



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

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

Date: 17.08.2016

**MINUTES OF THE PERMANENT TRADE FACILITATION COMMITTEE (PTFC) MEETING HELD ON
28.07.2016 AT 1600 HRS AT CUSTOM HOUSE, VISAKHAPATNAM**

MEMBERS PRESENT

S/Shri/Smt

1	C Rajendiran	Principal Commissioner	Chairman
2	Sudhakar Mishra	Additional Commissioner	Member
3	Rachna Tanwar	Deputy Commissioner	Member
4	J M Kishore	Deputy Commissioner	Member
5	S K Dutta	Asst. Commissioner	Member
6	B Narendra Kumar	Asst. Commissioner	Member
7	PVVV Srinivas	Asst. Commissioner	Member
8	P Gopichand	Asst. Commissioner	Member
9	T Ravi Varma	Asst. Commissioner	Member
10	G Narasimha Raju	Senior System Analyst, NIC	Member

The following Trade/Custodians attended the meeting:-

S/Shri

1	Sushil Mulchandani	CEO, VCTPL
2	R Lakshmanan	AGM (Ops), Airport Authority of India
3	S. Nageswara Rao	President, Visakhapatnam Customs House Agents Association
4	P Babu Rao	Secretary, Visakhapatnam Customs House Agents Association
5	Roland Williams	Exec Member, Vizagpatnam Chamber of Commerce & Industry
6	G Sravan Kumar	Director, Sravan CFS
7	Rambabu	Manager, GATEWAY CFS
8	L Srinivas	Haarika Shipping Services
9	I Venkateswarulu	Vice President, Visakhapatnam Container Liners Association.
10	Prasad	Exec Member, Visakhapatnam Container Liners Association.

1. Shri C Rajendiran, Chairman, welcomed all the members of the Committee and gave brief about the revenue trends for the first quarter of the current financial year.
2. Shri Sudhakar Mishra, Additional Commissioner informed that the agenda points discussed during the previous meeting have been resolved and read out the action taken report as under:

i) During the last meeting it was brought to the notice of the Chairman that various cess amounts are paid manually in case of Bills of Entry for Manganese Ore, Chrome Ore, etc. which are filed under licences. Due to this, all such Bills of Entry facilitated through the RMS are to be recalled for re-assessment to pay the cess amount manually after deletion of cess payment particulars.

Action Taken: Reference has been made to DG (Systems) through EDI and the same is being pursued.

ii) Shipping Bills are transmitted automatically from ICES 1.5 to DGFT and in case of those Shipping Bills that are not transmitted automatically; CHA/Exporter make request to the Inspector (Examiner) and get the Shipping Bills retransmitted. Sometimes this process needs to be done more than once due to technical issues and hence there was a request by CHA Association to resolve the issue.

Action Taken: In order to tackle the problem, now the above role has been allocated to all the Examiners posted at CFS/Docks. Hence, re-transmission of Shipping Bills, where they are not automatically transmitted, may be done from the respective CFSs where the Shipping Bills are filed.

iii) It was informed that the letters/Bond Transfer Files submitted through SEVOTTAM are getting delayed abnormally to reach the concerned sections and a request was made to the Chairman to allow the CHA to hand over the letters to the concerned officer in the section after getting acknowledgement from SEVOTTAM counter.

Action Taken: Supdt (SEVOTTAM) informed that a procedure is put in place wherein letters submitted under SEVOTTAM to Bonds Section are being personally handed over by the dealing Tax Assistant twice in a day, at around 12 Noon and before 1600 hrs. Whenever the number of letters pertaining to Bonds Section are more, the Tax Assistant is handing over the same to the section one more time, i.e, around 1430 hrs. It has also been confirmed that the mechanism is working well and no delays are reported now.

3. Shri J M Kishore, Deputy Commissioner made a power point presentation on "Revised AEO Guidelines" and explained the changes that have been made. He also gave a detailed presentation on the benefits one would get in exemptions from certain Customs procedures, faster clearances. It was urged upon the members of the trade present, to take advantage of the relaxed norms of the "Revised AEO Guidelines" and apply for registration under AEO program.
4. Smt Rachna Tanwar, Deputy Commissioner gave a presentation on "New Warehousing Provisions". It was explained that the most important change is that instead of physical control of warehouses by the Customs, hence forth the control on the warehouses will be record based. The licensee has to maintain the records in digital form with IT management system and audit trail feature. They have to switch over to the new regulations by 13th August 2016. These new provisions are a major step towards the Govt. policy of Ease of Doing Business as far as Warehousing Provisions are concerned.
5. Shri G Narasimha Raju, Senior Systems Analyst gave a power point presentation on Time Release Study and explained how the dwell time taken for each process is changed from January 2016 onwards based on the Time Release Studies that have been done so far. All the stake holders were requested to extend their cooperation for smoother and faster clearance of cargo.

6. Principal Commissioner and Chairman explained the salient points of FICCI Survey, carried out at the behest of CBEC, by independent agency all over the country regarding the perception/opinion about the Customs Officers and the Customs clearance procedures. It was highlighted that there has been a positive change in the perception of the trade and industry towards the Policies of the Government and the Customs department in particular.
7. The following points were raised by the members during the meeting after the presentations.

7.1 It was brought to the notice that physical copies of the Shipping Bills with LEO endorsement are being insisted upon by the terminal before the containers are allowed to be shipped.

Shri Sushil Mulchandani, CEO of VCTPL informed that LEO status message is not getting transmitted from PCS to their IT platform. They have done correspondence with VPT in this regard without any avail. It was informed by Shri G Narasimha Raju, NIC that this message is getting transmitted from ICEGATE to PCS. Hence, it was suggested by the Chairman that a study of sample period of one/two days be conducted on the message exchange between ICEGATE to PCS and further from PCS to the terminal.

[Action : AC (EDI)]

7.2 CHA Association has expressed that the Single Window Project (SWIFT) which has been implemented by the dept is very helpful but trade is not aware of the procedure involved. They requested that one more awareness session be conducted for the benefit of the trade.

Chairman informed that a training session has already been conducted for the trade on this topic and the information is also available on the website. But it was assured that another training session will be conducted for the trade.

[Action : DC(Capacity Building)]

7.3 It was brought to the notice by the Steamer Agents' Association that three sets of IGM are required to be submitted to Customs, one set to VCTPL and one to VPT, even though they are filing the IGM details electronically.

After Ascertaining the practice being followed in the Custom House from the concerned Administrative Officer, it was informed that only one copy of the IGM need to be submitted in the Imports Section. It was also brought to the notice of the trade that only soft copies of the IGM can be forwarded to the ITP Cell and VCTPL Customs. And it was also informed that IGM message is getting transmitted from ICEGATE to PCS and in turn to the terminal (VCTPL). The requirement or otherwise of VPT can be ascertained from them.

[Action : AC(ITP Cell) & AC (Docks)]

7.4 Representative of the Liners' Association informed that signed copies of the transshipment Permission (TSA) are being insisted upto by Customs at VCTPL before releasing the import containers from the terminal. It was brought to the notice that transshipment permission message is directly getting transmitted to VCTPL through PCS.

Chairman assured the members that this issue will be examined and if required a Public Notice will be issued on the revised procedure which need to be followed.

Action : AC(ITP Cell)]

8. With the above discussions, the meeting was concluded by thanking all the members who were present in the meeting.

This issues with the approval of the Principal Commissioner.

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(H S NASKAR)

Asst. Commissioner (App. Main)

To,
All Members, Permanent Trade Facilitation Committee
Custom House, Visakhapatnam – *by e-mail*

Copy submitted to:
The Chief Commissioner of Customs, Central Excise & Service Tax,
Visakhapatnam Zone – for information.

Copy to:
1.Supd(EDI) – for uploading on the website
2.Master copy