

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER OF CUSTOM (EXPORT)
JAWAHARLAL NEHRU CUSTOM HOUSE,
SHEVA, TALUKA-URAN, DISTRICT-RAIGAD,
MAHARASHTRA 400 707.

F.No.S/43-Misc-176/09 PSO JNCH

Dated: 30.09. 2009

STANDING ORDER No. 47/2009

Attention of all the officers of Jawaharlal Nehru Custom House is invited to constitution of Rummaging & Intelligence (R&I) Cell on 17.09.2009, in this Commissionerate. Presently, two teams consisting of one Supdt., two Prev. Officers and two sepoy each will be available inside the Port, round-the-clock. On receipt of the information regarding arrival of Ship/Vessel, from the shipping agent, the boarding officer will inform the Supdt. i/c. of R&I Cell. The rummaging team will board the ship/vessel along with the boarding officer for rummaging the suspect vessel/ship in the port.

2. In a rummage, the entire suspect vessel/ship has to be thoroughly searched for prohibited and restricted goods (viz. drugs, arms & ammunitions, counterfeit currency, obscenities, seditious literature and other goods which have not been declared), which have been concealed in various parts of the ship/vessel which include the engine room, the bridge, officers and crew quarters, cargo hatches, lockers, life boats, paneling of cabins, etc.

3. The Supdt. of the team or the leader of the team will ensure that the officers and sepoy, of the rummaging team take adequate precautions to safeguard themselves as well as vessel/ship under rummaging. Before starting the rummaging, the team must inform the Master of the Vessel or the ship's Chief Officer on duty. They must also inform the engineer concerned before opening any oil tank, water tank, cofferdams, any vital portion of machinery and engine room. They must allow adequate time for escape of gas/fuel, air before entering any tank and they must work in pairs. It should be ensured that all the officers report back to the team leader or Supdt. of the team, before leaving the ship/vessel. No smoking on the vessel/ship is to be strictly observed.

4. If sufficient number of officers and sepoys are not available, only one or two sections, as decided by the leader of the team, can be rummaged and the same must be noted on the log book maintained by the team.

5. The officers of the rummaging team have in law full access to each part of the ship/vessel and have right to break open and search any place, box, etc. to which the access is denied or obstructed. However, care should be taken that the work is conducted in such a manner that it causes the least loss and annoyance.

6. The rummaging is generally carried out under the supervision of Supdt. of the team who will brief the officers to different sections of the ship/vessel unless there is information about a particular spot on the vessel in which case the officers have to concentrate on those specific areas. They must not search vital part of the ship/vessel except in presence of the Ship's Officer. In case such officer refuses to attend, then master of the vessel/ship be asked to present himself during the search. Officers' cabin and crew quarters should not be searched unless the occupants are present.

7. If any prohibited or restricted goods are located, attempt should be made to call two independent and respectable witnesses on board and goods be recovered underpanchanama. In his report, the seizing officer should mention every detail down to the minutest which may have any bearing on the case. All seized goods and exhibits should be properly sealed, labeled and signed by the seizing officer as well as the ship's Officer.

8. In case of any deviation resulting in inconvenience to the shipping company, the trade or the officers, it shall be the duty of the Supdt. i/c. Admn, R&I Cell, to bring it to the notice of the Asstt./Deputy Commissioner of Customs/P(G), Addl Commissioner of Customs/P(G).

(B.K. SINHA)
Commissioner of Customs (Export)