



भारत सरकार

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

सीमा शुल्क मुख्य आयुक्त का कार्यालय, कोलकाता क्षेत्र
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF COMMISSIONER OF CUSTOMS, KOLKATA CUSTOMS ZONE
 सीमा शुल्क सदन, 15/1 स्ट्रैंड रोड, कोलकाता- 700001
CUSTOM HOUSE, 15/1 STRAND ROAD, KOLKATA- 700001
 Fax No. 91-33-2231-3289; E-mail: ccu-cuskoa@nic.in

**MINUTES OF THE CUSTOMS CLEARANCE FACILITATION COMMITTEE
 (CCFC) MEETING HELD ON 28.05.2021 (THROUGH WEB
 CONFERENCING)**

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The meeting of the Customs Clearance Facilitation Committee (CCFC) of Kolkata Customs Zone was held on 28.05.2021 at 04:00 PM under the Chairmanship of Shri Pramod Kumar Agrawal, Chief Commissioner of Customs, Kolkata Customs Zone. In view of the Government directives on account of the threat of COVID-19, the meeting was conducted via Web Conference.

The following officers/representatives attended the meeting:-

Sl. No.	Name & Designation (Shri/Ms)	Organisation
1.	Shri Deep Shekhar	Principal Commissioner of Customs (AP & ACC)
2.	Shri Rajesh Jindal	Principal Commissioner of Customs (Port) and (Prev.), West Bengal.
3.	Shri Vishwanath	Additional Commissioner (CCO & Port)
4.	Shri K.G.V.N Surya Teja	Additional Commissioner (CCO & CCP)
5.	Shri Sydney D'Silva	Additional Commissioner (AP & ACC)
6.	Shri Debojit Bose	Additional Commissioner (A & A)
7.	Shri P.C.Nayak	Additional Commissioner (CCP)
8.	Shri Basant Kumar	Joint Commissioner (Port)
9.	Shri P.R. Nath	Assistant Commissioner of Customs (in-situ) (CCO)
10.	Shri Ayan Sadhu	Superintendent of Customs (CCO)
11.	Shri Ranjeet Kumar Prasad	Preventive Officer (CCO)
12.	Shri Subburaj M	Authorized Officer, FSSAI
13.	Dr. Jimlee Sarmah	Quarantine Officer, Animal Quarantine

14.	Dr. K.K. Halder	ADC (I)
15	Shri M.K. Biswas	Regional Director, CPCB
16.	Shri Sudip Dey	Vice President, CCHAA
17.	Shri Mannu Choudhary	Secretary, CCHAA
18	Shri Ali Haider	CCHAA
19.	Shri S.K. Dutt	Haldia Petrochemical Ltd.
20	Shri Kaushik Ghosh	GJEPC
Some other officials of various Organizations were also present.		

The Chairman welcomed all the members and opened the conference for discussions. Thereafter, the Chair considered the discussions on the agenda points as appended herein below:

Issue 1	<p><u>Sponsored by Sudip Dey, Vice President, Calcutta Customs House Agents Association (CCHAA):</u></p> <p>Information on SOP of all PGAs for clearance of EXIM cargo, was sought for operating under Lockdown, which is likely to be extended further.</p>
Remarks of Department	<p>The matter has been discussed during the meeting. It has been informed by Principal Commissioner of Customs (AP & ACC) that, as directed, letter regarding the issuance of SOP by PGA's have been sent to the concerned 05 PGAs viz. Regional Plant Quarantine Station, Wildlife Crime Control Bureau, Food Safety and Standard Authority of India, Animal Quarantine and Certification Service & Central Drug Standard Control Organization for furnishing the desired information. Reply is awaited from PGAs but Mr. Subburaj M. Authorized Officer of FSSAI being present in the meeting will pronounce their devised SOP.</p>
Remarks of PGAs	<p>The matter has been discussed during the meeting. It has been informed by the Authorised officer, FSSAI that for SOP regarding COVID related highly essential services has been devised by their Headquarters. The SOP pronounces that, all consignment clearance has to be done within five days. And in case of Oil and Pulses, they have to clear the consignments within three working days and would issue NOC within 2 hours. They would be working 24*7 for scrutiny of the consignment and added that they had appointed nodal officer(s) and special officer(s) for the same.</p> <p>Dr. Jimlee Sarmah representing Animal Quarantine was very much present in the meeting but her voice was inaudible during the meeting. In an email communication sent later she informed that AQCS upholds their commitment towards trade facilitation & ease of doing business following their mandate during the ongoing COVID19 pandemic,</p>

	<p>while dealing with import clearances of highly perishable items like fish & fishery related livestock products & that too with minimal staff strength on rotation basis. They clear the consignments within 30-60 minutes of receipt of documents. She also added that cross border trade has been facilitated across all POE inclusive of two newly notified LCS to the satisfaction of all the stake holders. She further apprised that all the stakeholders were informed to submit the documents and Customs sealed samples etc. for availing their decision as per SOOP (Single Day Decision Policy) or within 8 working hours for all imported consignments falling under the purview of AQCS Kolkata. She also provided their email id (roagser.kol-dadf@gov.in) and phone no. (033-25196777) for dealing with any query / assistance to be responded within 8 working hours of receipt.</p> <p>Dr. K.K. Halder from ADC (I) joined the VC and stated that guidelines in form of Circular is already there specifying how to deal with in case of urgency and it provides round the clock availability of officers “on call” for expeditious clearance of cargo.</p>
Direction of the Chair	<p>The chair has requested to all PGA to share their SOP to all the CHA with a copy to the Custom Department mentioning the name(s) of the nodal officer(s) & special officer(s) posted at different locations. The Chair has also requested them to notify the alternative arrangements & name of the coordinator, if any, at any particular customs location, where the PGA is not directly available.</p> <p>The Chair also mentioned that similar SOP will also be issued by Customs Department as well, as the Ministry of Finance is contemplating the same. The Chair has also directed both the Principal Commissioner of Customs to share the contact no. concerned Custom officials to every PGAs and also take contact number of every PGAs for any communication adding further to communicate with all the PGAs regarding the issuance of SOP in this regard at the earliest. The Chair also directed to communicate with the Postal Appraising Department for publication of SOPs as well as a lot of issues is related to them.</p>
Action to be taken by	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Principal Commissioner of Customs (AP & ACC) 2. Principal Commissioner of Customs (Port) 3. Principal Commissioner of Customs (Preventive), WB
Misc. topic	Sponsored by Shri Mannu Choudhary, Secretary, CCHAA:

raised during the Meeting	<p>Extended his vote of thanks to the Customs Department and shared his experience during lock down period in respect of clearance of urgent consignments. He further mentioned about Shri Basant Kumar, Joint Commissioner of Customs (Port), Shri D. Satish, Joint Commissioner of Customs (Port) and Shri Sydney D'Shilva, Additional Commissioner of Customs (A &A) for their cooperation in clearance of the consignments. He also added that, Shri Basant Kumar, JC (Port) personally contacted the WCCB officer for faster clearance of the consignments & Shri Sydney D'Shilva also extended his total support at the Airport for faster clearance of the consignment during the lock down period.</p>
Comments of the Chair	<p>The Chair assured him on behalf of both The Principal Commissioners and himself that similar cooperation will be continuing and informed that the Department is available 24*7 for clearance of the consignment. The Chair also insisted on issuance of some guidelines to declare Customs Departmental Officers, particularly those engaged in customs job, being a part of the essential service, and directed such officers & staff to carry their departmental ID Card(s) and put appropriate stickers on vehicles, as well, while plying to office during the lock down period. He also reiterated to abide by the State imposed restrictions in this unprecedented situation and vie for achieving maximum output with minimum physical presence by leveraging all technical aids viz. email, whatsapp, telephone etc. The Chair reminded all stakeholders to come up with any suggestions and/ or guidance etc. for complete cooperation and smooth functioning of Customs facilitation as usual.</p>
Misc. Issue raised during the Meeting	<p>Sponsored by Shri M.K. Biswas, Regional Director, CPCB:</p> <p>Pendency of consignment of ZMS, used for production of oxygen, which arrived at Delhi Airport, but BoE pending with Kolkata Sea Port Customs for faceless assessment.</p>
Direction of the Chair	<p>The Chair guided him to be in touch with PC (Port) Mr. Jindal but as he was unaware of any contact number of any Customs Officer, the</p>

	<p>Chair shared his personal mobile no. with RD, CPCB MR. Biswas and assured him of all assistance and coordination to resolve the issue on urgent basis.</p>
<p>Misc. Issue raised during the Meeting</p>	<p>Sponsored by Shri Deep Shekhar, Principal Commissioner of Customs (A&A):</p> <p>In view of the existing special drive which is to culminate on 31st May, 2021 for clearance of pendency related to Drawback and IGST Refund, the exporter may be requested through the CHA to respond promptly so that all old pendency could be disposed off as the current pendency are already cleared. The air cargo offices would remain open on Saturday and Sunday also for clearance of all pendency. Though the pendency list is available on Kolkata Custom Zonal Website, the response from airlines and all other stakeholders are very feeble. He requested the CHAs to get in touch with the exports accordingly to clear off old pendency.</p>
<p>Direction of the Chair</p>	<p>As a lot of pendency regarding EGM non-submission, EGM Error and EGM reply exist, the Chair requested all the exporters to take up the matter with the Airlines / Shipping lines and CHA. Responding to comments put forth by Mr. Sudip Dey regarding pendency of transshipment EGMs at Krishnapatnam, the Chair affirmed his knowledge about the same which would be counting to a few hundreds but expressed his anguish over the pendency in question which tantamount to a few thousand. The Chair mentioned that more than twenty thousand EGMs are pending due to the non-submission by the Airlines and Shipping line and more than two thousand EGM are pending for exporter's reply and / or test reports As last year the pendency with Krishnapatnam was being dealt by the Shri D Satish, Joint Commissioner of Customs (Port), the Chair directed Shri D Satish only to take up the matter likewise in the current year as well.</p>
<p>Action to be taken by</p>	<p>Shri D Satish, Joint Commissioner of Customs (Port)</p>

The Plant Quarantine Officer tried to attend the meeting with the aid of Mr. Subburaj of FSSAI over phone but since the voice was not clear the Chair directed both the Principal Commissioners to hold separate webinars with the PGAs regarding issuance of SOPs and in such meeting the CHA etc. should also be accommodated for all better reasons.

The contact numbers of all concerned should be exchanged and kept note of by all concerned so that expeditious clearance can be done in this ongoing emergency situation. The Chair also mentioned that it was utterly surprising that the nodal officer from CPCB did not have the number of any Custom Officers, hence the number of the key officers like Shri Basant Kumar, Joint Commissioner of Customs (Port) and Shri Sydney D'Silva, Additional Commissioner of Customs (A &A) should be shared and the numbers of the higher officials of the PGAs should be procured as well for keeping it handy in case of any emergency.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the Chair.

This issues with the approval of the Competent Authority.

(K G V N Surya Teja)
Additional Commissioner
Chief Commissioner's Office
Kolkata Customs Zone

Dated: 04/06/2021

Copy to:

1. The Principal Commissioner of Customs (AP & ACC)
2. The Principal Commissioner of Customs (Port)
3. The Principal Commissioner of Customs (Prev.), West Bengal
4. The Additional / Joint Commissioner of Customs (Port / A&A / CCP)
5. All Concerned.
6. DC (EDI) for uploading in Kolkata Customs Web Page.