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Date: /01/2017

**MINUTES OF CUSTOMS CLEARANCE FACILITATION COMMITTEE
(CCFC) MEETING HELD ON 06.01.2017**

A meeting of the Customs Clearance Facilitation Committee (CCFC) of Mumbai Customs Zone-III was held in Conference Hall, Air Cargo Complex, Sahar on 06.01.2017 at 12:00 Hrs. under the Chairmanship of Shri Devendra Singh, Chief Commissioner of Customs, Mumbai Customs Zone-III.

2. The following officers and representatives from the Allied Agencies and other stakeholders participated in the meeting:

Name & designation of departmental attendees	Organization
Sh. Anil Kumar Gupta, Commissioner of Customs	Customs, ACC
Sh. Atul Saxena, Addl. Commissioner (Export)	Customs, ACC
Sh. Sugriva Meena, Addl. Commissioner (Export)	Customs, ACC
Sh. Satish Dhavale, Addl. Commissioner (Import)	Customs, ACC
Sh. A. K. Goel, Addl. Commissioner (Import)	Customs, ACC
Sh. Sachin Gusi, Dy. Commissioner (Import)	Customs, ACC
Dr. Deepak Sharma, Dy. Commissioner (Import)	Customs, ACC
Dr. Subhash Yadav, Dy. Commissioner (Import)	Customs, ACC
Sh. Jitendra Patel, Dy. Commissioner (Import)	Customs, ACC
Sh. M. R. Negi, Asstt. Commissioner (Import)	Customs, ACC
Name of attendees from Allied Agencies	Organization
Sh. V.K. Pancham, Dy. Director	FSSAI
Ms. Sheetal Gupta, Authorized Officer	FSSAI
Dr. Shivaji Wavare, Assistant Director	RPQS
Sh. Kartikay Dhanda, Director (Lab)	Textile Committee
Sh. Padmakar Rokade, Addl. Collector	Collector of Stamps
Sh. B. B. Gawali	Collector of Stamps
Sh. Rahul Shakhapure	ADC
Sh. Vikas Shinde	ADC
Sh. B. S. Khatri, Wildlife Inspector	WCCB
Sh. Manoj Singh, Sr. Vice President (Cargo)	MIAL
Sh. K. D. Dhule	Air India
Sh. P. Raghuraman	Air India
Ms. Romila Bedi	Air India
Sh. Rajiv Sekhri	Air India

3. The Chairman welcomed all the members and briefed the House about the initiatives being taken by Customs for reducing dwell time and promoting the 'Ease of Doing Business'. He informed the house that the most important concern for Customs is how 'dwell time' can further be reduced to facilitate the trade. Whenever any Import

document is pending with any Allied Agency for NOC, the general perception among trade is that the same is pending with Customs and it is Customs' responsibility to get it cleared. Therefore, officers of Customs and all Allied Agencies have to work in tandem to reduce the dwell time. Customs receives number of requests from the Importers and Exporters to fix timeline for grant of NOC by the concerned Allied Agency. Chairman requested the representatives of concerned Allied Agencies to present their views on the issue and invited suggestions from them. Accordingly, the representatives of the Allied Agencies made following submissions -

A. Textile Committee

It was informed by the department that there is representation from trade that NOC from Textile Committee takes minimum of 4 days, which should be brought down

The representative of Textile Committee informed the house that some of their testing procedures require certain minimum time, like testing for presence of Azo dyes takes two days and some other testing procedures require 24 hour conditioning. Due to this, their dwell time increases.

However, he informed the House that they are starting a new laboratory at JNPT, Mumbai, and possibly it will be operational from the second week of January, 2017. Once this laboratory starts, the time required to give NOC will be reduced to a great extent, because most of the workload at their Mumbai laboratory comes from JNPT. Presence of dedicated laboratory at JNPT will reduce workload on their Mumbai laboratory and they will be able to cater to the needs of Air Cargo and Mumbai Customs Zone-I in timely and more efficient manner.

The Chairman appreciated the efforts being made by the Textile Committee authorities towards addressing the needs of the Trade.

B. Assistant Drug Controller

The representative of the Assistant Drug Controller informed that they deal with granting NOC to both Export and Import consignments.

As regards export consignments, the time for issuing NOC is only 2 to 4 hours and that too they are issuing NOC in advance i.e. first the NOC is issued and thereafter the exporter is filing his documents for export.

For import consignments, they are issuing NOC same day and normally taking only 4 to 6 hours for issuing the same. If as per their SOP (Standard Operating Procedure) sampling is required, they draw the samples and ask the importer to furnish 'Letter of Guarantee' and on the basis of the same, they are releasing the consignment same day. In case of vaccines and temperature sensitive types of products, they are issuing NOC in advance under their procedure of 'Direct Delivery'.

He also informed the House that they are also going to start a mini drug testing laboratory at Air Cargo Complex itself, for which they have got necessary approval from their Ministry. They have necessary manpower to man the same and it will be operational in about one years' time.

Commissioner of Customs (Export), ACC added that in respect the Assistant Drug Controller office, the trade has responded in a very positive manner. The Assistant Drug Controller office has brought about a drastic positive change in itself and trade has

appreciated that they get their clearances / NOC in a timely manner. Further, RMS has also started in respect of ADC and FSSAI consignments, which has also helped in faster clearances and reducing dwell time.

The Chairman praised about the performance made by the Assistant Drug Controller office and requested other Allied Agencies to emulate the same.

C. Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)

The representative of FSSAI informed that they have a fully online system i.e. Food Import Clearance System (FICS), for grant of report i.e. clearance / NOC, to import consignments. They give their report only after receipt of report from their FSSAI accredited 12 laboratories situated in Mumbai, Pune and Nashik to whom they send their samples. As per the product, there are different tests required and every test has a minimum time limit. He informed that some tests like Microbiological analysis definitely require 6-7 days whereas some other tests require even 10-12 days, so their average dwell time is about 6-7 days. This testing time cannot be reduced as the same will compromise the efficacy of the testing and create a possibility of health hazard.

The representative of FSSAI also raised a concern that under RMS most of the high risk items are getting cleared without FSSAI NOC. Here, Addl. Commissioner (I) added that under RMS, the risk parameters have been incorporated in consultation with and on the basis of feedback received from the highest authorities of Participating Government Agencies (PGAs). Therefore, the concern of FSSAI representatives is not justified. The Chairman agreed with the views of the Addl. Commissioner (I), however he added that if the representatives of FSSAI still feel that their concerns are justified, they may take up the matter with their higher authorities for bringing about necessary change in the RMS parameters.

Further it was informed by the representative of FSSAI that inspite of having a online system for clearance / NOC, many a times they have to manually give NOC. Dy. Commissioner (EDI) informed that this is a system issue which happens due to loss of message during message exchange. Representative of FSSAI informed that in JNPT, they have provided Log-in credentials to the Customs officers through which they can Log-in to FSSAI website and verify the NOC online in respect of particular consignment. The same facility should be utilized at Air Cargo Complex. The Chairman directed the Dy. Commissioner (EDI) and Asstt. Commissioner (Import Shed) to discuss the issue with the representatives of FSSAI and do the needful regarding the same.

[Action: DC(EDI), AC(Import Shed) & FSSAI]

Further, it was informed by the department that there is a persistent demand from the trade that FSSAI authorities may provide them with information regarding types of product requiring FSSAI testing and the estimated time their testing requires. This will give them some idea of time taken in clearance of particular consignment involving FSSAI NOC. Addl. Commissioner (I) requested representatives of FSSAI to put this information on their website or share the same with Customs so that the same can be put on Customs website. The representatives of FSSAI agreed to provide the same.

[Action: DC(EDI) & FSSAI]

Here, representative of MIAL raised a issue that on the basis of analysis of their import clearance data and interaction with importers of consignments of edible items involving FSSAI NOC, they have observed that such importers have gradually shifted

their imports from Air Cargo Complex to other ports like Kandla and the quantity of imports of such products has come down drastically. Representative of MIAL stated that the reason cited by such importers is the issue involved in clearance of such items through FSSAI at Mumbai port. He requested the representatives of FSSAI to resolve the issues, if any, in the FSSAI clearances, so that such importers could be brought back to the Mumbai Air Cargo Complex. The representatives of FSSAI agreed with the observation of representative of MIAL and informed that the major reason behind this shift could be the absence of FSSAI team at Kandla port, because there the clearance is looked after by PHO (Port Health Officer) authorities and FSSAI norms for clearances are not properly followed.

The Chairman requested the representatives of FSSAI to take up the matter with their higher authorities to ensure that FSSAI norms for clearances of goods are properly complied at Kandla port.

[Action: FSSAI]

D. Wild Life Crime Control Bureau (WCCB)

The representative from the WCCB informed the House that they expeditiously give their NOC for the consignments as they do not need any testing to grant the same. The only matter of concern for them is that they sit at Air Cargo Complex for only three days in a week because they are struggling with shortage of staff. Only two officers are posted in Mumbai to provide NOC for entire Mumbai Customs. However, inspite of this shortage of staff, they are timely issuing their NOCs. Further, they have taken up the matter for increasing the staff strength with their higher authorities and the same is under active consideration by their Ministry.

The Chairman requested the representatives of WCCB to pursue the matter of increasing staff strength with their higher authorities. The Chairman also directed that this matter may be taken up in Central CCFC meeting.

[Action: WCCB & Customs]

E. Plant Quarantine (PQ)

The representatives of PQ informed that they are issuing NOC same day and normally taking only 2 hours for issuing the same. Only where testing is required, they take about 7 days.

Here, Addl. Commissioner (I) informed that Customs has received letter from PQ authorities regarding non-adherence to the ISPM-15 standards. He requested representative of PQ to explain to the House about these standards. Representative of PQ informed that International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures No. 15 (ISPM 15) is an International Phytosanitary Measure developed by the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) that directly addresses the need to treat wood materials of a thickness greater than 6mm, used to ship products between countries. The Chairman requested the representatives of PQ to arrange a training session for Customs officers for sensitizing them and ensuring enforcement of these standards. He directed Asst. Commissioner (Import Shed) to coordinate with the representatives of PQ for arranging such training. The representatives of PQ agreed to provide the training for Customs Officers.

[Action: RPQS & AC(Import Shed)]

F. Controller of Stamps

The representative of Controller of Stamps informed that with a view to further reduce overall dwell time at ACC, Mumbai, the Custodian and the Office of the Registrar of Stamps, Govt. of Maharashtra have decided to provide a Single Window facility for the importers / exporters to enable them to pay stamp duty. At present, after Out of Charge (OOC), there is a message exchange between ICES & the Custodian, whereby the details of the B/E alongwith the assessable value are shared. The representative of Controller of Stamps put forward their request that as the assessable value for stamp duty purpose is the assessable value of the goods plus the Customs duty paid, the Custodian requires the details of Customs duty paid also to be included in the message exchange.

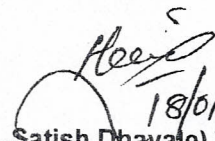
The Chairman informed the House that this need of the Controller of Stamps and Custodian has already been communicated to DG (Systems) with a request to include the 'duty paid' details in the message exchange sent to the custodian. It is expected that this step will reduce a major part of time spent on this activity and will reduce the dwell time.

4. Commissioner of Customs (Export), ACC further informed the House that the issue of charging MOT (Merchant Over Time) by MIAL was discussed in the PTFC (Permanent Trade Facilitation Committee) meeting held before this meeting. He informed that after moving to 24x7 Cargo Operations, the charging of MOT is not allowed. However, as MIAL is claiming that the said charges are approved by Ministry of Civil Aviation and considering the express request from the stakeholders, this matter may be taken up at the level of Central CCFC. Upon deliberation, the Chairman directed that this matter may be taken up in Central CCFC meeting.

5. In his concluding remarks, the Chairman informed all the members that in keeping with the Government's initiative of 'Ease of Doing Business', Customs and all the Allied Agencies have to work together. Therefore, in case of any requirement for coordination among members, they can straight away meet the higher officers of Customs to resolve the issue.

✿ The meeting ended with thanks to the Chairman.

This issues with the approval of Chief Commissioner of Customs, Mumbai Customs Zone-III.


 18/01/2017
 (Dr. Satish Dhavale)
 Addl. Commissioner of Customs,
 Air Cargo Complex, Mumbai

COPY TO:-

- 1) The Chief Commissioner of Customs, Zone-III :- For kind information, please.
- 2) Pr. Commissioner / Commissioners of Customs, (Import),(Export),(General), ACC
- 3) All Addl. / Jt. Commissioners of Customs,(Import),(Export),(General), ACC
- 4) All Members of CCFC (via e-mail).
- 5) EDI Section - For uploading on ACC website.
- 6) Office copy.