F. No. S/22-Gen- 20/2020-21/AM (I)/JNCH   Dated: 15.10.2020

STANDING ORDER NO-36/2020

Sub: Enhancement in ICES and certain clarifications in respect of Faceless Assessment- reg.

Attention of all the officers and staff of JNCH is invited to the ICES Advisory No.-38/2020 dated 14.10.2020 issued by DGoS, ICES on the above mentioned subject.

2. Reference is also invited to the ICES Advisory No. 32/2020 dated 13.09.2020 (In this regard JNCH's Standing Order No.-31/2020 dated 14.09.2020 may also be referred to) describing therein the various facets of Faceless Assessment in ICES. During the ongoing implementation phases of Faceless Assessment, multiple feedbacks on Systemic enhancements have been received from Customs formations and various stakeholders pan India. In this regard, various additional features have been enabled in ICES in order to further streamline the assessment process. In addition, certain clarifications are being provided herewith for more clarity.

3.   Enhancements in ICES

3.1   Option to have multiple VDCs for the same group at an FAG site: - Earlier, like the local assessment AC role (ACL), the role of VDC (for the AC/DC of the FAG) could be given to only one AC/DC for a group at a site. The VDC role can now be given to more than one officer for the same group at an FAG site. This would help in expediting the assessment process further. System Manager can allot the role and group accordingly to the AC/DCs nominated for FAG.

3.2   Masking of SSO ID of the Customs officer :- Further anonymizing the process of Faceless Assessment, the SSO ID of the assessing officers are now being masked appropriately by the System in the examination order printed on the first copy (assessment copy) of Bill of Entry and in the query raised to the importer. Further, the BE status enquiry accessed by Trade on the touch screen kiosks installed at some of the Customs locations will also not display the SSO ID of the assessing officers.

3.3   Identification of Bills of Entry filed by AEO :- A colour coded AEO Tier indication is being displayed on the BE appraising screen of the VAO/VDC (appraising officers) which will help in identifying the Bills of Entry filed by the AEO clients for expeditious assessment.

3.4   Limit on setting aside of Bills of Entry by VDC: - A limit of five (05) has been put on the number of Bills of Entry that can be set aside by the VDC (i.e. AC/DC of the FAG). Accordingly, the VDC cannot have more than 5 BEs set aside at any given time.

3.5   Enhancements in the Dashboards for NAC and reports for VAO and VDC :- Dashboards were already provided in the COM and CCOM roles for monitoring pendency, reviewing queries and first check and also keeping a track of disposals for each FAG Commissioner/Principal Commissioner and Chief Commissioner/Principal Chief Commissioner respectively. A separate NAC dashboard has also been provided under the CCOM role which gives daily target for assessment of each NAC zone for each group and also displays the actual % of target achieved at any given time of the day. The document status reports under the VAO and VDC roles have also been enhanced to give details of Bills of

Entry actually pending with that officer as well as those which are pending with that site but yet to be allotted to any VDC. List of BEs processed, BEs pending for activation and amendment approval are also given. Sample screenshots of the document status reports under VAO/VDC roles are enclosed in Annexure to this Standing Order.

3.6 SMS Alerts to VAO/VDC: - An SMS is being sent every half hour now to the FAG officers indicating the pendency at their end. The SMS will soon also have the number of BEs targeted for that zone in the day along with the number actually assessed by the officer. The SMS alerts go to the FAG officers whose phone numbers are already registered in ICES for getting the login OTP. In case phone numbers of any of the FAG officers are not registered, the same may kindly be done on priority from the Mobile/Email Updation option in SYSMGR role. There is no need to activate any specific service during mobile number updation. Once the mobile number is submitted, the officer having VAO/VDC role will automatically receive the pendency messages.

4. Clarifications in respect of certain issues

4.1 Filing amendment for adding Supporting Docs to a Bill of Entry :- Instances have been noticed where an importer uploads additional documents in e-Sanchit for a Bill of Entry after its submission but does not file corresponding amendment for that Bill of Entry to tag the additional documents. In such a case, the additional documents do not become available to the assessing officers. Necessary clarification in this regard has been elaborated for the benefit of the trade in an Advisory published on ICEGATE (https://www.icegate.gov.in/Download/ICES_Advisory_35_2020_on_amendment_and_query_reply_with_supp_docs_v2.pdf). It outlines the correct procedure required to be followed in such cases. Trade may be suitably advised to follow the same.

4.2 Updating the actual percentage of Bank Guarantee (BG) during license/bond registration:- Instances have been reported where the assessment of the Bills of Entry involving export benefit license or where a bond is given mandates a requirement of 100% Bank Guarantee(BG) by default and the Bills of Entry are recalled by the appraising officers at the Port of Import for removing the BG requirement. This happens when the BG% percentage was given as 100 or left blank (null) at the time of registering the corresponding bond in System. Wherever the correct BG% has been entered during the bond registration, only that gets applied as default BG% for the corresponding Bills of Entry. To avoid repeated recall and reassessment, it is advised that the actual applicable percentage of BG associated with the bond may be entered in the Bond Management module in System. In case no BG is required, the BG% should be expressly given as zero (0) instead of leaving blank. This way, the System will appropriately mandate the actual BG % during the assessment.

5. Difficulty, if any, faced in implementation of this Standing Order may be brought to the notice of the Addl. /Joint Commissioner (Appraising Main (Import)) through email at appraisingmain.jnch@gov.in.

<div align="center">
Sd/-
(Sunil Kumar Mall)
Commissioner of Customs (NS-I)
</div>

Copy to:

1. The Chief Commissioner of Customs, Mumbai Zone-II, JNCH.

2. The Commissioner of Customs, NS-G/NS-I/NS-II/NS-III/NSAudit/NS-V, JNCH.

3. All Additional/Joint/Dy./Asstt. Commissioners of Customs, JNCH.

4. All Sections/Group of NS-G/NS-I/NS-II/NS-III/NS-Audit/NS-V, JNCH.

5. AC/DC, EDI for uploading on JNCH website immediately.

Annexure to S.O. No.36/2020 dated 15.10.2020

Document Status Reports under VAO/VDC Roles