



**OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER OF CUSTOMS
CUSTOM HOUSE :: PORT AREA :: VISAKHAPATNAM – 530 035**

F.No.S23/175/97-AP (Vol.IV)

Date: .03.2014

**MINUTES OF THE TRADE FACILITATION COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON
27.02.2014 AT 16:00 HOURS AT CUSTOM HOUSE, VISAKHAPATNAM**

MEMBERS PRESENT

S/Shri

1.	C.Rajendiran	Commissioner	Chairman
2.	M.S.Reddy	Joint Commissioner	Member
3	N.Naresh	Deputy Commissioner	Member
4	Narendra Yadav	Asst. Commissioner	Member
5	B.Syamasundara Rao	Assistant Commissioner	Member
6	J.Rambabu	Asst. Commissioner	Member

The following Trade / Custodians Representatives attended the meeting.

S/Shri/Smt

1.	Sreelakshmi	DGFT
2.	Raja Reddy, AGM (Engg)	Airports Authority of India
3.	P.Sivaprasad, CSO	
4	Samir Mankad, Director	Air Cargo Complex
5	G.Rajesh, Secretary	Visakhapatnam Custom House Agents Association
6	Rolland Williams, Executive Member	Vizagapatnam Chamber of Commerce & Industry
7	Anil Narayanan, GM (Ops)	VCTPL
8	G.R.Seshagiri Rao, Sr. GM	CONCOR CFS
9	Srinivas, Manager	Sravan CFS
10	Rambabu, Manager	Gateway CFS

Shri M.S.Reddy, Joint Commissioner welcomed the members of the Stakeholders and informed that the reconstituted Committee will meet every third Thursday of the month as decided earlier.

Chairman welcomed the members and Trade representatives for the meeting. He appreciated the fact that there is an overall representation from all sides of the stakeholders and felt that with such co-operation from all stakeholders this region will register better growth. He assured that issues raised in this meeting will be given highest importance and informed that the minutes of the last meeting were taken up in the Chief Commissioner's Conference held at Hyderabad. He further informed that the DG Systems will take up all the system related issues depending upon their importance and priority.

Stressing on the theme of World Customs Organisation for the year 2014 "Communication: sharing information for better cooperation", the Chairman requested the trade and the stakeholders to enlighten this Custom House about the better practices adopted elsewhere for achieving better co-operation between the trade and the department. He further informed the stake holders that they would also be invited to share their field of experience with the Officers of Customs. He emphasized the need for E-mail communication for faster communication.

Shri M.S.Reddy, Joint Commissioner reviewed the minutes of the last meeting and advised the Stakeholders that they can also simultaneously take up the issue of Cost Recovery Charges with CBEC at the national level with the help of their Associations.

The following points received from the trade were placed before the Committee for discussion:

(1) Lack of adequate Computers, Thin Clients and Printers for Customs at VCTPL::

The Vizagapatam Chamber of Commerce and Industry brought to the notice of the PTFC that at present only one Thin Client and Printer is provided for the Customs Preventive staff posted at VCTPL, which is inadequate due to the increase in volume of works like grant of LEO, grant of Allowed for Shipment and generation EP copies etc.,

- As it is the responsibility of the custodian to provide all the infrastructure facilities to the Customs Officers posted at VCTPL, the representative of M/s VCTPL assured that they will provide the required infrastructure immediately.

(2) Air Cargo IGM filing and regularization :

It has been brought to the notice of the Chairman that the consignee/CHA faced difficulties in filing and regularization of IGM for air cargo as they are asked to approach the Airlines to collect the necessary documents and hand over to the Preventive Officer for regularization of IGM, and that the Preventive Officer on duty at the time of arrival of the flight/cargo has to be on duty again for regularization of IGM which resulted in demurrages and delays in filing of Bill of Entries and clearing the cargo.

- AC(EDI) explained that connectivity for ICES 1.5 was provided to the Customs officials posted at Visakhapatnam International Airport with the help of Virtual Private Network (VPN) to regularize the IGM/EGM of air cargo immediately after the arrival/departure of flights. However, the officers are encountering certain problems in connectivity and thereby causing inconvenience to the stakeholders. In this regard, AC(EDI) informed the Committee that the issue is taken up immediately and a new thin client has been installed at the airport.

The following members from the Stakeholders expressed their views and suggestions.

1. Shri G.R.Seshagiri Rao, Sr. GM, CONCOR suggested that the list of approved Chartered Engineers may be supplied to them and further suggested that the PQ, Visakhapatnam may also be made a member of the PTFC.

- The Commissioner informed that the list of approved Chartered Engineers will be uploaded on the website of Custom House, Visakhapatnam.

2. Smt Sreelakshmi from DGFT on behalf of Joint Director, DGFT gave an assurance that they will extend optimum co-operation to all the stakeholders and provide whatever information required by the department.

3. **Shri Samir Mankad, Director, GSEC, ACC** thanked the Customs Department for all the co-operation and informed that the operations of the Air Cargo Complex will commence very soon once the premises is handed over by to them by the Airports Authority of India.

4. **Shri Raja Reddy, AGM (Engg)** informed that the construction of Air Cargo Complex is nearing completion and before completion of the construction, they will officially inform the Commissioner of Customs and seek suggestions regarding infrastructure facilities to be provided, from Customs.

➤ The Chairman also directed AC(Airport Admn) to meet the concerned official in Airports Authority of India and discuss our requirement.

5. **Shri Rambabu, Manager, Gateway CFS** informed that while filing IGM, they are facing lot of problems because of the clerical errors in feeding container numbers by the liner agents.

➤ The Commissioner instructed the Supdt (ITP) to study how many such clerical errors occurred during the last three months and advise the liner agents to feed the container numbers without any clerical errors.

6. **Shri Rolland Willams, Executive Member, Vizagapatnam Chamber of Commerce & Industry** appreciated the concept of communication only through E-mail.

7. **Shri Anil Narayanan, GM (Ops), VCTPL** requested to provide necessary data from ICES 1.5, which will help in their handling of import/export containers.

➤ The Chairman informed that the Custom House is already sharing the information with Visakhapatnam Port Trust through Port Community System (PCS), the same can be utilized by M/s VCTPL. AC(EDI) was also directed to examine their request so that the matter can be suitably taken up with DG systems.

(B.SYAMASUNDARA RAO)

ASST. COMMISSIONER OF CUSTOMS(APPRG)

To,

All Members
Trade Facilitation Committee
Custom House
Visakhapatnam – by E-mail

Copy to:-

The Chief Commissioner,
Central Excise, Customs & Service Tax,
Visakhapatnam Zone - for information.

Master copy.