GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL COMMISSIONER OF CUSTOMS (AIRPORT & ADMIN)
AIR CARGO COMPLEX, NSCBI AIRPORT, KOLKATA - 700052
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Minutes of "Trade Facilitation Committee" Meeting held on 28.12.2018 in the Customs Board Room at Air Cargo Complex, NSCBI Airport, Kolkata

The Trade Facilitation Committee (TFC) Meeting was held on 28.12.2018 at 17:00 hours in the Customs Board Room at Air Cargo Complex, NSCBI Airport, Kolkata. The meeting was presided over by Shri M A Ansari, Additional Commissioner of Customs (Airport & Administration).

Following agenda points raised by Air Cargo Agents Association of India, Eastern Region (ACAAI) were discussed in the meeting :

1. Holiday / Mid-Night clearance of cargo still facing challenges at ACC. ICDR Scanning ('IMEI Cloning and Duplication Restriction' System scanning for validation of physical IMEI certificate details) is not happening on Holidays and Midnight.   [Export Shed & Import Shed, Customs]

Discussion : As a trade facilitation measure, 24x7 clearance has been enabled at ACC Kolkata vide Public Notice No. 16/2017 dated 11.04.2017. Officers' fortnightly Duty Roster (for Import Shed and Export Shed) is issued in advance by DC (Admin) and the same is also put on the Customs Notice Board for information of trade at ACC Kolkata. However, it has been observed that on holidays and late nights, despite officers being present for 24x7 clearance, trade representatives do not come forward for cargo clearance which defeats the purpose of 24x7 duty roster. Further, Time Release Studies and Dwell Time Analysis reports for ACC Kolkata point out to abnormally high average time taken by Trade in (i) payment of import duty after assessment and (ii) presenting goods for registration after assessment/duty payment stage. In every TFC meeting, Trade is being sensitized to improve upon this aspect.

Response/Decision : Import Shed officials have been directed to ensure 24x7 clearance in shed. Non-compliance on part of officers and problems faced by Trade in this regard should be brought to the notice of Additional Commissioner (A&A) or DC (Admin) with specific incident/shipment details. In order to enable ICDR Scanning (for validation of physical IMEI certificate) even on holidays / late nights, an email has been sent by DC (Admin) to 'Mobile Standards Alliance of India / MSAI' on 04.01.2019 requesting individual login and password for all Examiners posted at ACC Kolkata.

2. Inordinate delay is taking place in clearance of import Diplomatic Mail. The process of obtaining permission to file Kachha Bill of Entry (processing of applications submitted through Sevottam) is taking long time.   [Sevottam & EDI Section]

Response/Decision : Concerned Customs Broker / Representative of Diplomatic person should meet DC (EDI & Import) within two hours after submitting the application for clearance of import Diplomatic Mail. In case of delay, concerned officers/staff shall be asked to explain the specific reason for delay.

3. Unwarranted delay is taking place in obtaining permission to file Shipping Bill for export shipment of Personal Effects under special IEC (0100000053). [Export Group, Customs]

Response/Decision : Export Group has submitted a report dated 24.12.2018, which shows that delay of more than three days in giving permission for filing shipping bill (towards export of personal effects under special IEC 0100000053) was only in those cases where documents required to establish person's identity were not submitted by the individual exporter.

4. Service Centre personnel are not available at ACC for giving Print to Bills of Entry / Shipping Bills (i) before 11:30 am, (ii) after 10:00 pm and (iii) on holidays. [Service Centre]

Response/Decision : Representative of Service Centre /CMC office presented documents showing that Bills of Entry / Shipping Bills were being printed in late night hours too. Difficulties faced in printing of Bills of Entry / Shipping Bills during office hours should be immediately brought to the notice of DC (Admin & EDI). For problems faced during night shifts, trade representative should write down details of the incident in a register kept with the IFO/EFO (on Shed duty) and approach the DC (Admin) the next day with details of the issue.

5) Import counter of AAICLAS does not start working before 12:00 noon. [AAICLAS]

Response/Decision : DGM Cargo, AAICLAS submitted that their 2nd floor Import Counter starts functioning from 11:00 hours and Import Gate Counter starts functioning from 12:00 noon. AAICLAS highlighted that on an average, only 200 Bills of Entry are being processed in a day at ACC Kolkata. However, DGM Cargo, AAICLAS assured of looking into this issue to ensure that "Location Slip and Bank Challan" are issued at their 2nd floor Import counter from 11:00 hours.

6) There is delay on part of FSSAI Kolkata in issuance of NOC for import. [FSSAI Kolkata]

Response/Decision : Air Cargo Agents Association of India, Eastern Region was requested to provide specific case details/data in this regard, however the data was not readily available with them. It was agreed that sometimes, due to a pan-India technical/transmission problem in SWIFT, manual NOC is required from FSSAI for some items of a Bill of Entry (shown in FSSAI screen as waived by SWIFT but not shown as waived in ICEGATE Customs screen).

7) Earlier, one WLA Inspector was posted at Air Cargo Complex to give NOC on the spot. As per the Notice issued by WCCB (WLA), samples and applications for NOC are required to be submitted at Nizam Palace, Kolkata (20 KMs from ACC) by the CHA holding valid F/G/H Customs passes only. It is difficult for Trade to depute a Customs F/G/H pass-holder to obtain NOC from WCCB office keeping other routine/time bound work pending at Airport Custom station. This process causes inordinate delays in export and also results in demurrage charges. [WCCB/WLA]

Comments : This matter has also been discussed in previous TFC meetings at ACC Kolkata. WCCB/WLA Kolkata is facing shortage of manpower (only three Inspectors looking after Port, Airport and Preventive Land Customs). Trade was also advised to raise this issue in the next CCFC meeting.

Following agenda points raised by AAICLAS, Kolkata were discussed in the meeting :

8) To de-congest examination area, Shifting of export cargo to Bonded area before Customs Examination may be considered. [Customs]

Response/Decision : DGM (Cargo), AAICLAS conveyed a proposal from the CEO, AAICLAS that in Air Cargo Complexes at Delhi and Mumbai, export cargo is directly sent to Export Shed bonded area (sterile/restricted/CISF manned area where only authorised personnel are allowed to enter) after X-ray and packages selected by the System for examination are brought from bonded area to Customs examination area. AAICLAS proposed that the same system can be replicated at ACC Kolkata. Shifting of export cargo to Bonded area is expected to de-congest examination area and prevent chances of pilferage of export goods. However, Airlines representatives raised the issue that it may result in less space to maneuver in bonded area. It was decided that a joint meeting of all stakeholders (Customs, Airlines and AAICLAS) should take place to examine the issue in detail.

9) Destruction and disposal of pending import cargo : Customs NOC is awaited for conducting e-auction/e-tender as per Section 48 of the Customs Act, 1962. [Import Group & SIB, Customs]

Response/Decision : DC (SIB) informed that they shall give their report/observations regarding destruction and disposal of pending import cargo.

10) Training/briefing with Shift Duty Manager - AAICLAS and IFO & EFOs for regularization of discrepancy and stream lining the procedure. [IFO/EFO, Customs]

Response/Decision : AAICLAS submitted that even minor bruises to a package is being shown as damage and subject to 100% examination, which causes delay in clearance. Their proposal for training/briefing sessions on issues like "short-landing, excess-landing, damage" was welcomed by Customs.

11) Transmission of LEO messages from ICEGATE to ICMS (AAICLAS server) is not happening. [EDI Section, Customs]

Response/Decision : AAICLAS highlighted that presently LEO messages against only 20% Shipping Bills are being transmitted from ICEGATE to ICMS (AAICLAS server). AAICLAS was requested to send a report to EDI Section showing those cases where LEO messages were not transmitted so that the issue can be examined in light of the relevant Customs Public Notice (EDI processing of Shipping Bills and Post-LEO procedure).

Following agenda point raised by M/s Cathay Pacific Airways Cargo was discussed in the meeting

12) Request to shift incoming international postal mail from International Passenger Terminal to International Air Cargo Terminal. Currently, incoming postal mail bags are being handled through International Passenger Terminal, which is a tedious, time-consuming and unsafe affair without adequate infrastructure or security in place at the Passenger Terminal for incoming mail bags (left unattended for almost a week which poses risks like theft, pilferage etc besides delay in clearance). Outgoing/export India Post mail bags are already being handled through International Air Cargo Terminal. The same should be allowed for incoming India Post mail bags. [Customs]

Response/Decision : International Passenger Terminal has given their NOC for the proposal (shifting of incoming international postal mail from Passenger Terminal to ACC Terminal). However, AAICLAS informed that TSP Handling Charges will have to be paid to AAICLAS if incoming international postal mail are handled through ACC Kolkata. It was decided that these modalities can be discussed among stakeholders and accordingly, a decision shall be taken.

This is issued with the approval of the Additional Commissioner of Customs (A&A).

F.No. S60 (Misc)-13/18CCI
Date: 10.01.2019

(Dr. Tanisha Dutta)
Deputy Commissioner of Customs,
Air Cargo Complex, NSCBI Airport, Kolkata

Copy to :

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2. The Commissioner of Customs (A&A), Kolkata
3. The Commissioner of Customs (Port), Kolkata
4. The Commissioner of Customs (Preventive), Kolkata
5. All Additional Commissioners of Customs, Kolkata
6. All Assistant/Deputy Commissioners of Customs (Airport / Port / Preventive)
7. Computer Cell, Custom House, Kolkata with a request to upload on the website
8. DGM (Cargo), AAICLAS, Kolkata
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Minutes of TFC meeting held on 28.12.2018 at ACC Kolkata

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Following officers/members were present in the TFC meeting on 28.12.2018 :

Sl. No.	Name of Officer / Member	Designation / Organisation
1	M A Ansari	Additional Commissioner of Customs (A&A)
2	Dhruvajyoti Roy	Deputy Commissioner, SIB & AEO Cell
3	Dr. Tanisha Dutta	Deputy Commissioner, Import Group & Export Shed
4	Rahul Nandy	DGM (Cargo), AAICLAS
5	Vishal Kumar	Appraiser General
6	Subhasis Sarkar	Appraiser, Bond Section
7	K C Mallick	Superintendent, U.B. & EDI Section
8	Bijay Kumar Shaw	Appraiser, Export Group
9	Jaideep Raha	Chairman, ACAAI (ER)
10	Rajesh Singh	Director, FSSAI Kolkata
11	D. P. Guha	Consultant, FSSAI Kolkata
12	Pradeep Kumar Singh	Senior Manager (Cargo), AAICLAS
13	Shahbaz Javed	AQCS Inspector (Animal Quarantine)
14	Prosenjit Datta	Regional Manager, DHL (ACAAI)
15	Utpal Konwar	Cargo Sales and Services Officer, Cathay Pacific
16	Kaushik Nandy	Cargo Supervisor (Bhadra International / BIIL)
17	Anamitra Lahiri	China Eastern Airlines (Cargo)
18	Arnab Chakraborty	M.E., FIEO
19	Aniruddha Ghosh	Department of Post
20	D Bhattacharjee	Department of Post
21	Amin Khan	Cargo Manager (Emirates Airlines)
22	Biswajit Bandopadhyay	Air India Airport Services (AIATSL)
23	Soumya Chowdhury	Air India Airport Services (AIATSL)
24	Sanjoy Saha	Air India Airport Services (AIATSL)
25	Kaushik Banerjee	Thai Air Asia Cargo
26	Prantick Choudhury	Thai Air Asia Cargo
27	Gurtej Singh Bhatia	CTC (India) Pvt Ltd
28	Jayakrishnan Nair	Kyocera CTC Precision Tools Pvt Ltd
29	Somnath Ghosh	Spicejet Airlines
30	S. Sircar	Special Engineering Works
31	Naresh Kohli	Kohlbros Wireless Solutions