

**OFFICE OF THE CHIEF COMMISSIONER OF CUSTOMS, MUMBAI ZONE-II,
JAWAHARLAL NEHRU CUSTOM HOUSE, NHAVA SHEVA, TALUKA: URAN,
DISTRICT: RAIGAD, MAHARASHTRA-400707.**

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**MINUTES OF CUSTOMS CLEARANCE FACILITATION COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD ON 04.03.2016 AT JNCH**

The 9th Meeting of Customs Clearance Facilitation Committee was held on 04.03.2016 at Jawaharlal Nehru Custom House with the members of Committee and representatives of regulatory agencies and from Trade. Shri Sanjeev Behari, Pr. Chief Commissioner of Customs, Mumbai Zone-II chaired the meeting.

2. Following persons from regulatory agencies and various stakeholders attended the meeting.

Sr. No.	Name of the Organization	Name of the Representative & Designation (S/Shri)
1	RPQS, Mumbai	Dr. K. L. Gurjar, Asstt. Director (PP)
2	Textile Committee	Smt. Vimal Oval, Asstt. Director (Lab.)
3	Drug Controller, JNPT	GulshanTaneja, ADC
4	Drug Controller, JNPT	Arvind Hiwale, Drug Inspector
5	Animal Quarantine	V. Vignesh, Quarantine Inspector
6	Wildlife Crime Control Bureau	B. S. Khati, Inspector
7	CONCOR	RajibBhowal, General Manager (C&O)
8	CIDCO	PranaliBorkar, Dy. Planner
9	JNPT	A.K. Bose, Chief Manager (Traffic)
10	JNPT	Pradeep Kumar, Manager CCL
11	NSICT (DPW)	Capt. B. Fernandes
12	NSICT (DPW)	AbhijitsinhJadeja,- Head - CRM

13	CSLA	Norman Fernandez, Secretary
14	CSLA – CMA CGM	SagarDange
15	CFSAI	Capt. Nishit Joshi
16	CFSAI	Venkat Narayanan E.A.
17	MANSA	Manish Kumar
18	MANSA	Victor Fernandes
19	MANSA	SayyedZulfiquar
20	MANSA	SubhashRajkumar
21	BCHAA	Paresh Shah, Hon. Secretary
22	BCHAA	Milan Desai
23	BCHAA	Paresh K. Thakker
24	All Cargo CFS	S. M. Salian
25	All Cargo CFS	Satish Kanojia
26	All Cargo CFS	A. Arun
27	AMTOI	RaghavUchil, Sr. Coordinator
28	AMTOI	R. K. Rubin
29	Newgen Software Tech. Ltd.	D. Kadam, Project Manager
30	Newgen Software Tech. Ltd.	S. Haren
31	Newgen Software Tech. Ltd.	Rohan Bonde
32	DMS	Swapneel
33	Sansara SHPG	Rajendra Nair, G. Manager (Documentation)

The Department was represented by the following officers.

Sr. No.	Name of the Organization	Name of the Representative & Designation (S/Shri)
1	Customs	Rajeev Tandon, Pr. Commissioner of Customs.
2	Customs	Subhash Agrawal, Commissioner of Customs
3	Customs	D K Srinivas, Commissioner of Customs
4	Customs	Aseem Kumar, Addl. Commissioner of Customs.
5	Customs	K. Raguram, Dy. Commissioner, CCO
6	Customs	Kunal Anuj, Dy. Commissioner, Central Sample Cell

7	Customs	Shrikant G. Awachar, Dy. Commr., Group-I
8	Customs	Ravindra Kumar, Asstt. Commr., CCO
9	CRCL, JNPT	DR. T. A. Sreenivasa Rao, Jt. Director

3. The Principal Chief Commissioner welcomed the members and drew their attention to the various initiatives being taken by the Government towards ease of doing business and informed that the PMO had taken a meeting on 30.01.2016 on improving India's ranking in the World Bank's doing business report. He further informed that the PMO had directed that the national single window for clearance of goods should be rolled out by 1st March 2016 with facility to submit electronic documents and digital signatures. He also informed that certain commodities including auto components and electrical machinery and equipment were high on priority for clearance to be done within one day at JNPT. The integration of India Trade Portal of the DGFT with the CBEC's ICEGATE System was being done to facilitate information exchange to reduce duplicate requirement of information, and availability of relevant information to the traders by 31st March 2016. He further informed that the Member (Customs) has also convened a meeting in this regard on the 9th March 2016 at 10.00am in the Conference Hall of New Custom House, Mumbai and extended invitation to the members to attend the same.

4. The Additional Commissioner (CCO) thereafter updated the members on issues which had been discussed in the earlier CCFC Meetings and sought comments and updates from the members on the same.

(i) Gate Automation : The NSICT informed that the Gate automation system had been implemented and they were adding certain additional features for monitoring of trucks-trailers once they reached the Y junction to ensure that queue discipline was maintained till the terminal gates. He informed of their plans to implement monitoring of the movement of the vehicles from another up road location like Karaljunction, and informed that the having an advance intimation regarding the containers about to

approach the terminal gates would be of immense help in yard planning. The time taken for the movement has been reduced from the earlier 30 minutes to 2 minutes.

The JNPT representative informed that their gate automation was expected to be completed in about a one month. Responding to a query from the ADC/CCO, the JNPT representative informed that pursuant to the gate automation process, the present gate-in time of a container was expected to be reduced from existing 4 minutes (total) to 2 minutes for import/export containers.

There was no representation from the GTI Terminal. The Chair directed that GTI may report the steps taken to reduce the time taken at the terminal gates within the next three days.

Action : Terminal operators

(ii) EDI connectivity :The DC(P)G informed that a joint study had been conducted at the Terminal Gates to identify the problem areas. The study had concluded that there were no dedicated cabins or adequate office space for the Customs staff at the GTI and JNPT gates, and the Customs staff was housed in cramped offices/cabins. He further informed that the GTI and JNPT had agreed to provide the requisite space and computer terminals at the designated places. The GTI had already started to make the necessary changes and the new office for customs use was expected to be ready within a month. The JNPT representative informed that arrangements for allocating / creation of additional office space for customs staff would require about two months. The Chair requested that JNPT may try and expedite the same so that the EDI connectivity at all the three terminals may be started simultaneously. The Chair suggested that if required, the terminals may consider using portable cabins for an early implementation.

Action : Terminal operators

(iii) Members of the trade complained that the Terminals were not evacuating the containers in a proper sequence manner and those containers on top of the stacks were being moved earlier thereby resulting in the additional charges being levied on customers whose containers were delayed as they happened to be at the bottom of the stacks. The ADC (CCO) requested the members that such issues may be flagged beforehand with all relevant details and supporting documents so that a meaningful discussion may take place and the issue can be resolved. The Chair directed that the details regarding the matter may be submitted to Customs so that the issue can be addressed.

Action :BCHAA, CFSAI

(iv) Implementation of *e-do* :The DC/P(G) informed that he had attended the meeting held on 21.01.2016 in which the working group of BCHAA, CFSAI, AMTOI had deliberated on the issue. The participants from the trade associations informed that subsequently more meetings had taken place and they were in an advance stage of discussions. The major challenges in the implementation process was that the various stakeholders were having different computer software with multiple payment gateways, constraints with regard to office working hours etc. These issues were being addressed and the Shipping Lines were being pushed towards adopting a system of 100% *e-do* on the footsteps of MAERSK Line who had already implemented a 100% *e-do* procedure.

The BCHAA requested that advance invoices should be provided by the Shipping Lines before the arrival of the vessel and, all other documents to be provided to them by the Shipping Lines two days in advance so that they can plan for the clearance of the consignment well in advance and save the dwell time and which would also reduce their transaction cost. The ADC/CCCO suggested using the message exchange system for forwarding of *e-Do*. The Chair directed that the matter may be considered and a date for implementation of the same may be provided.

The BCHAA members cited the case of K line, where a premium was being charged for making on-line payments by the service provider/payment gateway. It was

also informed that the Shipping Lines were not giving copies of the delivery orders to Customs Brokers. The Chair directed that these issues may be submitted to Customs with all relevant details.

Action : BCHAA, CLSA, MANSA

(v) e-Form13:Replying to the query of the Chair regarding the implementation of the JNCH Public Notice dispensing with the manual *e-form13*, the members informed that the process had now become fully on-line.

(vi) other issues : The trade informed that there were certain issues with the message exchange/transfer with the CFSs with the time taken to generate the invoices being upto 1 hour, during which their representatives had to wait at the CFSs. They requested that the CFSs should be impressed upon to generate invoices on a real time basis. ADC/CCO suggested that WEB based invoices should be encouraged, and inquired whether all the CFSs are integrated with the system and whether payments were being made on-line. The CFSAI informed that out of the 34 CFSs most of the are utilizing the system and there appeared to be some problem with the intermediary / related agencies for the delay. The members suggested that the alternative payments modes should be encouraged so as to facilitate payments beyond office hours.

The trade member informed that the CFSs are charging \$ 135 for export container and \$ 60 for import container.These charges included the terminal cargo handling charges, inclusive of the CFSs charges. The Chair directed that all the CFSs should work in a team and come up with a solution for the same.

Action :CFSAI

5. Single Window Clearance :

(i) The PQ representative informed that Bills of Entry and PQ Nocare not being linked with the system, and items not falling under their purview were also being referred to them. The same had also been brought to the notice of the DC/Gr. I, JNCH.

The Chair inquired about the Fumigation Certificate time taken and the cost involved for the NOC. It was informed that it takes 24 hrs. – through gas treatment and through heat treatment and the same is done at the CFSs. The Chair was informed that the total cost incurred for fumigation is Rs. 750-800, and the fumigation could be done in advance ie prior to palletization of the export cargo, thereby saving time.

Action :ADC/EDI, ADC/Gr I

(ii) Textile Committee :It was brought to the notice of the Chair by the Trade and CFS Members that the Textile Committee is working only 5 days a week and that the samples are not being received on Saturday, even though the samples are being drawn and taken by the Customs. The Chair inquired with the Textile Committee as to whether their office is closed on Saturday, to which the Textile Committee representative informed that their office is working from Monday to Saturday during 9.30 hrs. to 6.00pm. The Chair directed that the Textile Committee should receive the samples on Saturdays also.

Action :ADC/Sample Cell& TC

(iii) Drug Controller : The Asst Drug Controller, in his presentation highlighted the following issues which are required to be addressed:

- (a) Not a Drug List items : they had provided the lists but certain items figuring in the list were still being referred to them for NoC
- (b) Bonding/Ex-Bonding Bills of Entry : Although NoC had been given to the Warehouse BE, the consequential Ex-bond Bes were being received by them for NoC
- (c) Bills of Entry of Bombay Port : the system was not differentiating between the BE pertaining to Mumbai Port and JNCH
- (d) Queries raised by Customs were shown as pending against ADC/NOC

(e) also drew attention to the slow internet connection, staff shortage, were posted by their office for JNPT unit

The Commissioner (NS –I & III) informed that the issue of Ex-bong BEs had been resolved, and the same are not being forwarded to ADC and 708 such BE have been removed from the ADC queue. He further stated that the not-a-drug list which was forwarded by ADC does not contain the CTH Number and as the EDI system was designed to intervene with reference to CTH and not description it was not possible to segregate such items. He requested that the latest updated list of “Not a Drug List” items along with their respective CTH be forwarded to them at the earliest. He also requested, that being the experts in the field, the ADC should identify the dual use items and forward a list of all such items to JNCH by next week.

Responding to a query of the Chair, the ADC representative informed that the Drugs and Cosmetics testing guidelines and instructions regarding first time importers are available online and were in the public domain.

Action :ADC/EDI, ADC/Gr II

6. Restriction imposed by NSICT by way of levy of charges for movement of container to CFS of choice :The BCHAA representative informed that only they have the choice of only 4 CFSs per IGM, and in case of them/importer choosing any other CFS, NSICT was levying handling charges which was against the spirit of JNCH Public Notice, thereby burdening the trade with these charges.

The NSICT explained that the correct position was that they had permitted the option of 4 CFSs per shipping line and not per IGM which itself offered a wide choice to the trade. The Chair directed NSICT to re-examine the subject restriction.

.Action :NSICT, BCHAA, CFSAI

7. 24 x 7 staff deployment by other regulatory agencies :

Textile Committee representative informed that there is shortage of staff at present with them and they are working Mon to Sat 9.30am to 6.00pm. They are receiving the samples even on Saturdays till 6.00pm.

The ADC representative informed that they are available 24x7.

The PQ is not functioning 24x7. The Chair directed that they should examine the issue related to space with the JNPT and start functioning 24x7 like other agencies.

The Plant Quarantine is negotiating for space with the MSWC for their requirements.

8. Disposal of longstanding/abandoned cargo :The Disposal Data was presented and the Chair desired to know the feedback from the CFSs regarding the disposal status, the Custodian/CFSs members informed that they are satisfied with the current status of disposal and the performance of the disposal.

The BCHAA member submitted that at present there is no method or guidelines for the destruction of abandoned /shelf life expired goods and that a correct method should be prescribed and adopted. The members informed about method for destruction of electronic goods, FSSAI related goods etc. which are presently being destroyed in the incinerator involving huge cost and requested for exploring alternative methods to reduce the cost.

ADC/CCO pointed out that the destruction of the electronic goods are mandated by the Electronic Waste Management Rules and that they had to follow the said guidelines for destruction of such goods. The Chair directed that a Public Notice to be brought out by the Disposal section in this regard.

Action :ADC/Disposal

9. Dwell Time Data : The data randomly selected by Customs in respect of NoC/approval/testing by various regulatory agencies was taken up for discussions. As,

it was observed that the data reflected that the clearances/reports had been completed within the prescribed time frames, the members expressed satisfaction over the same.

ADC/CCO suggested that the trade may also consider submitting data received from their members for a more transparent and effective monitoring of adherence to the prescribed timelines in this regard.

Action :BCHAA

10. Document Management System : The DMS team presented their data regarding the folders received from various CFSs and indicated that they were not receiving all the folders for scanning, and some folders were being received without the coupon reflecting the payment of requisite charges.

The BCHAA representatives did not agree with the contention of the DMS stating that all the docks out of charge officers insist upon the DMS coupon and do not give out of charge unless the coupon is pasted on the Bills of Entry. They further stated that they the payments towards coupons were being accepted only in cash and no receipts were being given for the same. It was also difficult to get the coupons in time resulting in difficulty in obtaining out of charge.

Commissioner (NS-I & III) informed that it was mandatory for the DMS to make the scanned data available for Customs for analysis. It has been observed that the Data is not yet available and all the documents of the Bills of Entry are not being scanned.

The Chair directed that all CFSs should ensure that documents are forwarded to the specified locations for scanning; the DMS should submit the details of the Bills of Entry received without the DMS coupons and should also submit the detail of the coupons sold by them. The Chair directed that a separate meeting with the DMS team, CFSs and BCHAA on the DMS issue would be taken separately by Principal Commissioner (General).

Action :Commissioner (General)

11. CIDCO : The Cidco representative informed that they had given permissions for construction of roads and the related road development and traffic issues would be resolved shortly. Replying to a query by the Chair regarding the future plans, she informed that the right person to give the relevant updates was MsArpanaVedula. The Chair directed CIDCO to provide update on the future plan in the next CCFC meeting.

Action :CIDCO

The Meeting ended with the Chair reminding all the trade members to attend the meeting scheduled on the 9th March 2016 at 10.00am in the New Custom House, Mumbai which would be Chaired by the Member (Customs) along with Jt. Secretary (Customs), CBEC, New Delhi.

This issues with the approval of Pr Chief Commissioner of Customs.

Sd/-
15.03.2016
(Ravindra Kumar)
Asst. Commissioner/CCO