMBAI ZONE-I, 2<sup>nd</sup> FLOOR, NEW CUSTOM HOUSE,**  
**BALLARD ESTATE, मुंबई/ MUMBAI- 400 001.**  
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**MINUTES OF THE CUSTOMS CLEARANCE FACILITATION  
 COMMITTEE (CCFC) MEETING OF MUMBAI CUSTOMS, ZONE-I HELD ON  
 26.06.2024 AT NEW CUSTOM HOUSE, MUMBAI.**

The 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the Customs Clearance Facilitation Committee (CCFC) for the Financial Year 2024-25 of Mumbai Customs Zone-I for the month of June 2024 was held on 26.06.2024 (Wednesday) at 11:30 Hrs in the Conference Hall, 2nd Floor, New Custom 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 Vivek Pandey	Commissioner of Customs (Import-I)
3	Shri Aslam Hasan	Commissioner of Customs (Export)
4	Smt. Priya Goel	Commissioner of Customs (Import-II)
5	Shri Kundan Yadav	Additional Commissioner of Customs (G)
6	Smt. Hemlata Rai	Additional Commissioner of Customs, PCCO
7	Shri Rajesh Kothari	Additional Commissioner of Customs, (Audit)
8	Shri Mallinath K Jeure	Additional Commissioner of Customs, (Import-I)

9	Shri Amit Kumar Nikalje	Joint Commissioner of Customs (Import-I)
10	Shri Ajit U. Nair	Assistant Commissioner of Customs, PCCO
11	Dr Karuna Dhale	FSSAI
12	Shri Naresh Amgoth	Plant Quarantine
13	Shri Jayant Kulkarni	Textile Committee
14	Shri Dushyant Mulani	President, BCBA
15	Shri Mark S Fernandes	IMC Chamber of Commerce & Industry
16	Shri Omprakash Agrawal	Director, Nagarkot Forwarders Pvt. Ltd.
17	Shri Harsh Lapsia	BCBA
18	Shri. Tej Contractor	BCBA
19	Shri Kiran More	ISS Shipping

3. At the outset, the Chairman extended his greetings and welcomed the members of the PGAs and trade representatives to the meeting.

4. The trade partners' representatives expressed their gratitude to Chair, noting that the efficiency of Mumbai Customs Zone-I has not rendered any specific agenda point for the meeting. Shri Dushyant Mulani highlighted that, under the Chair's leadership, issues are promptly addressed as they emerge. Shri Mark S. Fernandes emphasized that Mumbai Customs Zone-I is unique in consistently holding monthly CCFC meetings as compared to other zones and swiftly resolving issues. The Chair graciously accepted the commendation and attributed the success to the hard work of the Mumbai Customs Zone-I team.

5. The Chair then enquired regarding the action taken on the points discussed during the last meeting dated 24.05.2024 and for on the spot agenda points, if any. Smt. Hemlata Rai, Additional Commissioner of Customs (PCCO), informed the Chair regarding the action taken on the points discussed during the last meeting dated 24.05.2024 as below:

5.1 In the last meeting dated 24.05.2024 the Chair instructed the concerned Addl. Commissioner of Customs, Import-II, and Joint Commissioner of Customs, General, to examine the matter received from All India Liquid Bulk

Importers and Exporters Association (AILBIEA) via their email dated 22.05.2024 regarding the testing of denatured ethyl alcohol. Smt. Priya Goel, Commissioner of Customs (Import-II), reported that a detailed analysis has been conducted on this matter. Emphasizing the importance of balancing trade facilitation and revenue considerations, the Chair highlighted the need to find a solution. Consequently, the Chair directed Commissioner of Customs (Import-II) to come out with Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) in this matter.

5.2 In the last meeting dated 24.05.2024, the Chair directed the Pr. Commissioner of Customs (General) to draft a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) of Custom Broker's roles and obligations in consultation with the BCBA. Shri Dushyant Mulani informed the chair that a draft proposal submission has been made by BCBA a few days ago. Pr. Commissioner of Customs (G) informed the Chair that so far the draft SOP has not been received. The Chair then instructed the Pr. Commissioner of Customs (General) that on receiving of SOP, the proposal be thoroughly reviewed and to form a Committee based on its findings.

5.3 During the last meeting dated 24.05.2024, it was reported that a Public Notice regarding Amendments in Bill of Entry/Shipping Bill etc, is in its final stage. Shri Vivek Pandey, Commissioner of Customs (Import-I), informed the Chair that only two sections of the notice remain pending: (i) Pre-approval of amendment from higher official by opening file by the proper officer (ii) B/E amendment after assessment. Regarding the second point, it was pointed out that after assessment there are two kinds of amendment viz. Typographical error such as Bond amendment, Bond Value amendment, IGM amendment which can be done at PAG and other is where reassessment is required such as inclusion of invoice etc. which necessarily amend the B/E, need to be forwarded to FAG. The Chair then directed the Commissioner of Customs, Import-I, to finalize the Public Notice after carefully reviewing the reassessment procedure following amendments.

5.4 In the previous meeting dated 24.05.2024, it was reported that a working group has been formed to analyze the queries raised in Bills of Entry (Bs/E) in collaboration with trade representatives. Shri Vivek Pandey, Commissioner of Customs (Import-I), informed that in the last PTFC meeting, Trade Representatives had presented their findings in a PowerPoint Presentation for three months data. The Chair inquired about the effects and benefits of this exercise. Shri Harsh Lapsia, BCBA, informed the Chair that the formation of the working group has led to a better understanding of how queries are raised. Shri Sunil Jain, Pr. Commissioner of Customs (G), added that this exercise helped to identify whether queries were necessary and if second or third queries for different documents can be merged into one. The Chair

emphasized on the quality i.e. standardization and quantity i.e. weeding out unnecessary queries. Further in the study it should be studied that why the query was raised and why trade is not replying in a timely manner.

5.5 In the last meeting held on 24th May 2024, Shri Harsh Lapsia, BCBA, brought attention to the Port Enterprise Business Solution proposed by MbPA. The Chair enquired whether BCBA made any representation with MbPA. Shri Harsh Lapsia, BCBA, informed that they has submitted a representation to MbPA to which the Chair proposed to share a copy of his representation with the office. The Chair then inquired about the challenges faced by the trade due to the implementation of the new system. Shri Harsh Lapsia mentioned that iPortman; the port management system is live from the last 15 days. Further he informed that the implementation is outsourced and therefore the MbPA staff is not well versed with the system and in most of the cases manual allow/gate-pass is taken by trade from Custodian i.e. MbPA which is causing significant delays and hindering cargo clearance. Subsequently, the Chair requested the trade community to send a formal representation to this office regarding these issues.

6. Shri Mark S Fernandes brought the issue of implementation of SCMTR to the notice of the Chair. He added that the above said regulations should be implemented in a piece meal manner with continuous analysis of impact on trade facilitation and revenue. Shri Dushyant Mulani added to the point that proper training with respect to SCMTR should be imparted to all relevant officers and custodian before holding such charge. The Chair then directed Pr. Commissioner of Customs (G), to arrange for training of officers/sections concerned. The Chair also directed for creation of a local helpdesk and issuance of a Public Notice for SCMTR related matters.

7. Shri Dushyant Mulani informed the Chair that RMS sometimes pick a B/E and assign it to FSSAI for products which are not covered by FSSAI. This causes unnecessary delay in the clearance. The chair then inquired about the same and Dr Karuna Dhale, FSSAI, confirmed that in some cases it happens. She further added that FSSAI is preparing a list of commodities, which are covered by them, and it will be shared with Customs for further easing the issue. The Chair then requested Shri Dushyant Mulani to submit a detailed representation to the office on the said matter so the same may be taken up/discussed with NCTC.

8 . With permission of the the Chair, Ms. Hemlata Rai, Additional Commissioner of Customs (PCCO), presented a PowerPoint displaying the average time taken by importers to pay duty after assessment of Bills of Entry, as well as the time taken by importers to respond to queries raised:

i. Ms. Hemlata Rai informed that the average time taken for duty payment after assessment had worsened in May '24 compared to March '24 and April '24.

ii. She further highlighted a concern that there was a reduction in Bills of Entry where duty was paid on the same day or within 3 days of assessment in May 2024, with an increase in Bills of Entry where duty was paid between 10-30 days and more than 30 days after assessment. The Chair emphasized the importance of paying duty within 3 days of assessment and urged Trade representatives/Customs Brokers to take note.

iii. Regarding the time taken by importers to reply to queries, Ms. Hemlata Rai noted improvements in responses within less than 6 hours and between 6-24 hours in May 2024 compared to March '24 and April '24. However, there was an increase in responses taking more than 3 days, compared to April '24, which is concerning.

The Chair acknowledged these points, noting a decrease in queries raised in May 2024 due to senior-level monitoring. He expressed that as a working group to analyse queries has been formed, this trend will further enhance. The Chair expressed concern that delays in responding to queries adversely affect dwell time and urged prompt action from the trade in this regard.

9. As there were 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).