



भारत सरकार
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
वित्त मंत्रालय, राजस्व विभाग
Ministry of Finance, Department of Revenue
सीमा शुल्क आयुक्त (निवारक) का कार्यालय
Office of the Commissioner of Customs (Preventive)
पूर्वोत्तर क्षेत्र, North Eastern Region

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F.No. GEN/TECH/246/2021-Tech-O/o Commr-Cus-Shillong

MINUTES OF THE PERMANENT TRADE FACILITATION COMMITTEE (PTFC)
MEETING HELD AT GUWAHATI ON 20th MAY 2022

PARTICIPANTS:

(A) CUSTOMS

<i>Sr. No</i>	<i>Name of the Organization/Department</i>	<i>Name of the Representative</i>	<i>Designation</i>
1	Customs Commissionerate (Prev.), NER, Shillong	Shri G.M. Kamei	Commissioner & Chairperson
2	Customs Division, Guwahati	Shri Varun Yadav	Deputy Commissioner
3	Customs Commissionerate (Prev.), NER, Shillong	Shri Samir Serel	Assistant Commissioner
4	Customs Division, Guwahati	Shri Dipankar Dutta	Superintendent (Tech)
5	Customs Division, Guwahati	Shri Abhijit Dey	Superintendent/PRO
6	Customs Commissionerate (Prev.), NER, Shillong	Shri Hauzel Daniel	Superintendent (Tech)
7	Customs Division, Guwahati	Shri Pranav Prakash Ranjan	Inspector (Tech)
8	Customs Commissionerate (Prev.), NER, Shillong	Shri Rahul Singh	Inspector (Tech)

(B) Trade Bodies and Other Agencies:

<i>Sr. No</i>	<i>Name of the Organization/Department</i>	<i>Name of the Representative</i>	<i>Designation</i>
1.	Container Corporation of India Ltd.	Shri Debopan Banerjee	Terminal Manager
2.	Indo-Bhutan Chamber of Commerce	Shri A.K. Kabra	Member

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3.	Nibir and Company	Shri Bijoy kakoty	Proprietor
4.	Technotive Eastern Pvt. Ltd.	Capt. Tridib Phukan	Director & CEO
5.	Limestone Exporter Associaton Karimganj	Mr. Waliul Islam Choudhury	General Secretary
6.	Border Trade Chamber of Commerce, Moreh, Manipur	Shri Surinder Singh Patheja	General Secretary
7.	Border Trade Chamber of Commerce, Moreh, Manipur	Shri K. Bala Subramaniam	Public Relation Secretary

At the outset the Commissioner of Customs (Prev.), NER, Shillong welcomed the participants and apprised them of the purpose of the meeting.

Thereafter, the Chair reviewed the decisions taken in the Permanent Trade Facilitation Committee (PTFC) Meeting held at Guwahati on 28th February 2022 and informed all concerned Customs Divisional offices to submit action taken report immediately.

AGENDA POINTS

I. Agenda point sponsored by Shri Tridib Phukan, Customs Brokers

Shri Tridib Phukan, Customs Broker raised the following issues.

1) Facility for online payment of MOT charge & Shipping Bill cancellation charge

Trade & Customs Brokers are facing difficulty in paying these charges at LCS Darranga and LCS Khamardwisa as the nearest bank to make the deposit is 40/50 kilometres away. This problem is likely to get more acute as LCS located in more remote areas comes under EDI. It is requested to give facility for online payment of such charges.

2) Permission to store export cum Guwahati auctioned tea in warehouses located inside ICD Amingaon

ICD Amingaon has so far been supported by the major producer exporters of Assam tea only. Merchant exporters have not yet shown any interest in utilising the service of ICD Amingaon. Tea export by producer exporters has also come down over the years.

In Kolkata, the producer exporters have the option to store tea in some warehouses approved by Kolkata Tea Auction Centre. These warehouses also have the facility to stuff containers for export of tea. This flexibility allows the producer exporter to save the extra handling cost and avoid delay. In other words, in case the producer exporter is unable to export the tea, he can arrange to sell the tea through the auction system without incurring additional cost and without delay. Similarly, for merchant exporter, if he buys a full container load located from such warehouse he can immediately arrange for export formalities without delay and without additional handling/transportation cost.

Such facility is lacking in Guwahati Tea Auction System. The above system can be introduced for ICD Amingaon. Also, technically it is possible to store both tea for export

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and auctioned tea in such warehouses inside ICD Amingaon as ICD Amingaon falls within the 30 kilometre radius from the Guwahati Tea Auction Centre criteria.

Presently, any tea export if rejected by the buyer has to be diverted from ICD warehouse to an approved warehouse for Guwahati auctioned tea for sale through the auction system thereby incurring additional cost and delay.

In view of above, permission could be accorded to store export cum Guwahati auctioned tea in warehouses located inside ICD, Amingaon to help attract more tea export.

Discussion

(i) The Chair advised that as was the practice in some other formations, MOT may be deposited in advance (say for a month) and receipt thereof may be submitted to the LCS for making a debit entry adjustment as and when MOT is rendered. The LCS may maintain proper account/record of the same.

(ii) With regard to the proposal for storing both export tea and auctioned tea, the trade may approach CONCOR (Custodian of ICD Amingaon) and Guwahati Tea Auction Centre authority.

In this regard, the CONCOR representative said that they will submit a proper proposal to the Deputy Commissioner, Guwahati Customs Division.

[Action: Guwahati Customs Division and CONCOR]

II. Agenda point sponsored by Indo-Bhutan Chamber of Commerce, Kolkata

Indo-Bhutan Chamber of Commerce raised the following issues.

1) Implementation of Trade Notice. No. 1/2022 dated 08.03.2022

The above trade notice was issued by the O/o Commissioner Customs (Preventative) North Eastern Region, Shillong as discussed in PTFC meeting held on 28.02.2022.

The facility for completion of CVV pre-payment implementation is still awaited.

During a meeting held in the O/o DG, Systems, New Delhi they were informed that the pre-payment CVV has to be approved by DG, Systems, New Delhi for its implementation in the system.

Request:

- i) Necessary action and formalities may be complied with so that the pre-payment CVV is made applicable immediately.
- ii) All Bills of Entry generated under ICEGATE 30 minutes before the closing of working hours of LCS should be approved by LCS under by completion of CVV before the closing of that day LCS.

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2) Working hours of LCS

At present in terms of the Public Notice issued, LCS Kamardwisa is working from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. (10 hours) on all working days.

It has been observed that on occasions due to ICEGATE and system issues, Bills of Entry are generated late and hence clearance could not be effected before 6 p.m.

Request:

In view of the above, it is requested that the working hours of LCS Kamardwisa may be considered from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. on all working days.

3) Clearance on payment of MOT due to ICEGATE issues or system failures.

In terms of the approval as mentioned in the minutes of meeting held on 28.02.2022 it was decided that -

“If there is a need to clear consignments on urgent basis, clearance of such consignments is allowed on MOT with approval of the Divisional Deputy/Assistant Commissioner”.

The following difficulties arise for clearance of import cargoes at LCS due to the working of online clearance:

- i) Due to ICEGATE or System issues Bill of Entry numbers are not generated within the LCS working hours inspite of timely uploading of documents by importers in ICEGATE.
- ii) As Bill of Entry numbers are not generated before the closing time of the LCS, the CVV cannot be completed and the cargoes are stranded. In case if it is Saturday the trucks have to be stranded for another day i.e. Sunday.

Request:

In view of the above, it is requested that LCS should be empowered for clearance of all such cargoes including cement on payment of MOT if the Bill of Entry is generated before 3 hours of the closing time of the LCS or on the next day in case the Bill of Entry number is not generated before 3 hours of the closing time of the LCS.

Discussion

The Trade Notice No. 01/2022 has been forwarded to the DG Systems, New Delhi.

The Chair informed that the working hours of LCSs is a bilateral issue and it should be in synchronization with the counterpart LCS. However, the importers and exporters are encouraged to file advanced Shipping Bill or prior Bill of Entry to avoid the problems faced due to delay in generation of BE No. or SB No.

III. Agenda point sponsored by Limestone Exporters Association of Karimganj, Karimganj

Indo-Bhutan Chamber of Commerce raised the following issues.

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- 1) To take necessary steps for filing up the vacant posts of Customs Inspectors at Sutarkandi LCS:

Traders are facing huge traffic due to shortage of staff.

- 2) To ensure availability of sufficient storage space:

Storage space is another important issue they are facing for a long time. Due to limited storage space they are not able to expand their business. Besides, due to non availability of storage space, many exporters are made to stop their business during the rainy season.

- 3) To provide vehicles parking facility:

There is no adequate parking facility at Sutarkandi LCS due to which they are facing heavy traffic in Sutarkandi market area which creates daily conflicts between the local people and the export truck drivers.

- 4) To ensure Street lighting & CCTV surveillance within entire notified area:

For safety and security reasons it is our earnest request that, kindly install required number of streetlight and CC cam within the notified area for preventing and indentifying unwanted threats/ ill-legal practices.

Discussion

The Chair informed that in Guwahati Zone of Central GST & Customs there is acute shortage of Inspectors. All the field formations are working with limited number of Inspectors. However, effort will be made in the next AGT to post as many Inspectors as possible in the active LCS's.

With regard to the storage and parking facilities within the Customs Area, Land Ports Authority of India (LPAI) is the custodian of ICP Sutarakndi. The trade may approach LPAI in the matter.

Regarding street lighting and parking facility beyond the Customs Area, the trade may take up the matter with the District Administration. The Deputy Commissioner, Karimganj Customs Division may also take up the matter with the District Authority in this regard.

Regarding installation of CCTV at the ICP, the Deputy Commissioner, Karimganj Customs Division may take up the matter with LPAI.

[Action: DC, Karimganj Customs Division]

IV. Agenda point sponsored by Border trade Chamber of Commerce, Moreh, Manipur

Border Trade Chamber of Commerce, Moreh raised the following issues.

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- 1) Since the border has been sealed from 10th March 2020 there has been no trade with Myanmar. Indian government may hold talk with Myanmar government to re-open the border.
- 2) Since Myanmar has been categorized as Least Developed Country, the duty on import & exports should be exempted to boost trade.
- 3) The internet speed in Moreh is very poor. Poor internet connectivity will hamper trade as EDI is being implemented in ICP Moreh.
- 4) Food testing laboratory should be available in LCS Moreh.
- 5) Banking facility is poor in Moreh.
- 6) When the government introduced Look East Policy, ICP was introduced and it was built and completed in Moreh but till date the ICP has not been functioning properly. Border trade may be reopened as soon as possible.
- 7) Customers Care Centre must be available in the ICP.

Discussion

With regard to the resumption of international trade at ICP Moreh, the Chair informed that the matter is under discussion at higher level and decision will be taken soon.

With regard to rate of import duty, the Chair informed that PTFC is not the proper forum to discuss on this matter. However, the trade bodies may submit their Memorandum which can be examined and forwarded to CBIC.

LPAI is the Custodian of ICP Moreh. LPAI has to provide the requisite IT infrastructure, including EDI Service Centre with qualified Data Entry Operators, for the smooth functioning of EDI System. The matter will also be taken up with the higher authority of LPAI in Delhi.

With regard to presence of other agencies like Food Testing Laboratory at the ICP, LPAI is requested to do the needful.

With regard to banking facility, the matter will be taken up with SBI authority in Imphal.

**[Action: Tech. and Systems Branches of Customs Hqrs. Office and AC, Imphal
Customs Division]**

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Asst. Commissioner (Tech)

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Copy to:

1. The Pr. Chief Commissioner, Central GST, Central Excise & Customs, Guwahati Zone for kind information.
2. The Assistant Director General of Foreign Trade, R.G. Baruah Road, OPP, AIDC, Nabin Nagar, Guwahati - 781 024.
3. The Terminal Manager, CONCOR, ICD, Amingaon, Guwahati — 781 031.
4. The President, North East Federation on International Trade (NEFIT), Neerakunj, Saraswati Vihar, Near NRL Petrol Pump, Guwahati 781 005.
5. The Deputy Director General, Federation of Industry and Commerce of North Eastern Region(FINER), Swahid Dilip Chakravarty Path, H.No. 03, RGB Road, Guwahati 781005.
6. The Head, Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI), North East Regional Advisory Council H-19, Opp. Bhanu Apartments, Lamb Road, Guwahati -781 024.
7. The Director, Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), Ratnapeeth, 59 MG Road, Uzanbazar, Guwahati 781 001.
8. The General Secretary, Border Trade & Chamber of Commerce, Moreh, Moreh Town, Chandel District, Manipur— 795 131.
9. The Secretary, Meghalaya International Chamber of Commerce, Dawki, Meghalaya 793 109.
10. The President, Meghalaya Mine Owner & Exporter's Association, Borsora, South West Khasi Hills, Meghalaya – 793106.
11. The Secretary, Meghalaya International Exporters Chamber of Commerce, Thana Road, Shillong, Meghalaya-793001
12. The President, Majai Exporter's Association, Bholaganj, c/o Shri B. Lyngdoh, Lummawbah,Shillong - 793 005.
13. The President, Mizoram Chamber of Industries, 2nd Floor, M.U.P. Building, M.G. Road, Khatla (Opp. Raj Bhawan South Gate), Aizawl — 796 001.
14. The President, Karimganj District Exporters Importers Association, New Market Complex, Madrassa Lane, Station Road, Karimganj - 788 711
15. The General Secretary, Karimganj Sutarkandi Exporter Importer Association, Karimganj
16. The President, Karimganj District Exporter Association, Karimganj
17. The General Secretary, Limestone Exporter Association, Karimganj

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18. The President, International Chamber of Commerce, Karimganj, Sahid Sarani, Main Road, Opp.SBI Main Branch, Karimganj — 788 110
19. The Chairman, Indo-Bhutan Chamber of Commerce, 3, Esplanade Mansion, 14-16, Government Place (East), Kolkata. 700 069
20. The President, Tripura Chamber of Commerce, Akhaura Road, Tripura (West), Agartala – 799001.
21. The President. India-Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce & Industry, 14, Jaganath Bari Road, Agartala -- 799 001
22. Capt. Tridib Phukan, Customs Brokers, M/S Technotive Eastern Private Ltd House No. 12, Rajgarh Road, Chandmari, Guwahati — 781 003
23. Shri Bijoy Kaloty, Prop. of Nibir & Company, Monalisa Path, House No. 9A, Hatigarh Charali, Zoo Narengi Road, Guwahati - 781024
24. The Deputy/Assistant Commissioner, Agartala/ Aizawl/ Dhubri/ Dimapur/ Guwahati/ Imphal/ Karimganj/ Shillong/ ICD Amingaon/ Agartala LCS/ Sutarkandi LCS/ Moreh LCS with a request to cause delivery of this 'Minutes of Meeting' to all Concerned under his/her Jurisdiction.