



सीमा शुल्क प्रधान आयुक्त का कार्यालय
OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL COMMISSIONER OF CUSTOMS

सीमा शुल्क सदन :: पत्तन क्षेत्र :: विशाखपट्टनम - 530 035

CUSTOM HOUSE :: PORT AREA :: VISAKHAPATNAM - 530 035

फा. सं/F No. S23/175/97-Stats

दिनांक/Date: ३.04.2020

MINUTES OF THE CUSTOMS PERMANENT TRADE FACILITATION COMMITTEE (PTFC)
held on 30.04.2020 at 12.00 THROUGH VIDEO CONFERENCE,
CUSTOM HOUSE, VISAKHAPATNAM

The following Departmental Officers participated

S. No.	Name of the officer S/Shri/Smt	Designation
1	Naresh Penumaka	Chief Commissioner
2	Dr. D.K. Srinivas	Principal Commissioner
3	G. Shiril Saroj	Additional Commissioner
4	J. M. Kishore	Joint Commissioner
5	S.L.Nagaraj	Assistant Commissioner

The following Representatives from Trade members / Custodians participated in the meeting.

S. No.	Name of the officer S/Shri/Smt	Members
1	Yelvinder Yadav	Chief Manager, CONCOR
2	M Harnadh	Dy. Chairman, VPT
3	Rolland Williams	MST, CB
4	Rambabu	Gateway CFS
5	Sambasiva Rao	Sravan CFS
6	Janardhana Rao	Gangavaram Port P Ltd
7	Jeevan Vikas	President, Container Shipping Lines
8	K R B Prakash	K R & Sons, CB
9	Prasad J V V	VCTPL
10	R Desikan	Sattava CFS
11	Prashant Sangi	Secretary, VCBA
12	Rajesh	Integral Trading & Logistics, CFS
13	Anil Narayana	Dy.CO.O, VCTPL
14	Bobby Lawrence	Secretary, VCL Association

1. At the outset the Chief Commissioner welcomed all the members participating in the meeting through Video Conference as a measure to maintain social distance due to Covid-19.

2. Dr. D K Srinivas, Principal Commissioner invited all participants to the meeting through video conference. He explained various measures taken by CBIC and Visakhapatnam Customs due to the special situation on the outbreak of COVID and gist of few Public Notices/Advisories was reiterated to the members of the committee and advised the members to utilize various facilitation measures adopted by the Customs. The Pr. Commissioner also appreciated the co-operation from the stake holders. Through the refund special drive, IGST refunds and Drawback claims were cleared to alleviate the financial hardship faced by the MSME. In this regard he appreciated the co-operation from the Shipping Lines in removal of system errors in EGM and aspired same level of co-operation in future also.

3. Chief Commissioner invited the trade/stakeholders to bring out any difficulties faced at the EXIM trade, so as to sort out / facilitate the issues.

4. Shri Medisetty Harnath Murthy, Deputy Chairman, VPT informed that, despite several measures taken for movement between Terminal & CFS, the cargo movement is slow and, DPD containers have been accumulated at the Port/Terminal. He reiterated that as per the Ministry of Shipping guidelines, VPT continue to waive off charges and asked all the Shipping Liners to follow the waiver guidelines as prescribed by Government. He also expressed that the importers should not accumulate the cargo at the Port due to waiver of charges and urged the CB/importers to lift the cargo/containers from the Port/Terminal/CFSs as soon as possible to avoid congestion. He also has suggested some of the empty containers may be kept in the Customs Bonded area to avoid congestion at the Port/Terminal.

5. Custodian of Sravan CFS on behalf of CFSs expressed that 4 CFSs where occupancy was less than 50% can accommodate DPD/Coastal containers and also assured they will co-operate with Customs/Port in tandem with waiver of late fee etc., as prescribed by Government. Also it was expressed that OOC copy is not going automatically to the Terminal & Port (VCTPL, VGCB, Vizag Sea Port etc.,) in case the cargo is bulk or DPD, as at the time of filing of IGM warehouse code is to be mentioned and in the absence of berthing position of the bulk goods vessels, the code can not be given at the time of filing of IGM which in turn failed to transmit OOC to the Custodian electronically. He requested for a mechanism to transmit the OOC copy for the bulk cargo also to the custodian so that providing manual copy and movement of people can be avoided. Shri Sampath Kumar, on behalf of Customs Brokers reiterated the same.

Shri Shril Saroj, Additional Commissioner assured regarding waiver of late fee and accumulating of goods, customs is already in interaction with major importers for expeditious clearance. Also, it was assured by Additional Commissioner that issues relating to transmission of OOC, System Integration with Port Clearance System will be looked into.

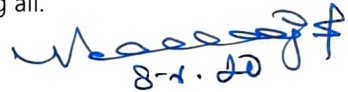
6. Shri Jeevan on behalf of Liners Association conveyed during 1st phase of lockdown all the liners has provided waiver of late fee and during 2nd phase of lockdown 10 liners already providing the same and other 13 liners got approvals from their respective offices and they are also extend the benefit of waiver of late fee penalty to all the importers. And requested the importers and Customs Brokers to evacuate the Containers quickly by persuading the importers to avoid piling up of containers.
7. Shri Prasad on behalf of VCLA, stated that since lockdown announcement, out of the 4500 released containers, only 10% containers returned back empty, resulting very less containers available for export purpose and in turn this can hamper our exports. He urged the CB to be in touch with importers to lift the cargo and release the empty containers, as soon as possible. Also expressed that TSAs are currently dealt physically by submitting to Transshipment Section and obtaining permissions on physical papers. To avoid physical contact and save time he asked for considering transshipment permissions online electronically through authorized e-mail / uploading documents by the liners.
8. Shri Rajesh, MD, Integral Trading & Logistics, requested Port/Customs for releasing of advisory to the importers to evacuate the cargo at the earliest to avoid unnecessary piling up of cargo and release of space.
9. The Principal Commissioner assured an advisory will be issued from Customs on the issue at the earliest possible. Also conveyed that Customs is monitoring with importers for constraints in lifting the cargo due to non-availability of truck drivers, labourers etc. and will continue to monitor and pursue with regard to feasibility of Issuance of TSA permissions electronically, Customs is working on it, and soon the same will be conveyed to the trade.
10. Shri Anil, VCPTL informed that, despite many measures taken for movement between Terminal & CFS, the cargo movement is delayed, DPD containers are accumulating at the Port/Terminal even by the AEO clients.
11. Shri Yelvinder Yadav, CONCOR explains that M/o Railways is ramped up their capacity and now they are evacuating 34 Racks in April 2020 compared to 9 Racks in previous month. They have evacuated nearly 4500 TUEs during this lockdown period. He assured that CONCOR & M/o Railways will continue do everything possible to all to evacuate the cargo.
12. Shri Bobby Lawrence, Secretary, VCL Association raised the issue of priority berthing charges. Shri M Harnadh, Dy. Chairman, VPT informed that they will examine the issue.

13. Shri Rolland Williams, Merlin Shipping and Transport informed that several vessels are cancelling their voyage to Vizag. Shri M Harnadh, Dy. Chairman, VPT informed that this is a general phenomenon across the country due to lockdown.

14. Chief Commissioner has thanked all for co-ordinated efforts and asked for conclusion of the meeting.

15. Principal Commissioner summarized the measures taken and thanked for every agency / stakeholder for raise up to the situation. He assured that measures to remove congestion will be taken up by providing customs bonded area if necessary, and asked Joint Commissioner to co-ordinate with the Terminal and VPT. Once a proposal received from the Terminal/Port Customs will examine issue of notifying the area. Regarding TSA manual permission/electronic permission same will be looked into by customs. With regard to SEZ manual Shipping Bills customs is examining the same.

The meeting concluded with Principal Commissioner thanking all.


8-1-20
(S.L.Nagaraj)
Assistant Commissioner(A.M)

To
All members as per mailing address