

03
17/2/18

Date: .02.2017

Sadhu
10/01/03
Gup
repr
10/01/03
Shri
Shri
Dr.
Shri

Name
Shri A
Shri S
Dr. Sa
Shri A

10
Cmrah

Points from the previous PTFC meeting which were taken up for discussion:

In the last PTFC meeting, the Commissioner of Customs (Export) had expressed concern on the inordinate delay in the completion of the facility for providing internet. He had directed MIAL to expedite the process and work out an interim solution for making required internet facility available to the Customs Officers. As the open Wi-Fi facility for the Exim trade was still not functional, he had directed BCHAA to provide the said facility at the earliest.

M/s MIAL had intimated that they are in the process of providing wired internet connectivity to various sections having 100 users. This project will be completed on or

before 31st March, 2017 as laying of cables will take time due to vast coverage of area scattered in different locations at ACC. Once this facility is implemented, the current Wi-Fi connection will be discontinued. No reply was received from BCHAA.

In the meeting, representative of MIAL reiterated the above position. However, the Chairman observed that there are more than 400 staff members working at ACC, Sahar and nowadays the work profile is such that every officer needs internet connectivity for performance of his official work. Therefore, the provision of 100 connections being made by MIAL will be totally insufficient. Further, Chairman observed that in the previous 3-4 meetings, BCHAA had regularly promised that they would be providing open Wi-Fi internet facility for benefit of officers and trade, however, they have not come up with any proposal for examination of the same. Chairman observed that as part of their Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), BCHAA should take steps for providing internet connectivity at ACC, Sahar.

ADC (Import) added here that keeping in view increase in workload and staff strength, this office has made a request to DG(Systems) for providing 400 ICES Nodes. On the same lines, this office would be requiring atleast 400 internet connections. Further, he added that as the cable based broadband connectivity being provided by MIAL will cover all the Sections of Customs office, there will not be any additional cost involved in providing more number of connections to each Section.

The Chairman directed MIAL to complete the work for providing requisite number of internet connections, as soon as possible. Further, he directed BCHAA to coordinate with Telecom Operator and submit, without delay, their proposal to provide Wi-Fi internet connectivity.

[ACTION: MIAL & BCHAA]

B. MOT still being charged by MIAL on holidays even though Customs is working 24x7.

In the last PTFC Meeting, the Chairman had observed that levying of MOT charges is not a local issue pertaining to ACC, Sahar, only. The CBEC is concerned about the validity of any such charges being levied anywhere under MOT head after moving to 24x7 operations. He had observed that as this is a financial matter and MIAL is claiming that the said charges are approved by Ministry of Civil Aviation, it will be taken up at the level of National CCFC and with the concerned administrative ministry.

The Chairman informed that as decided in the last meeting, the said point will be taken up in the Central CCFC meeting.

[Treated as closed]

C. Discontinuation of manual debiting of licenses like EPCG, DEEC, MEIS, FPS, FMS, after assessment of B/E.

This point was treated as closed in the last PTFC meeting due to non-receipt of any justification note from BCHAA. However, BCHAA had again raised the issue in their agenda points for the current meeting stating that they are awaiting Public Notice from Customs, on the lines of JNP Customs, for dispensing with the manual debiting.

Chairman informed the BCHAA that they have not submitted till date, their justification note in support of discontinuation of subject practice. They may still send the said justification note and the same will be forwarded to CBEC for their consideration.

Chairman further informed the house that Joint Secretary (Drawback) has been apprised of the matter and this office has already sent its comments on the matter. The Joint Secretary (Drawback) is conducting an all India survey to ascertain whether there is no adverse impact of discontinuing the practice of manual debit. So, the matter is under examination by the CBEC and any decision on the issue will be taken on receipt of directions from CBEC.

[ACTION: BCHAA]

D. Use of diesel forklifts towards late evening is causing increase of pollution levels in Import Shed.

In the last PTFC meeting, the Chairman had directed MIAL & Air India to deliver on the promises made by them on the issue, within a stipulated time-frame.

The representative of MIAL informed the house that as committed by them, their vendor has procured additional 14 number of battery operated forklifts and 10 of them have been made operational in Import operations and 4 in Export operations. With the induction of these 14 battery operated forklifts, the total number of such forklifts in Import, stand at 60.

The representative of Air India reiterated the position as intimated in the last meeting that they have issued tenders for buying battery operated forklifts. However, the procurement through proper channel is a time consuming process and the exact time line for the same cannot be given with certainty.

The Chairman expressed his satisfaction with the progress made by MIAL, but expressed his concern about long time being taken by Air India to make procurement. He directed representatives of Air India to see to it that the procurement process is not overly delayed. He also directed representatives of Air India to provide a copy of tender notice floated by them for procurement of battery operated forklifts.

[ACTION: Air India]

E. The trade is taking too much time in following processes:

i. Advance filing of Bill of Entry (B/E)

In the last PTFC meeting, it was observed that the reasons given by trade for not filing advance Bill of Entry are not convincing and they were requested to use advance filing facility. No reply was received from BCHAA and ACCAI, on the issue.

The Chairman observed that in the recently introduced Union Budget 2017-18, changes prescribing time-limit for filing of B/E, have been made. So, trade should take note of these changes and take steps for timely filing of their B/E. The Chairman requested representatives of BCHAA, ACCAI and other trade organizations to disseminate this information to all their members, so that they can take note of these changes and accordingly take steps for timely filing of their B/E.

[ACTION: ACCAI & BCHAA]

ii. Document submission in case of 1st Time Imports

In the last PTFC meeting, the ADC(Import) had informed the house that a facility notice on the issue will be issued.

In the meeting, ADC (Import) informed the house that the aforesaid draft facility notice has been prepared. The request of the trade to provide verification facility even before landing of goods has also been incorporated in the said draft. Deliberations are going on the issue and the facility notice will be issued, very soon.

[ACTION: Customs]

iii. Delay in submission for examination from registration in cases of 1st check re-imports

In the last PTFC meeting, the ADC(Import) had asked representatives of both ACAAI & BCHAA to sensitize their members regarding above issue and avoid unnecessary delays in overall clearance process.

In the meeting, representatives of BCHAA informed that their members have not reported any cases of delay.

The Chairman again directed representatives of both ACAAI & BCHAA to sensitize their members and avoid delays.

[Treated as closed]

F. EGM Errors

In the last PTFC meeting, the Chairman had expressed concern regarding the inaction on the above issue and directed Appraising Officer (EGM) to call major defaulting Airlines, discuss and deliberate the issues with Addl. Commissioner of Customs (Export) and resolve them at the earliest.

The Appraising Officer (EGM) informed the house that there were total 405 errors, out of which since 06/01/2017, 56 errors have been cleared and 349 are still pending.

The Chairman observed that no representatives from major defaulting Airlines have turned up for the meeting barring only one representative from Jet Airlines. The Chairman expressed his displeasure on non-attendance by representatives of airlines and directed Appraising Officer (EGM) to take steps for clearing remaining errors.

[ACTION: Airlines & Customs]

G. Acute shortage of loaders in Air India import warehouse which is causing delay in forwarding and delivery of the packages to the trade.

In the last PTFC meeting, representatives of BCHAA had complained about huge problem of corruption and nexus among the forklift operators and loaders in Air India Shed. The Chairman had directed BCHAA & ACAAI to take up the matter with Air India, so that such wrong doings can be properly punished and stopped.

In the meeting, the representative of Air India informed the house that the manpower in both Import and Export sheds has been restructured and both the sheds are functioning smoothly. The representatives of BCHAA informed that there is improvement in the situation compared to last time, but the situation still requires more improvement.

[ACTION: Air India]

H. Requirement of proper lighting in Air India Shed.

In the last PTFC meeting, Chairman had directed Air India to properly install lighting in the all areas of the Shed to ensure smooth working.

In the meeting, the trade as well as Customs officers informed that there is no improvement in the situation and lighting is still very poor in Air India shed.

The Chairman again directed Air India to properly install lighting in the all areas of the Shed to ensure smooth working.

[ACTION: Air India]

I. Drawing of pharmaceutical samples from the airport consignments to be done from cold storage warehouse.

In the last PTFC meeting, Additional Drug Controller had informed the house that even though MIAL has provided a separate space in the cold storage area for drawing the samples, as per the Drugs and Cosmetic Act, 1965, this facility needs many up gradations. Until these up-gradations are done, it is better that the sampling of drugs would be done in the cold zone area itself. The Chairman had directed MIAL to upgrade the said facilities by the end of this month.

In the meeting, the representative of MIAL informed that the required upgradations have been done.

[Treated as closed]

J. Need for eliminating the original MAWB / HAWB required to be produced to Custodian

In the last meeting, the said point was treated as closed, but in the meeting the representative of BCHAA again raised the issue.

The representative of MIAL informed that original MAWB / HAWB is the most important document for custodian on the basis of which cargo delivery is given and is critical for safeguard of their revenue.

The Chairman observed that in the today's electronic era, when most of the processes are migrating towards online verification, the stand of the custodian appears retrograde.

After deliberation on the issue, it was decided to constitute a joint committee on the issue with representatives from MIAL, BCHAA and Customs, to examine the issue.

[ACTION: MIAL, BCHAA & Customs]

K. Payment of Customs fines and penalty may be made online to facilitate ease of payments.

The representatives of BCHAA requested that their members may be provided with a facility for online payment of fine and penalty.

ADC (Import) informed that at present there is no provision in ICES for such online payment. However, if representation comes from the trade, the issue will be taken up

with DG(Systems), as any provision for such a facility has to be done in System on an all India basis.

The feasibility of providing a local online facility through NEFT/RTGS for such payments was also discussed. However, it was observed that there could be problem of proper correlation / tallying, in such a local facility. It was decided to continue with the existing procedure, till suitable facility for the same is provided in the ICES System, itself.

[ACTION: CUSTOMS]

L. One Time Lock & Insurance Rules for consignments under New Bonded Warehouse Procedures

As informed in the last PTFC meeting, the representative of BCHAA reiterated that as per CBEC Circular No. 21/2016, one-time locks are to be provided; no Customs Escort is required for movement of the goods to the Bonded Warehouse after being sealed with One-Time Lock; and as the Warehouse Insurance of consignments already includes transit insurance, additional insurance policy for transit should not be required. However, the Customs officials are still insisting on the aforementioned requirements. The representative of BCHAA informed that they have received representation from their members on the issue and requested for issue of Public Notice.

The Chairman took cognizance of the issue and assured the house that the officers would be sensitized with the updated regulations and the issues will be resolved. He further informed that directions to the Officers on the issue are already in place and whenever the trade faces any problem at the grass root level, they may immediately bring it to the notice of higher officers for resolution of the same.

[ACTION: Customs]

M. EP copy is still being printed

In the last meeting, the said point was treated as closed, but in the meeting the representative of ACCAI again raised the issue. The representatives of ACCAI informed that the EP copy is still being printed and therefore, their members are taking the signature of Customs officers on the same. They requested that printing of EP copy should be stopped.

The representatives of BCHHA informed that they had discussed this issue with DG(Systems) officials and it was intimated to them that the EP copy printing has stopped in Sea Module and the same will also stop in Air Module by the year end.

The Chairman informed the house that the EP copy, though getting printed, is redundant now, therefore, trade members need not get it signed from Customs officers.

[Treated as closed]

New agenda points from ACCAI for discussion in PTFC meeting

A. Provision of dedicated Customs officers in New Export Heavy Shed.

The representatives of ACCAI informed that in the New Export Heavy Shed, their clearance staffs have to keep going back and forth from MIAL export shed to the New Export heavy shed because there are no Customs officers for examination and LEO. Only receiving officers is available in this shed.

The Chairman enquired about the issue and it was found that a dedicated officer is provided in New Export Heavy Shed. The said position was intimated to the representatives of ACCAI.

[Treated as closed]

New agenda points from MIAL for discussion in PTFC meeting

A. Discipline in time-line

The representatives of MIAL raised an issue regarding non-clearance of consignments during morning and afternoon hours. He shared data to highlight this issue by showing that when this facility was introduced, there was high number of consignments getting cleared during initial hours of a day, but now the situation has again slipped back. He requested for a need to bring about a discipline in time-line.

The Chairman agreed with the concern of MIAL and directed that in case of FTWZ consignments, the Custodian can keep a time-limit upto 13:00 Hrs., but in respect of SEZ consignments, they may not fix any time-limit

New agenda points from BCHAA for discussion in PTFC meeting

A. Printing charges collected by M/s. XEAM Ventures.

The representatives of MIAL informed that after elimination of Exchange Control Bills of Entries, TR6 Challans, and EP copies vide CBEC Circular 55/2016, the printing paper consumption is drastically reduced. Accordingly, they requested to consider reduction of printing charges from Rs. 34.50 to Rs. 22.

The Chairman informed that since this is a national policy issue, the same has to be taken up with DG(Systems). He directed BCHAA to submit their representation, so that the same can be forwarded to DG(Systems) for necessary action on the matter.

[ACTION: BCHAA]

B. PGA Status of Export Shipping Bill

The representatives of MIAL informed that Single window has been introduced in Export however, members are unable to check PGA NOC status of their S/B's as the same has not been activated on ICEGATE. Request to activate this facility for checking S/B status with PGA which is already available in import.

The Chairman informed that this facility has already started.

[Treated as closed]

C. BCHAA request Customs to issue P/N in following cases-

- a. First time Imports registration before arrival of the shipment.
- b. In case of Sec 59 bonding, instructions are required for clearance of goods from ACC without insurance and Escort as confusion among preventive staff in shed still prevails.

Both the issues have already been discussed above.

D. SVB Registers Printout requests

The representatives of MIAL informed that manual debiting of SVB register has been dispensed. However, importers require knowing the SVB Bond balances and so requiring Computer Printouts of the same, for which a simple and quick resultant systems needs to be put in place. The facility is also not available in ICEGATE.

The ADC (Import) informed that the said facility is in Officer's menu and as regards providing this facility to trade, the request has to be made to DG(Systems) for providing this facility. He asked representatives of BCHAA to submit such request so that the same can be forwarded to DG(Systems) for necessary action on the matter. Further, till such facility is provided, the EDI section may provide such balance to trade.

[ACTION: BCHAA & Customs]

E. Registration / Cancellation of Bonds / LGs required by PGAs.

The representatives of MIAL informed that Asst. Drug Controller (ADC) requires Letter of Guarantee (LG) on Rs.500/- Stamp paper whenever clearance is being claimed on a 'direct delivery' basis or on release of goods pending 'test report'. Customs demand the registration of these LGs in a routine matter and as such they request that the process of registration / cancellation of the LG with the department after obtaining allow/ release from the ADC, be simplified. The current need for intervention of Appraiser / DC be waived as this is a routine registration / cancellation of LGs with the department that is based upon the ADC's requirement.

The Chairman assured the representatives of BCHAA that the issue will be examined and thereafter necessary action on the same will be taken.

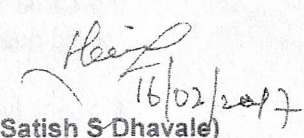
[ACTION: Customs]

F. Request for deployment of Custom staff at New Heavy Export Shed.

The issue has already been discussed above.

The meeting ended with thanks to the Chairman.

This issue with the approval of the Chairman of the PTFC, Commissioner of Customs (Export), Mumbai Customs Zone-III.


(Dr. Satish S Dhavale)

Addl. Commissioner of Customs,
Air Cargo Complex, Mumbai

COPY TO:

1. Chief Commissioner of Customs, Zone-III, Mumbai - For kind information, please.
2. Pr. Commissioner / Commissioner of Customs, Import / Export / General, ACC.
3. All Addl./Jt. Commissioner of Customs, Import / Export / General, ACC.
4. All members of PTFC meeting (via E-mail)
5. EDI Section- For uploading on ACC Website.
6. Office copy.