

	<p>मुख्य आयुक्त सीमा शुल्क का कार्यालय OFFICE OF THE CHIEF COMMISSIONER OF CUSTOMS मुंबई जोन -I, दूसरी मंजिल, नवीन सीमा शुल्क भवन ,बेलाड इस्टेट, MUMBAI ZONE-I, 2nd FLOOR, NEW CUSTOM HOUSE, BALLARD ESTATE, मुंबई/ MUMBAI-400 001</p> <p>दूरभाष स० /Phone No. 022-2262 0091 Email: ccu- cusmum1@nic.in</p>
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05-12-2024

**MINUTES OF THE CUSTOMS CLEARANCE FACILITATION
COMMITTEE (CCFC) MEETING OF MUMBAI CUSTOMS, ZONE-I HELD ON
22.11.2024 AT NEW CUSTOM HOUSE, MUMBAI.**

The 7th meeting of the Customs Clearance Facilitation Committee (CCFC) for the Financial Year 2024-25 of Mumbai Customs Zone-I was held on 22.11.2024 (Friday) at 11:00 Hrs in the Conference Hall, 2nd Floor, New Custom House, Mumbai under the Chairmanship of Shri Nitish K. Sinha, Chief Commissioner of Customs, Mumbai Zone-I.

The following officers/representatives attended the meeting:

S.No.	Name	Designation
1	Shri Rajan Chaudhary	Pr. Commissioner of Customs (G)
2	Shri Ashok Kumar P. Kothari	Commissioner of Customs (Audit)
3	Shri Aslam Hassan	Commissioner of Customs (Export)
4	Ms. Priya Goel	Commissioner of Customs (Import-II)
5	Shri Neelesh Rautkar	Additional Commissioner of Customs (Import-II)
6	Shri Amitkumar Nikalje	Joint Commissioner of Customs (CCO)
7	Shri Arshdeep Singh	Joint Commissioner of Customs (Export)
8	Shri Mazid Khan	Joint Commissioner of Customs (G)
9	Shri Nidhish Vinayak Singhal	Joint Commissioner of Customs (Import- I)
10	Shri G. L. Narasimham	Deputy Commissioner, EDI, Export

11	Shri Ajit U. Nair	Assistant Commissioner of Customs, CCO
12	Shri S. Suresh	Assistant Commissioner of Customs, CHS
13	Shri Alok Kumar	Assistant Commissioner, Export
14	Smt. Reena PS	Chemical Examiner, Grade I, CRCL
15	Shri Rajnath Singh	Chemical Examiner, Gr.II, CRCL
16	Shri Praful U. Kamble	Dy. Traffic Manager, MbPA
17	Shri S. K. Chavan	Dy. Traffic Manager
18	Shri V. K. Yadav	Sr. Assistant Traffic Manager, Mumbai Port
19	Ms. Jitha KK	JD, FSSAI
20	Shri Akshda Bane	Technical Officer, FSSAI
21	Smt. Savita P. Rao	Representative for Asstt. Drug Controller
22	Dr. Vivek Uppar	Plant Protection Officer, Regional Plant Quarantine Station
23	Dr. Chethon B R	Plant Protection Officer, Regional Plant Quarantine Station
24	Shri Sanjeev Harale	President, BCBA
25	Shri Vinayais Aparaj	Vice president, BCBA
26	Shri Ganpat Korde	Vice President, BCBA
27	Shri Nirav Thakker	Hon. Secretary, BCBA
28	Shri Kiran Rambhia	BCBA
29	Shri Dushyant Mulani	BCBA
30	Shri Ashok Kumar Saini	BCBA
31	Shri Harsh Lapsia	BCBA

32	Shri Manohar Patnaye	BCBA
33	Shri Karunakar Shetty	Vice President, MACCIA
34	Shri Omprakash Agrawal	MACCIA

3. Shri Amitkumar Nikalje, Joint Commissioner of Customs (CCO) extended a warm welcome to all the attendees and requested the trade representatives and PGAs to introduce themselves to the Chair.

4. After the introduction, the Chair appreciated the ongoing tradition of collaboration among all trade stakeholders. He then extended his greetings and welcomed the PGAs and trade representatives to the meeting.

5. Thereafter, Shri Amitkumar Nikalje, Joint Commissioner of Customs (CCO) informed the chair that no agenda points have been received for the meeting. He further provided update on the actions taken regarding the points discussed in the previous meeting on 07.10.2024, as given below.

5.1 Regarding the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) that outlines the roles and responsibilities of Customs Brokers, it was brought to the notice of the Chair that no draft proposal has been received from BCBA till date. Shri Sanjeev Harale, President, BCBA informed the Chair that the draft proposal is being formulated in a thorough manner taking in the viewpoints and feedback from various BCBA Officer bearers and Association members. The Chair acknowledged that the concerned work is a consultative subject and requested to submit before next CCFC meeting.

Action: BCBA

5.2 In previous meetings, Shri Sanjeev Harale, President BCBA had reported the issue of RMS occasionally assigning Bills of Entry to FSSAI for products outside their scope. He also mentioned that the list has been shared with FSSAI and he was informed that subject issue is arising due to some glitches with the new FSSAI software. Smt. Jitha K.K., JD, FSSAI informed that the software glitches shall be resolved shortly and also mentioned that FSSAI has not yet received a formal representation and comprehensive product list with HSN codes from BCBA. The Chair emphasized the requirement of detailed data so that technical specifications with respect to various products can be addressed properly in consultation with NCTC and Customs. The Chair also suggested BCBA to provide the comprehensive list to FSSAI and to this office for further necessary consultations.

Action: BCBA, FSSAI

5.3 Pr. Commissioner (General), in earlier meetings, was directed to assess the feasibility of imparting training for individuals who pass the CBLR examination and apply for license, as requested by BCBA. Following discussions with BCBA, the Chair indicated that a proposal from BCBA should be submitted for review to determine if it could be implemented. However, no proposal has been received so far. President, BCBA informed that the proposal is ready and various orientation programs for applicants interested in pursuing a career in Customs Broking Business have been conducted by BCBA at multiple locations. The Chair took note of the efforts put in by BCBA and further suggested BCBA to consult with Pr. Commissioner (General) and to find willingness of applicants for training programme and also avenues where Customs can assist in providing training to the interested applicants.

Action: BCBA

5.4 In the last meeting, the Chair had requested MBPA to resolve the connectivity issue in the Docks area without delay so that ICETABs usage can be maximized and quicker submission of examination reports is achieved. Shri S. K. Chavan, Dy. Traffic Manager, MBPA informed that a committee has been formed in this regard and also requested representation from Customs. The Chair directed Pr. Commissioner (General) to quickly nominate an Officer in the Committee formed by MbPA so that the connectivity issue is solved without time lag.

Action: MBPA, Pr. Commissioner (G)

5.5 The successful implementation of SCMTR was also discussed in the meeting and efforts of Shri Aslam Hassan, Commissioner of Customs (Export) and his team was appreciated. The Chair added that SCMTR would soon cover all ports, with Mumbai Port selected as the leading port for its implementation. The Chair emphasized the importance of collaboration and urged the onboarding of all stakeholders. Shri Aslam Hasan informed the Chair that all shipping lines and agents are onboarded and all the 175 vessels have successfully filed declarations under SCMTR. The Chair applauded the smooth functioning of SCMTR and assured that any issues faced by the trade fraternity would be addressed promptly.

5.6 Shri Sanjeev Harale, BCBA had in the last meeting raised the issue that they are not getting the copy of test reports from CRCLs. In this connection, Pr. Commissioner (G), Commissioners Import (I & II) were directed to examine the issue. In this regard, Joint Commissioner (Import I) submitted a PPT outlining the procedure followed by Customs Officers for the clearance of PGA NOCs including CRCL. The same has also been forwarded to BCBA. Further, BCBA

was asked to provide screenshot of 3-4 Bills of Entry where the test report was mandated but the copy of the test report was not received by BCBA. However, no such information has been provided till date. Shri Sanjeev Harale, BCBA informed that the PPT has been received by them but the issue still persists. Smt. Reena PS, Chemical Examiner -I, CRCL, threw light on the functioning of the CRCL module and explained that test reports are uploaded on CRCL module and sent electronically to the Customs/Assessing Officer for further action on their part. Shri Dushyant Mulani, BCBA pointed out that prior to the inception of CRCL module, test reports were received by Importers and Custom Brokers in sealed physical form. He highlighted the difficulty being faced after functioning of CRCL module where Importers and Custom Brokers are not getting real time update about the status of test reports and have to approach Customs/Assessing Officer to check the status. The Chair acknowledged the issue and mentioned that the said matter was discussed during the recent Customs Consultative Group Meeting held on 5th November, 2024. The Chair further stated that the issue is under discussion at Board level and decision is expected.

5.7 In the previous meeting, Shri Sameer Sanghvi, CNS & Co. raised the issue that currently QCO/QCO NOC is required for the steel products specified by the Ministry of Steel for the goods specified in the list. Further, he requested to find the possibility of clearance of goods on the basis on previous NOC. The Chair had asked a formal representation in the matter, however, no such representation has been received till date. However, Shri Sameer Sanghvi was not present during the current meeting. In this regard, Shri Dushyant Mulani, BCBA informed that the issue has already been raised by them, along with other major steel companies, to the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT). Thereafter, the Chair enquired whether any consignments for want of subject NOC are pending at Mumbai Port. It was replied by Shri Mulani, that the issue persists at all major ports. In this regard, the Chair asked Shri Mulani to submit a formal representation if required so that the issue can be resolved in consultation with the concerned Ministry.

Action: BCBA.

5.8 In previous meeting the President, BCBA raised the issue regarding improper handling and storage of the imported cargo in the Mumbai Port. As directed by the Chair, a letter was issued to MBPA and in its response MBPA has replied entailing descriptive aspects about the storage of goods, cargo handling area etc. In the present discussion, the trade took up specific issues pertaining to expensive categories of imported cargo such as Motor Vehicles and highlighted the need for identifying new space, better existing space management and inventory management by Mumbai Port. Representative from

MBPA informed about the limited available space in Port Area and explained its utilization for storing different types of cargo. The Chair acknowledged the challenges faced by trade community in carrying out / expanding their business in Mumbai Port, as well as the challenges faced by Mumbai Port Authority with regard to space constraints. The Chair mentioned that the matter is already taken up at various meetings with Mumbai Port Authority and shall be resolved gradually in due course. The Chair further asked BCBA to submit a detailed formal representation with regard to mishandling and storage of cargo such as Motor Vehicles.

Action: BCBA

6. A new agenda point sponsored by the Chair was also taken up regarding assessment of the need and feasibility of 24X7 Import / Export Cargo Clearances at Mumbai Port. It was stated by the Commissioner (Export) that in compliance with Circular 19/2014-Customs dated 31.12.2014, facility of 24X7 Customs clearance has already been made available in Mumbai Port. As per the present scenario, with regard to Import Customs clearance in Mumbai Port, the assessment and examination is conducted on working days and alternate Saturdays. With regard to Import/Export Custom Clearance in Mumbai Port, Officers are available 24x7 as and when required by the trade. The Chair enquired whether any issues are being faced by trade in Mumbai Port and whether availability of Officers 24x7 especially for Import examination is required. In response to this, the trade expressed that as and when required, officers are being deputed by Customs on holidays. Therefore, they are satisfied with the present arrangement. Hence, no further action on this point was required.

(Point Closed)

7. With permission of the Chair, Shri Amitkumar Nikalje, Joint Commissioner of Customs (CCO), 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. Shri Amitkumar Nikalje informed that the average time taken for duty payment after assessment had remained same with minor change in last three months.

ii. He further highlighted that there was no significant change in number of Bills of Entry where duty was paid on the same day. However, there is increase in no. of Bill of entry where duty was paid within 3 days of assessment in October 2024 with respect to September, 2024. Also, there is no significant change in Bills of Entry where duty was paid between 10-30 days and more

than 30 days after assessment, which remains concerning.

iii. Regarding the time taken by importers to reply to queries, Shri Amitkumar Nikalje highlighted deterioration in responses within less than 6 hours but improvement between 6-24 hours in October 2024 compared to September,2024 and August 2024. However, there was an increase in responses taking more than 3 days, compared to September 2024, which is concerning.

8. Shri Sanjeev Harale, President, BCBA stated that they will analyse the data with respect to queries. The Chair directed Commissioners Import (I & II) to nominate one Officer each to coordinate with BCBA on specific points and find necessary solutions. The Chair further directed to conduct a specific study with respect to number of queries and come up with proper suggestions.

Action: BCBA, Commissioners Import (I & II)

9. Data with respect to the number of BE and SB filed vis-a-vis last years was shown and discussion was undertaken. It is observed that No of SB increased by 17% while No. of BE dropped by 20%. The Chair observed that the 20% shortfall in no of B/Es is not a normal trend and directed the concerned Commissionerates to come up with reasons for decline and suggestions for improvement.

Action: Commissioners Import (I & II)

10. On being asked about to discuss any additional points, Shri Sanjeev Harale, President, BCBA informed that when AEO status of the Customs Broker does not get renewal before the expiry period and get renewed later. The renewed status does not get automatically update on CBLMS portal and Customs Broker need to approach the CBLMS section for updating the same. Shri Harale requested there should be option on CBLMS portal which automatically fetch the data from Directorate of International Customs (DIC) which issues AEO certificate or there should be online option for uploading the AEO certificate even when the status got renewed after expiry period. In this regard, the Chair directed the Pr. Commissioner (General) to look into the issue and engage with DIC to take necessary steps. The Chair enquired whether offence module is functional on CBLMS portal and data is being filled by all the Zones/Commissionerates. It was further directed to make it functional as soon as possible by coordinating with Zones/Commissionerates. Further, Shri Dushyant Mulani, BCBA suggested to integrate the CBLMS portal in alignment with all relevant CBLR regulations.

Action: Pr. Commissioner (General)

11. Dr. Chethan B. R., Asst. Plant Protection Officer, PQ informed that the integration of the Shipping Bills in export is not done in PQMS unlike integration of B/E with PQMS. In this regard, the Chair advised that the issue may be taken up through their Ministry as SWIFT 2.0 system is in the phase of development and expected to be implemented very soon.

Action: PQMS

12. Thereafter, Commissioner (Export) invited attention toward the Facility Notice No. 03/2024 dt. 11.11.2024 regarding monitoring of realisation of export proceeds in RBI BRC Module in ICES that many shipping bills are pending for Bank Realisation Certificate even after expiry of time period for producing the same. This list of such Shipping Bills is provided along with Facility Notice. The Commissioner of Customs (Export) requested trade participants to check Shipping Bills and forward the proof of Export proceeds realisation to Drawback Recovery Cell (DRC) in Export Commissionerate so as to avoid issuance of notices, demand etc. to the extent possible.

13. 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 Chief Commissioner of Customs, Mumbai Zone-I.

(Amitkumar Nikalje)
Joint Commissioner of Customs
CCO, NCH, Mumbai

Copy to:

1. The Under Secretary, Cus(IV), CBIC, North Block, New Delhi.
2. All Pr. Commissioners/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).