

मुख्‍यसीमाशुल्कआयुक्तकार्यालय, मुंबईअंचल-II  
**Office of the Chief Commissioner of Customs, Mumbai Customs Zone-II**  
 जवाहरलालनेहरूसीमाशुल्कभवन  
**JAWAHARLAL NEHRU CUSTOM HOUSE**  
 पोस्ट :शेवा, तालुका :उरण,जिला-रायगढ़,महाराष्ट्र400707-  
**Post: Sheva, Taluka: Uran, District: Raigad, Maharashtra – 400 707**  
 दूरभाष/Tel No.: 022-27244736फैक्स/Fax 27242402-022:  
**Email: ccu-cusmum2@nic.in**

दिनांक /Date: **04/12/2023**

**MINUTES OF CUSTOMS CLEARANCE FACILITATION COMMITTEE (CCFC)**  
**MEETING HELD ON 05.09.2023**

The Customs Clearance Facilitation Committee (CCFC) Meeting was held on 05.09.2023 in hybrid mode i.e. virtual and physical. Shri Rajesh Pandey, Chief Commissioner of Customs, Mumbai Customs Zone-II, Nhava Sheva presided over the meeting.

The following officers of Mumbai Customs Zone-II, JNCH, Nhava Sheva attended the meeting: -

Sr.No.	Name	Designation
1.	Shri Dhirendra Singh Garbyal	Commissioner, NS-Gen & NS-III
2.	Shri Dipak Kumar Gupta	Commissioner, NS-I & IV
3.	Shri Sonal Bajaj	Commissioner, NS-V
4.	Shri Sanjeev Kumar Singh	Commissioner, NS-II
5.	Dr. Subhash Yadav	Addl. Commissioner of Customs, CCO
6.	Shri Rahul Dhingra	Deputy Commissioner of Customs, CCO

The following PGAs/Stakeholders attended the meeting:-

Sr. No.	Name	Name of the PGAs/Stakeholders	Mode of Attendance
1	Venkata Reddy	Plant Protection officer	Attended physically
2	Balram Meena	Regional Plant Quarantine	Attended physically
3	Prasanjit Khandare	Textile Committee	Attended physically
4	Dr. P. Karmarkar, CE-I	JNCH Laboratory	Attended physically
5	Dr. Purnima Mishra, CE-I	JNCH Laboratory	Attended physically
6	S.K. Kulkarni	JNPA	Attended Online
			Attended Online

I/1579040/2023

7	Daniel C	CSLA	
8	Manish Kumar	CSLA/MANSA	Attended physically
9	Sunil Vaswani	CSLA	Attended physically
10	Dr. K.U. Methekar	FSSAI	Attended physically
11	Sahir Sanghani	SUFI	Attended physically
12	Mrs. Leena Ganguly	AIWCBA	Attended physically
13	B. Timothy	AIIEA	Attended physically
14	Salim Shikalgar	CFSAI	Attended physically
15	Jacob Thomas	CFSAI	Attended physically
16	Shailendra	JNPT	Attended physically
17	Ajay Moghe	DP World	Attended physically
18	Sachin Mhatre	DP World	Attended physically
19	Mahindra Moopnar	GTI	Attended physically
20	Umesh Grover	GTI	Attended physically
21	Vineet Tanwar	GTI	Attended physically
22	Sachin Parab	GTI	Attended physically
23	Shivendra Mhatre	GTI	Attended physically
24	Ganpat P. Korade	BLBA	Attended physically
25	Hiren Ruparel	BCBA	Attended physically
26	Dushyant Mulani	BCBA	Attended physically
27	Vinayak Aparaj	BCBA	Attended physically
28	Sanjeev Harale	BCBA	Attended physically
29	Dr. Nirav Thakkar	BCBA	Attended physically
30	Paresh Thakkar	BCBA	Attended physically
31	Mark S Fernandes	IMC Chamber of Commerce & Industry	Attended physically
32	Nimesh Desai	WISA	Attended physically
33	Paresh Shah	WISA	Attended physically
34	Karunakar S. Shetty	MACCIA	Attended physically
35	Omprakash Agrawal	MACCIA	Attended physically
36	Ashish Pednekar	USIIC	Attended physically
37	Harpreet Kulkarni		Attended Online
38	Kalpesh Jadhav		Attended Online
39	Kiran Rambhia	President BCBA	Attended Online
40	Manish		Attended Online

41	Prakash Ingle		Attended Online
42	Rakesh Mistry		Attended Online
43	Rekha	CSLA	Attended Online
44	Roshan		Attended Online
45	Sachin Mhatre		Attended Online
46	Sanjay		Attended Online
47	Sudesh Gaitonde		Attended Online

The Chief Commissioner welcomed all the participants and informed that the CCFC gives us the opportunity to review all the aspects of customs clearance. The Chief Commissioner further informed that although meetings are held with associations, individuals and customs brokers as and when the need arises, but in this meeting everybody gets together at the same place which gives an opportunity to exchange views and find out whether there are some issues which everyone can take forward in a coordinated manner, so as to improve the overall experience of customs clearance, refine procedures, processes and if there are any points for making specific improvements in certain areas, the same can be resolved in a time bound manner. The Chief Commissioner further informed that this time some associations have forwarded consignment specific points for which it was requested that those cases may be taken up with the respective Commissionerate individually and in this meeting, discussion should be focused on common concerns only. The Chief Commissioner requested for a solution oriented approach as well as for a constructive discussion.

With this, the floor was opened for discussion of agenda points.

### **1.0 Discussion on Actionable Points as per Minutes of CCFC Meeting dated 24.05.2023:**

#### **1.1 Uniform Implementation of PN No.76/2020 pertaining to Liquid Bulk Imports and Procedures issued by Mumbai Customs Zone-I. (Para 2.1 of the minutes of CCFC Meeting dated 24.05.2023).**

**Response:** In this regard, Commissioner NS-I informed that NS-I Commissionerate is in the process of finalizing the Public Notice and it will be issued shortly.

**(Action: NS-I)**

#### **1.2 Long Standing Containers (Para 2.3 of the Minutes of Meeting dated 24.05.2023)**

**Response:** DC, CCO informed that the same issue has been submitted as a fresh agenda point so it will be taken up as a fresh agenda point subsequently.

**(Point Closed)**

#### **1.3 Standardized examination orders which are being issued by System (Para 2.5 of the Minutes of Meeting dated 24.05.2023).**

It was informed by DC, CCO that in the last meeting trade was requested to submit the feedback/cases where supplementary/additional examination

I/1579040/2023

orders are given by Groups in addition to standardized examination orders (given by RMS). However the same was not received. The trade informed that there has been considerable instances where FAG officers go to the examination instructions and give supplementary examination orders mentioning 100% examination, order to check misdeclaration/concealment, verify all policy conditions, etc. Trade requested that with intervention of NACs, this kind of superimposing comments in editor's screen should be discontinued. Further, the supplementary examination orders must be approved by Addl./Joint Commissioner.

**Response:** Commissioner NS-III suggested that if any such case arises the trade can directly approach the respective Commissioner wherein the FAG officer has given additional orders/instructions without approval of Addl./Joint Commissioner so that the same may be scrutinized and resolved.

The Chief Commissioner stated that the matter must be studied in more detail specially with respect to the type of commodity and if such supplementary examination orders are being given for certain commodities more often then reasons for the same need to be found out. The Bills of Entry wherein FAG officers have given additional/supplementary examination orders should be scrutinized from this angle. The Chief Commissioner requested BCBA to forward the details of such Bills of Entry and assured to examine the same on merit.

**(Action: BCBA & NS-I)**

**1.4 Port Clearance permission to be issued electronically as per JNCH PN 67/2020. (Para 2.6 of the Minutes of Meeting dated 24.05.2023).**

Trade requested that this permission should be issued electronically rather than submitting hard copies of the documents to Customs for issuing Port Clearance permission. Commissioner, NS-Gen informed that he will organize a meeting with the stakeholders in order to examine this matter. Trade informed that the issue was discussed with stakeholders in the past and the only issue in this regard was to coordinate with ICEGATE to incorporate the particular provision where in the DC, Preventive can issue a port clearance online after verifying the documents from the web portal of the Indian Ports Association, Ministry of Shipping. Trade requested to have some mechanism to exchange of data online or through ICEGATE between Indian Ports Association and Customs.

**Response:** The Chief Commissioner informed that many such initiatives are already in pipeline and requested trade and respective Commissionerate to follow up with the Directorate General of Systems in respect of this specific suggestion.

**[ACTION: NS-General and NS-I]**

**1.5 Issues related to NOC issued for similar products by FSSAI. (Para 2.7 of the Minutes of the Meeting dated 24.05.2023).**

The Committee was informed that whenever they are two or more similar goods in a Bill of Entry the sample is drawn against one item and the NOC is given against one item. Trade has to take approval of DC, Docks or DC, RMS for getting NOC with respect to other similar items. Representative of FSSAI

informed that for similar items they take one or two samples and not multiple samples as it is not practical. The Chief Commissioner asked whether the FSSAI is able to feed the report of other similar items as well. FSSAI stated in negative as there is no provision in the system. The Chief Commissioner stated that if the system is made capable of feeding reports for all the items, the issue can be resolved. Commissioner NS-General asked the representative of FSSAI whether it requires some kind of modification in Customs module or in FSSAI's system. DC, CCO informed that modification is required in FSSAI's system. FSSAI informed they are modifying the said module and it can take two months. Commissioner, NS-General suggested that till the modifications are done in FSSAI's module, AO, Docks or AO, Admin RMS FC may waive FSSAI NOC for similar items as done by DC, Docks or DC, RMS FC at present, for reducing time taken for clearance. Trade appreciated the suggestion given by the Commissioner NS-General.

**Response:** The Chief Commissioner suggested to have a meeting with FSSAI on the said issue. Commissioner, NS-General stated that they will have a meeting next week with RMSFC & FSSAI to resolve this issue.

**[ACTION: FSSAI & NS-III (RMSFC Cell)]**

**1.6 Facility for AEO Exporters. (Para 2.9 of the Minutes of Meeting dated 24.05.2023).**

The Committee was informed that AEO status is not been shown in Shipping Bills throughout the clearance process so the officer is not able to see the AEO status and prioritise accordingly.

**Response:** The Commissioner, NS-II informed that the matter has been communicated to Directorate General of Systems and since it is a system related issue, Directorate General of Systems will take a call on it. Commissioner, NS-I informed that they have pointed out the issue to ICES Team of Directorate General of Systems in writing. It was however assured during the meeting that NCTC alerts and their RMS facilitation is taking into account the AEO status. At the same time JNCH has already taken some initiative under Commissioner NS-II for AEO clients for examination in docks etc. and further modified the back to town procedures accordingly wherein the AEO clients have been given many benefits. He further informed that out of the top 20 exporters, seven are still not AEO, so something is lacking on the side of the trade as well as they are not coming forward for AEO certification. Commissioner, NS-III requested committee members that they should also encourage their clients to become AEO certified. The Chief Commissioner suggested for better coordination among various stakeholder and also encouraged other associations to take the AEO scheme forward and to bring in more AEO clients. The Chief Commissioner informed that this month an open house meeting will be held by Commissioner NS-III regarding facility for AEO exporters and requested the organizations such as BCBA, CFSAI and other stakeholders to take part and give their feedback.

**[ Action: Point closed]**

**1.7 Automation of System Generated Prints of Bill of Entry – in Cases where Provisional to Final has taken place. (Para 2.11 of the Minutes of Meeting dated 24.05.2023).**

Trade requested for the automation of system generated print of Bill of Entry. Once the provisional to final assessment take place the print out of that Bill of Entry should be automatic rather than manual.

I/1579040/2023

**Response:** DC, CCO informed that since it is a technical issue it has been raised to Directorate General of Systems for appropriate resolution.

**[Action: Point closed]**

**1.8 Creation of Appropriate Seating Facilities for Representatives of Trade and Industry who are required to visit Customs for any matters. (Para 2.12 of the Minutes of Meeting dated 24.05.2023).**

In the last meeting the Chief Commissioner had informed that the matter had been taken up suo-moto in Infrastructure Committee meetings, wherein it was decided that some initiative shall be taken in this regard to create adequate seating arrangements in the waiting area on the 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> floor in the JNCH building for trade and Industry.

**Response:** Commissioner (NS-General) informed that some seating arrangements for representatives of the trade in the waiting areas on the 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> floor have already been made. Chief Commissioner opined that the needs to be augmented and made more aesthetic.

**[NS-General]**

**1.9 Doing away with Manual Procedure for Amendments in Case of Seal Mismatch. (Para 2.13 of the Minutes of Meeting dated 24.05.2023).**

DC, CCO informed that in the last meeting the Chief Commissioner had requested the stakeholders (CSLA and BCBA) to come up with the number of amendments and the reason for such mismatch for the last quarter to understand the enormity of the problem. The reply from CSLA and BCBA is still pending

**Response:** The Chief Commissioner informed to that the issue can be suitably resolved only after examining the data, as and when provided by CSLA & BCBA.

**[Action: Point closed]**

**1.10 Difficulties being faced with regards to Textile Shipments. (Para 2.14 of the Minutes of Meeting dated 24.05.2023).**

DC, CCO informed that trade has raised concern about the examination order requiring to forward samples even in cases where issue of Azo dyes or duty difference is not associated with the imported fabrics consignment. ADC, CCO informed that testing is not only required for verification of declared description to confirm the duty calculation, but also to ascertain correctness of the declared value. In this regard, the officers of Group III have informed that they have also taken up this matter with NAC so that officers at All India level are sensitized about this issue. Commissioner, NS-III informed that they have discussed this issue with the Textile Committee and also organized training with the Textile Committee. Commissioner NS-III suggested that for textile related Bills of Entry, trade should upload previous test report (PTR). This will reduce unnecessary queries and testing procedures.

**Response:** Commissioner NS-III informed the committee that a training will be held in the following week with the representatives of Textile Committee to resolve the queries related to Textile Committee. The Chief Commissioner appreciated the same.

**[Action: Point closed]**

**1.11 Delay in scanning process of Import ICD Containers. (Para 2.16 of the Minutes of Meeting dated 24.05.2023).**

The Committee was informed by DC, CCO that MANSA had raised the issue; that though the situation has improved, there is no substantial improvement in time taken for scanning of ICD bound Import containers. BMCT has intimated that they are developing a new software for logistics purpose. Data transfer from old infrastructure module to the new software infrastructure module is under process. As soon as the issue is resolved the new software infrastructure will be ready for operation.

It was informed that meanwhile the officers posted at the scanner points have been instructed to divert the containers to BMCT scanner for scanning in case of congestion. It is also reported that the 3rd Mobile X-Ray Container Scanner (APMT) has been repaired and operationalized with effect from 28.08.2023. This will help in reduction of delay in scanning process of ICD bound Import Containers. BMCT officials informed that new IT Software will be developed within two months for scanning and they are working on it.

**Response:** The Chief Commissioner suggested that the Commissioner, NS-III may discuss this matter with MANSA and the senior officials of BMCT and resolve the issue at the earliest.

**[Action: NS-III (CSD Section),  
MANSA & BMCT]**

**1.12 IDPMS/EDPMS not reflecting BE and SB details (Para 3.1 of the Minutes of Meeting dated 24.05.2023).**

The trade had requested that out of charge Bill of Entry copy containing QR code should be made available to the bank for the purpose of getting the forex remittance. Commissioner NS-I informed that they have taken up the matter with the Directorate General of Systems for early resolution and they are constantly following up this matter with the Directorate General of Systems. Trade informed that this issue is major concern in exports as the consignments are reaching the destination however, banks are refusing to accept Bills of lading as SBs are not reflecting in EDPMS portal. Trade suggested that a Public Notice may be issued in accordance with Board's Circular reg. paperless clearance wherein the pdf copy of OOC/LEO may be submitted to banks (which can also be checked on ICETRAK for its genuineness) with respect to BE/SB which are not reflecting on IDPMS/EDPMS. Further, trade suggested to have a module in ICEGATE similar to GST portal wherein the BEs/SBs which are not reflecting in IDPMS/EDPMS can be re-transmitted to RBI with a single click.

**Response:** The Chief Commissioner suggested that Appraising Main (Import) and Appraising Main (Export) shall draft Public Notice both for IDPMS and EDPMS referring to Board Circular as discussed above and share it with the Associations. The matter may also be coordinated with RBI. With regard to a new module in ICEGATE similar to GST, the Chief Commissioner suggested to pursue the same with Directorate General of Systems after the issuance of said PN if the issue persists.

**[Action: NS-I {AM(I)} & NS-II {AM(X)}]**

**1.13 All new initiatives be taken up after due consultation with the trade (Para 3.2 of the Minutes of Meeting dated 24.05.2023).**

The Committee was informed that all the new changes are being done after due consultation with the trade. On the specific issue of implementation of ECL for payment of customs duty, it was informed that whichever Bills of Entry are still

I/1579040/2023

pending for ECL in the integrated system the list of such Bills of Entry may be informed to EDI Section and they will take up the matter with the Directorate General of Systems individually for resolution of the same.

**Response:** On the specific issue of implementation of ECL for payment of customs duty, it was informed that whichever Bills of Entry are still pending for ECL in the integrated system the list of such Bills of Entry may be informed to EDI Section and they will take up the matter with the Directorate General of Systems individually for resolution of the same.

**[Point closed]**

**1.14 Container scanning for LCL Cargo (Para 3.3 of the Minutes of meeting dated 24.05.2023)**

Trade informed that whenever there is an LCL cargo in a container it is invariably been marked as suspicious and whole of the cargo is routed for 100% examination. DC, CCO informed that there was a suggestion from the trade that DC, Docks may give exemption from 100% examination to the non-suspicious consignments based on the image. It was however felt that it is very difficult to identify the suspicious LCL cargo within the container and therefore it will be practically impossible for DC, Docks to give exemption from the examination. Trade informed that they have to go to DC, Docks multiple times in such cases which results in delay in clearance.

**Response:** The Chief Commissioner emphasised that suspicious part of LCL cargo marked by CSD must be checked 100%, that however there is a need to examine the matter with respect to non-suspicious part. The Commissioner NS-III suggested to take videography of the suspicious container while de-stuffing and the area marked suspicious based on CSD image should be examined 100%. The rest of the cargo shall be examined as per RMS instructions. The Chief Commissioner suggested to implement it on pilot basis.

**[Action: NS-III (CSD) & NS-I (AM(I))]**

**1.15 Denial of deferred duty payment to AEO T2/T3 without any intimation & no remedy to restore (Para 3.4 of the Minutes of Meeting dated 24.05.2023).**

DC, CCO informed the committee that the above point was related to the integration of ECL with the Bill of Entry. Trade has informed that they have discussed this problem with the Directorate General of Systems but till date the issue is not resolved.

**Response:** Commissioner NS-I informed that they have communicated to the Directorate General of Systems regarding the said issue and will try to resolve the same. The Chief Commissioner asked DC, EDI to communicate with EDI, Bangalore as they have issued a PN regarding the said issue and enquire about whether it is working or they are facing any issues after implementing the PN. The matter may also be communicated to the Directorate General of Systems for early resolution.

**[Action: NS-I (EDI Section)]**

**1.16 Online IGM Amendment Process: (Para 4.1 of the Minutes of Meeting dated 24.05.2023):**

DC, CCO informed that this point will be taken up subsequently as a fresh



I/1579040/2023

Agenda Point.

**(Point Closed)**

**1.17 Inconsistent Performance of ICEGATE System (Para 4.2 of the Minutes of Meeting dated 24.05.2023).**

The committee was informed about the slow working of ICEGATE while filing of IGM/EGM in the System. DC, CCO informed that in last meeting Chief Commissioner had requested the stakeholders to come to Custom House and test file the IGM/EGM in front of officers of EDI Section to identify the exact cause so that solution to the said issue can be found.

**Response:** The Chief Commissioner asked CSLA whether they have test filed the IGM/EGM with officers of EDI Section. CSLA stated in negative. The Chief Commissioner directed to close the issue and suggested CSLA to raise fresh agenda in case of any further ICEGATE issues.

**[Point Closed]**

**1.18 DPD CFS Storage Charges (Para 4.3 of the Minutes of Meeting dated 24.05.2023).**

The Committee was informed about the PN 77/2017 issued by JNCH wherein, it is mentioned that storage charges incurring in DPD CFS shipments should not be billed to shipping lines.

**Response:** The Chief Commissioner informed that the matter has been resolved. However, NS-General may review the issue and take feedback in the said matter if the trade still has an issue.

**[Action: Point closed]**

**1.19 Issues related to NOC issued for similar products (Para 6.1 of the Minutes of meeting dated 24.05.2023)**

**Response:** DC, CCO stated that as the matter is already discussed at para 1.5, the matter shall be closed here.

**[Point Closed]**

**1.20 Guidelines issued for the requirement of Customs approval for the vendors hired by CFSs appointed as a Custodian (Para 7.2 of the Minutes of Meeting dated 24.05.2023).**

The committee was informed that CFSs have requested that they should be allowed to hire local vendors by themselves without requiring any permission from Customs. Commissioner, NS-General informed that there were various theft cases booked inside the CFSs, and it has been observed that outsourced manpower is handling customs documents related to Import and Export.

**Response:** Commissioner, NS-General informed that this is a policy matter and till the matter is clarified by the Board, the present system of customs approval will be continued for hiring vendors by CFSs.

**[Point Closed]**

**1.21 Permission for handling, storing of hazardous cargo at CFS should be incorporated in main CFS licence with same validity (Para 7.3 of the Minutes of Meeting dated 24.05.2023).**

**Response:** Commissioner, NS-General informed the Committee that the issue has been taken up with Pollution Control Board & CBIC, and reply is still

awaited.

**[Point Closed]**

**1.22 Difficulties faced with ICEGATE Systems (Para 8.1 of the Minutes of Meeting dated 24.05.2023).**

The Committee was informed about the difficulties faced with ICEGATE System such as delay in uploading of documents in E-Sanchit & generation of Shipping bill numbers resulting in missing the cut-off for vessels, delay in receiving OTP-emails. Some of the trade associations have requested for allowing of carting goods without Shipping Bill number for docks stuffed cargo, to allow to move containers from factory without updation of RFID Seals. The trade informed about the difficulties they are facing while generating Shipping Bills & E-Sanchit regularly.

**Response:** The Chief Commissioner informed that this is a system issue and the matter has been raised to Directorate General of Systems.

**[Action: Point closed]**

**1.23 CFS Related Matters (Para 8.2 of the Minutes of Meeting dated 24.05.2023).**

The Committee was informed that the charges pertaining to Connex/DRT CFS are being collected by 3rd Party, despite directions from the Customs department to all the CFSs that charges pertaining to Custodian should be collected by Custodian only. DC, CCO informed that as per the reply received from Conex Terminal Pvt. Ltd. CFS, due to technical issue in the software at their end the invoice were generated from Worldwide Console Pvt. Ltd. and that the same has been corrected and resolved.

**Response:** DC, CCO informed that the issue has been resolved and if any charges pertaining to any CFSs are collected by 3<sup>rd</sup> party, trade can inform CCSP Cell regarding the same to resolve the matter.

**[Point Closed]**

**1.24 Handling of Hazardous Cargo at CFS (Para 8.3 of the Minutes of Meeting dated 24.05.2023).**

The Committee was informed that guidelines for handling hazardous cargo issued by JNCH vide Public Notice No.129/2020 dated 07.10.2020 are not being followed by CFS authorities which is dangerous for all individuals working at CFS. The Commissioner, NS-General informed that there is an annual safety audit being done by CFS and on the basis of the report of this annual safety audit only the licence for handling of hazardous cargo is being renewed. Further, the NS-General is also reviewing the P N. No. 129/2020 dated 07.10.2020.

**Response:** The Chief Commissioner suggested that the safety audit may be carried out by technically competent agencies and also directed CCSP cell to check whether CIDCO is competent agency for carrying out safety audit.

**[Action: NS-General (CCSP CELL)]**

**1.25 Insistence of Non-Deduction of TDS by CFS (Para 8.4 of the Minutes of Meeting dated 24.05.2023).**

The Committee was informed that certain CFSs are insisting that TDS should not be deducted on payments made to them. This practice is in violation of the

provisions of the Income Tax law.

**Response:** The Chief Commissioner directed that provisions of Income Tax Act, 1961 should be followed and asked the members to provide the names of the CFSs violating the law, to the CCSP Cell. The matter shall be taken up under the Customs Regulations as well as with the Income Tax authorities.

**[Action: BCBA & NS-General (CCSP CELL)]**

**1.26 AEO Scheme Related (Para 8.5 of the Minutes of Meeting dated 24.05.2023).**

AEO scheme was introduced vide Board's Circular No. 33/2016 to facilitate trade and reduce dwell time. However, it has been observed that there is delay in processing application files, deficiency Memos are being issued & SOPs are not followed.

**Response:** The Chief Commissioner requested the trade to raise these issues in the Open House being organized by AEO Cell. Also, the Commissioner, NS-III was asked to review whether the recently joined officers have been sensitised in this regard.

**[Action: Point closed]**

**Fresh Agenda Points taken from various stakeholders**

**2. Western India Shipper's Association (WISA)**

The Committee was informed that there are two points which have already been discussed with regard to two specific IECs and are resolved. There is another point regarding issues with online duty payment. They have raised an issue that while making payment of customs duty online, when the payments fail the new challan can be generated only after 24 hours. In the earlier system it used to take around 20 minutes. This has resulted in increasing the dwell time for the importers and exporters.

**Response:** Commissioner, NS-I informed that EDI Section has taken this matter with the Directorate General of Systems and they have requested that the previous system may be restored wherein the new challan was generated in 20 minutes.

**[Action: Point closed]**

**3. Container Shipping Lines Association (CSLA):**

**3.1 Transhipment Process:** The Committee was informed that CSLA has raised the issue regarding transhipment process. They have raised three different points (i) Transhipment from one Indian port to another Indian port - they have requested that it should be done on the basis of manual TP copy approved by the Gateway Port and that should be accepted by subsequent port. It has been informed that the manual procedure is being followed till SCMTR module is fully functional (ii) Export via transhipment to Srilanka/Bangladesh/Pakistan port without change of vessel. Whenever the transhipment is done directly between two sea ports there is no need to execute bonds and bank guarantee. However, there is a need to execute bond and bank guarantee whenever this is happening between two sea ports through foreign territory. CSLA has requested for waiver of this bond and bank guarantee.

**Response:** Commissioner NS-General informed that the present system of manual transhipment which is happening from Port of Hajira and Mundra will

continue till everything is migrated to the System. The Directorate General of Systems has also clarified that they are looking at the matter regarding the waiver of the bond and will be incorporated as per SCMTR guidelines. Regarding the issues pertaining to Katupalli port, it was stated that the manual system for transshipment from JNCH to Katupalli port is not functional and starting the manual system is not advisable at this stage, especially when ETP in ICES is being accorded priority. The Committee was informed that the existing procedures are carried out by Import noting section and change in the procedure being a policy matter, has to be decided by CBIC and regarding technical issue Directorate General of Systems is working on it as per SCMTR.

**[Action: NS-General (Import Noting Section)]**

### **3.2 Online IGM Amendment Process**

The Committee was informed that the trade has represented that IGM amendment process is a completely manual process and they have requested for provision of online amendment in the IGM.

**Response:** Commissioner, NS-General informed that they have already taken note of it and they are following up it with EDI Section and the Directorate General of Systems in this regard. It was however mentioned that this being a System issue, Custom House / Zone level resolution is not possible.

**[Action: Point closed]**

### **3.3 Inconsistent Performance of ICEGATE System**

The Committee was informed that the point has already been discussed at para 1.22 and issue is communicated to the Directorate General of Systems

**[Action: Point closed]**

## **4. Brihanmumbai Custom Brokers Association (BCBA)**

### **a. Exports:**

#### **4.1 Availability of Examination order after registration of Shipping Bill**

The BCBA has requested that examination instructions should be shared with the exporter and CB for trade facilitation. The Commissioner NS-II informed that this is policy matter and it will be decided by CBIC. BCBA requested that examination instructions copy may be forwarded to the CB to process the documents faster before the examination. ADC, CCO asked the trade about real benefit of providing the examination order to trade as there is risk involved.

**Response:** The Chief Commissioner suggested that the request from trade needs to be examined in respect of benefit vis-a-vis risk involved.

**[Action: NS-I (EDI Section)]**

#### **4.2 Gate Automation / Universal RFID Reader for ease of process of Export Clearances**

The Committee was informed that BCBA has suggested for fully automated gates of CPP, where full automation of the gates should be tested by automation engineers using live truck traffic which will include optical character recognition (OCR), license plate recognition cameras and CCTV cameras for gate clerks. The Factory stuffed containers are coming with different types of RFID seals of different manufacturers and it takes more time to read the RFID seals with different RFID readers, which delays the process of clearance.

I/1579040/2023

**Response:** It was informed that Joint Commissioner of Export Commissionerate has called the CPP custodian along with IT person. The Custodian has assured that the software development is in advance stage and they will give a demo of developed RFID readers within a month.

[Action: NS-II]

#### **4.3 Shipping bill Amendment post LEO in EDI System which will facilitate appropriate benefit claim, banking action etc.**

The Committee was informed that BCBA has requested that the Shipping Bill amendment (Post LEO) as per section 149 of Custom Act 1962 should be done in the system.

**Response:** Commissioner NS-I informed that the issue has been forwarded to the Directorate General of Systems for consideration.

[Point Closed]

#### **4.4 Digital Shipping Bill Copies**

The Committee was informed that BCBA has requested that option to download the LEO copy of SB from ICEGATE may be available.

**Response:** Commissioner NS-I informed that EDI Section has forwarded the matter to the Directorate General of Systems for early resolution.

[Point Closed]

#### **4.5 Upgradation of Testing Laboratories (DYCC)**

**Response:** The Commissioner NS-V informed the committee with regard to the upgradation of testing laboratories of CBIC, and that the CRCL lab at JNCH has modern, sophisticated instruments and automation facilities. They are using both WET laboratory and instrumental method for analysis of samples as per BIS, ASTM and other authentic literatures available in the laboratory. They are using QR code and reporting date of the samples for sample tracking and real time monitoring. He further informed that JNCH is in process of implementing the SMS alert to importer / CB when sample is received in the CRCL lab at JNCH and again when report is forwarded to the Appraising Group. This facility will be operational within 2 months. And that they are continuously making efforts to improve the CRCL lab at JNCH DYCC. The Chief Commissioner asked how much days it takes to test the samples in the lab and how many samples are drawn. The official of the CRCL lab at JNCH informed that it takes 3 to 5 days for testing. The Chief Commissioner asked whether the testing process can be expedited. The trade requested to expedite the matter for testing of samples. The Chief Commissioner suggested to the official of the CRCL lab at JNCH to study the time taken for testing different commodities and make efforts for reduction in time for the same.

(Action – CRCL lab at JNCH)

#### **Chap: 1 To 25 (FSSAI)**

**Sample drawn & sent for test takes at least 7 - 8 working days (fruits, dry fruits, pulses etc.)**

**Response:** The Chief Commissioner suggested standard testing time should be mentioned on FSSAI's website. The matter may be discussed with FSSAI in a separate meeting.

[Action: FSSAI & NS-I]

**Chap. 28 – 39****Plastic, Regrind, and Chemicals. Minimum time taken by lab is 5 working days.**

Trade informed that test reports are not uploaded on the system. The official of the CRCL lab at JNCH informed that test reports are being uploaded w.e.f. 25.08.2023. Though the QR code is not in the position to give the copy of a report but it suggests that the report has been sent to the Group. Further, the Commissioner NS-V informed that they are in the process of implementation of a system that when a sample is received in the CRCL lab at JNCH and when the reports are sent to the Groups, an SMS will be sent to trade so that trade can approach the Group regarding assessment. He informed that this facility will be started in 2 months time. Trade appreciated the initiative.

**[Action : NS-V (CRCL lab at JNCH)]**

**Chap. 50 to 62 Textile Committee takes 5 working days for testing.**

The Textile Committee informed that they are reporting tests within 48 hours. The CB is not paying testing fees to the Textile Committee which is causing delay. There is also a tatkal system for issuing the report. Trade stated that as the reports are not uploaded on time, the consignments are getting delayed. The trade also informed the difficulties in obtaining report.

**Response :** The Chief Commissioner suggested to the Commissioner, NS-III to hold a meeting with senior officers of the Textile Committee to resolve the matter.

**[Action: Textile Committee and NS-III]**

**4.6 Auto Defacing of Certificate of Origin**

Trade suggested that the Directorate General of Systems should develop a mechanism for auto defacing of COO which are issued digitally. Bill of Entry should be auto routed to TSK Cell, with auto defacing facility. This will reduce dwell time.

**Response:** The Committee was informed that this is a policy matter and CBIC has already initiated work in this direction.

**(Point closed)**

**4.7 Amendments**

The Committee was informed that Amendments in BL number, container no. and all non-revenue amendments should be routed to PAG level only. The trade informed that the issue may be dealt at PAG level rather than routing to FAG officers as per the Board's Circular.

**Response:** The Chief Commissioner suggested that BCBA may submit the issue in detail and the same should be examined by Appraising Main (Import) as per Board's instructions to conclude whether the request of BCBA is feasible and after that recommendation for change of procedure can be sent to the Board.

**[Action: BCBA & NS-I {AM(I)}]**

**4.8 Issue related to Faceless Assessment/System issues**

The Committee was informed about delay in generation of Bill of Entry numbers quoting RMS waiting. All such consignments are routed for assessment and are

I/1579040/2023

marked for 100% Examination orders delaying clearances. It was requested that suitable guidelines be issued in this regard. Trade informed that there is a delay from FAG with regard to such consignments and requested to look into this matter. The System is also not working smoothly and this problem occurs frequently and requested for issuance of an Advisory from the Department. A normal order of 5% examination should be given rather than giving first check or 100% examination

**Response:** The Chief Commissioner instructed NS-I Commissionerate to look into this matter.

**[Action: NS-I {AM(I)}]**

**4.9** Since the Directorate General of Systems have started automated examination in consultation with NCTC, it is requested to review examination orders for Vaccines, Perishable cargo etc. Order for open and examine are being given for vaccines imported under temperature control. The same cannot be opened, and opening such consignments can damage goods and render them non usable.

**Response:** The Chief Commissioner informed that examination order is given by the RMS system, and the matter of examination order directing open and examine for vaccine imports may be referred to NCTC.

**[Action: NS-I (EDI Section)]**

**4 . 1 0** Request for the Directorate General of Systems to be part of the CCFC meeting to address issues which will reduce dwell time.

**Response :** The Chief Commissioner informed that it was tried for this CCFC meeting, though request to the Directorate General of Systems was sent at the last moment. Further, it was assured that effort will be made to ensure that officers of the Directorate General of Systems are present during the CCFC meeting of JNCH.

**[Action : CCO]**

## **5. All India Importers Exporters Association (AIIEA):**

### **5.1 Export Inspection Certificate in the case of export of Biscuits:**

The Committee was informed that few officers are raising objection for the export consignments of Biscuits that it requires Export Inspection Certificate, insisting that Biscuits are covered under the description "milk products".

**Response:** Commissioner NS-II informed that the officers are being sensitized that Biscuits are not categorized as milk products and EIA certificate should not be insisted upon for the export consignments of Biscuits. Accordingly the issue has been resolved.

**[Point closed]**

### **5.2 DBK claims, pending with Customs for want of BRC; these claims may be cleared on the basis of FE Remittance proof available in the ICEGATE-RBI link.**

The Committee was informed about the DBK claims pending with Customs for non-submission of BRC by the exporters. The Authorized Dealer banks on the other hand state that they need not provide BRC for each Shipping Bill as

I/1579040/2023

details of Foreign Exchange remittances against each Shipping Bill have been mandated to be submitted on-line to RBI in pursuance of EDPMS (Export Data Processing and Monitoring System), a joint initiative by the ICEGATE and the RBI and the same is accessible by parties as well as Customs. The trade suggested that the DBK officers may be instructed to verify BRC from the above link or as an alternative they may be directed to accept the remittance proof downloaded from the ICEGATE RBI link by the exporter without insisting for a physical BRC certificate from the AD bank.

**Response:** Commissioner NS-II informed that as per Circular No. 05/2009-Cus dated 02.02.2009 and Public Notice 11/2009-JNCH dated 09.03.2009, the exporters are required to submit BRCs/06 Monthly Negative statements provided either by their Authorized Dealer or by their Chartered Accountant in capacity of Statutory Auditor of the Firm for the period from 01.01.2004 to 31.03.2014.

Moreover, as per PN No. 11/2017-JNCH dated 30.01.2017 and PN No. 137/2018-JNCH dated 10.10.2018, no manual BRCs/Negative Statements are to be accepted. Vide the said Public Notices, use of RBI BRC Module (ICES 1.5 EDPMS) was mandated for monitoring of realization of Export Proceeds in EDI for all Shipping Bills where LEO was granted on or after 01.04.2014.

As per Customs and Central Excise Duties Drawback Rules, 2017, the sale proceed has to be realized within the time limit as per Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999. In the RBI module, data w.r.t. date of realization is not available. In some cases, the RBI Module shows the realization against a Shipping Bill as short, however, on verification from the exporter, they submit proof of complete realization which has been received in more than one instalment, which creates issues, since the RBI module shows only one realization against a particular Shipping Bill which is not true in all the cases. A letter dated 08.06.2023 has also been sent to the Directorate General of Systems and Member, CBIC, New Delhi enlisting all these issues. Hence, the request of the trade in the subject matter will be considered once the policy and Systems issues in this regard are resolved.

**[Point closed]**

## **6. Maritime Association of Nationwide Shipping Agencies – India (MANSA)**

### **6.1 Destuffing of cargo detained by SIIB customs at JNCH, Nhava Sheva and releasing the empty container to the Shipping line.**

The Committee was informed that MANSA has raised an issue regarding a particular container which is lying at CWC CFS since 2021, since the cargo has been detained by the SIIB, JNCH, Nhava Sheva Customs. The consignee has not come forward for effecting clearance of the cargo. The custodian CWC CFS is not destuffing/auctioning/ disposing the cargo and releasing the Shipping line's empty container.

**Response:** The Chief Commissioner informed that certain types of cargo require secure storage even after examination. So it needs to be seen what is the cargo involved in that particular consignments. The Chief Commissioner asked the Commissioner, NS-V to examine the issue as per instructions.

**[Action: NS V (SIIB(I))]**

## **7. Maharashtra Chamber of Commerce Industry and Agriculture (MACCIA)**

### **7.1 Non availability of CVD Notification No. 01/2023 dated 04/05/2023**



**in the System.**

The Committee was informed about the Bills of Entry which are covered under Notification No. 01/2023 dated 04.05.2023, the countervailing duty rate and amount is not reflecting in the Bills of Entry. The matter has been escalated to DG System/ICEGATE for resolution of the same.

**Response:** The Chief Commissioner asked the Commissioner, NS-I to refer the matter to NS-Audit Commissionerate for recovery in those case where proper duty was not collected.

**[Action: NS-I & NS-Audit]**

**7.2 Compulsory Registration under Paper Import Monitoring System (PIMS) vide Notification No. 11/2015 - 2020 dated 25/05/2022.**

Trade informed that as per above notification all importers of Paper must register not earlier than 75th day and not later than 5th day before the expected date of arrival of import consignment. Whereas for import consignments under SIMS, the 5-day prior submission condition has been waived/removed, allowing import declarations to be entered until the day of arrival of the vessel vide Notification No. 19/2015-2020 dated 7th July, 2022. Trade suggested that for import consignments under PIMS also the time limit of registration should be abolished as done for imports under SIMS.

**Response:** The Chief Commissioner informed that the policy conditions related to SIMS and PIMS are decided by DGFT, and therefore DGFT may be approached for this issue.

**[Point Closed]**

**7.3 Equal Priority for Ex-Bond Goods Clearance.**

Trade informed that they are facing challenges in the assessment of Ex-Bond goods. They requested that the Ex-Bond Bills of Entry (BEs) be given equal priority as other home consumption BEs by sensitizing the concerned assessing officers.

**Response:** The Chief Commissioner suggested that Association needs to see the matter in more detail and come up with more specific information.

**(Action: MACCIA)**

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**7.4 Delay in faceless assessment and raising of piecemeal queries (more than 1 query) by the FAG officers.**

**Response:** The Committee was informed that matter has already been discussed at para 1.3 above. Thus response is also the same.

**(Action: BCBA & NS-I)**

**7.5 Delay in Authorized Economic Operator (AEO) Program certification.**

**Response:** The Committee was informed that matter is similar to the matter at para 1.6 above. Thus response is also the same.

**[Point Closed]**

**7.6 Many COOs had been sent for verification by the department.**

The Committee was informed that many COOs are still pending verification and

I/1579040/2023

these BEs are still pending in the system as provisionally assessed BEs. The importers' Bond and BGs are pending against these BEs.

**Response:** The Committee was informed that the group will finalize the Bills of Entry as soon the verification report is received from the Board. The Chief Commissioner instructed that the Appraising Main (I) section needs to follow up with the FTA Cell regularly for early response.

**[Action : NS-IAM(I) and all Groups of NS-I, NS-III, NS-V]**

**7.7 Customs ICEGATE / EDI System not accepting Custom Duty on 2nd, 4th Saturday & Bank Holiday via RTGS and NEFT but calculates interest for the same.**

Trade informed that Customs ICEGATE / EDI system does not accept Custom Duty payment via RTGS and NEFT on 2nd, 4th Saturday and all Bank Holidays, but it calculates interest for the same. Despite the payment have already been made by the Importer through RTGS / NEFT, it does not get integrated with BE and requested that the Custom duty payment should be integrated with the BE 24x7 otherwise this will delay the Custom clearance and will increase the avoidable transaction cost.

**Response:** Commissioner NS-I informed that as per data available duty collection is reflected on 2<sup>nd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and Bank holidays. The Chief Commissioner informed that the same issue was highlighted earlier as well and requested EDI Section to re-examine the same and take up remedial measures, if needed.

**[Action: NS-I (EDI)]**

**8. Container Freight Stations Association of India (CFSAI)**

**8.1 One Time Permission for disposal of Export long standing goods lying in CFSs:**

Trade informed that approximately 794 export consignments are lying uncleared in CFSs for an indefinite period. In this regard, the minutes of PTFC meeting held 04th August 2022 were referred wherein it was minuted as quoted below:-

*"The Chief Commissioner stated that a draft Public Notice regarding guideline of disposal of Export Longstanding lying in various CFS for a long time has been sent to the Board on 25.02.2021 vide F.No.S/ JNCH-D-205/2018-19 for approval, reply of the same is still awaited."*

Trade once again requested JNCH to grant one-time permission for expeditious disposal of export long standing cargo.

**Response:** The Chief Commissioner stated that the issue will be examined and decision will be taken at the earliest.

**[Action: NS-General (Disposal)]**

**8.2 Expediting the decision of Hold containers withheld by various Investigating agencies -**

Trade requested for expediting the decision of Hold containers withheld by various Investigating agencies - As on date approximately 1331 containers of 23 Member CFSs are on hold by various investigating agencies.

Agewise analysis Summary of Containers

I/1579040/2023

Ageing	Count of Containers
10 years and above	291
8-10 years	88
5-8 years	186
3-5 years	209
1-3 years	353
Less than 1 year	204

## Agency Wise Summary of Containers

Agency	Count of Containers
CBI	1
CESTAT	3
CIU	273
CSD Hold	1
Custom Hold	3
Disposal	34
DRI	223
M & P	3
MPIU	7
NCB	1
NCLT	1
NSPU	9
NSPU & R&I	2
Others	7
Police	2
R&I	28
SIIB - Imports	690
SIIB - Exports	43

Shipping Line wise break up is as under:

Shipping Lines	Long Standing containers	TEUs
MSC	534	704
Maersk	814	1181
CMA CGM	612	808
COSCO	247	411
Emirates	26	41
Evergreen	91	143
Hamburg	18	33
Hapag	1627	2705
KMTC	55	78
ONE	77	106
OOCL	35	59
RCL	85	134
BLPL	19	23
MILAHA	21	38
ZIM	108	170
TS Line	31	44

I/1579040/2023

YML	27	44
IAL	12	19
TOTAL	4439	6741

Trade requested JNCH to take the same with the investigating agencies at the earliest in getting the permission for disposal of said containers at the earliest and release of the container to Shipping Line.

**Response:** Commissioner, NS-General informed that Disposal Task Force is already working in this direction. They have been examining the containers and wherever mis-declaration have been found the same are forwarded for investigation. For the rest of the containers, disposal section itself is working to reduce the pendency. The Chief Commissioner suggested that JNCH may inform DG, DRI regarding the said issue to resolve the matter at the earliest in view of large number of containers put on hold by DRI Units.

**[Action: NS-General (Disposal)]**

**8.3 Expeditious Disposal of Uncleared/Unclaimed Red Sanders lying with Custodians** - Approximately list of 102 containers of Red Sanders are lying uncleared in CFSs. CFSAI had raised the issue in PTFC in the month of April 2023. In the Minutes it was recorded as below:

"The Chief Commissioner had informed that the Board has granted a fresh quota in 60 cases for disposal of said goods. Disposal of the same will be done very soon."

Trade requested to provide the list of 60 containers where the Board has granted the permission for disposal to enable member CFSs proceed for further course of action.

**Response:** The Chief Commissioner informed that the subject list of 60 cases where the Board has allocated fresh quota for disposal of confiscated red sanders by DRI and Customs field formations, is received vide their letter dated 28.02.2023. The said list of 60 cases has been derived from the list of cases of 'Red Sanders' reported by SIIB (X).

Further, it was informed that the subject list of 60 cases received from the Board vide their said letter contains details like date of seizure, place of seizure/confiscation, place of storage & Qty. (in MTs).

However, since details like Container No., Name of Importer, Name of Investigating Agency, File/Reference No. Etc. are neither mentioned in the Board's letter nor in SIIB (X) letter, therefore, it is not possible to identify the subject cases for which fresh quota has been granted by the Board.

It was further informed that the disposal of Red Sanders is being centrally undertaken by DRI, Accordingly, continuous correspondence with DRI for expeditious disposal of the long-standing containers is being done.

**[Action: NS-General (Disposal)]**

**9.** The Chairman thanked all the participants and the meeting ended with the vote of thanks to the Chief Commissioner.

This issues with the approval of Chief Commissioner of Customs, Mumbai Customs Zone-II, JNCH, Nhava Sheva.

(Rahul Dhingra)

I/1579040/2023

Deputy Commissioner of Customs  
CCO, JNCH, Nhava Sheva,  
Mumbai Customs Zone-II

Copy to:

1. PS to Zonal Member / Member (Customs), CBIC, New Delhi
2. All Pr. Commissioners/Commissioners, JNCH, Nhava Sheva
3. All members of CCFC
4. DC/EDI (for uploading on website)
5. Office copy