PUBLIC NOTICE No. 26 / 2020

DIN No. 20200474NF00002X5755

Subject: Paperless Customs – Electronic Communication of PDF based Gate pass and OOC Copy of Bill of Entry to Custom Brokers/Importers – reg.

Attention of all the Importers, Custom Brokers, Air Lines/Agents, Custodians, Logistics Service Providers and all other Stakeholders is invited to Board Circular No. 19/2020-Customs dated 13.04.2020 on the subject “Paperless Customs – Electronic Communication of PDF based Gatepass and OOC Copy of Bill of Entry to Custom Brokers/Importers”

2. In order to mitigate the unprecedented situation due to Covid-19 pandemic, this office has taken a number of measures to facilitate & expedite Customs clearance process making it more and more contact-less i.e. automated and online as well as paper-less. These measures include the facility to clear goods on the basis of a undertaking (not bond), acceptance of electronic Country of Origin certificate etc. These steps complement the earlier reforms unrolled as a part of Turant Customs such as online query module, eSanchar, web based goods registration, electronic processing of DGFT issued licenses, machine release of imported goods based on Customs Compliance Verification and electronic transmission of PDF based First copy of Bill of Entry (BoE) to Customs Brokers and registered importers.

3. The aforementioned reforms combine to expedite Customs clearances and reduce the transaction costs. At the same time, Board notes that the specific measures that reduce interface between the Customs authorities and the importers/Customs Brokers are especially relevant in these challenging times, to tackle the scourge of Covid-19 pandemic. In this direction, it has now been decided to enable electronic communication of PDF based Final eOoC (electronic Out of Charge) copy of BoE and eGatepass to the importers/Customs Brokers. This electronic communication would reduce interface between the Customs authorities and the importers/Customs Brokers and also do away with the requirement of taking bulky printouts from the Service Centre or maintenance of voluminous physical dockets in the Customs Houses. The Final eOoC copy of BoE and eGatepass copy will be emailed to the concerned Customs Broker and/or importer, if registered, once the Out of Charge is granted. The eGatepass copy will be used by the Gate Officer or the Custodian to allow physical exit of the imported goods from the Customs area.
4. Salient features of the secure electronic communication of the Final eOoC copy of BoE and the eGatepass are as follows:

I. **Final Out of Charge (eOoC) Copy of Bill of Entry:**

As of now, physical signing of the Final OoC copy of BoE is insisted upon at many Customs locations. This necessitates the importer/Customs Broker to take a paper printout from the Service Centre to be produced before the Customs officer. It has now been decided to do away with the paper printout of the Final OoC copy of BoE. Instead, DG Systems has enabled a functionality to immediately email the PDF version of the Final eOoC copy of BoE generated after OoC to the Customs Broker and/or the importer, if registered. This Final eOoC copy of BoE will have the following features:

(i) The PDF version will bear a secure, digitally signed and encrypted QR code which can be scanned to verify the authenticity of the document using Mobile App ICETRAK available on Google Playstore (Android). The QR code is tamper proof, which is digitally signed by CBIC to ensure the authenticity. Key details like BoE No., BoE Date, IEC, Duty, Package Details, Port code etc. are available in the secured QR Code.

(ii) A version number is also embedded in the QR code which can be used to ascertain whether the document is indeed the latest version (in case of reassessment, OOC cancellation etc.). The same would be verifiable at ICGATE Enquiry. For this purpose, an enquiry has been provided on the ICGATE website under Public Enquiries > Document Status > Bill of Entry to verify whether the Document version returned on scanning the QR code is indeed the valid version.

II. **eGatepass:**

Currently, the physically signed Final OoC copy of BoE is being verified both by the Gate officer (Customs) as well as the Custodian before allowing the actual movement of the imported goods out of the Customs premises. This physical printout is now being replaced by the PDF eGatepass generated and electronically communicated to the importer/Customs Brokers with the following salient features:

(i) eGatepass copy will bear a secure, digitally signed and encrypted QR code which can be used to verify the authenticity of the document using mobile App ICETRAK available on the Google Playstore (Android).

(ii) eGatepass will also have a QR Code containing only the details referred to by the Custodian or the Gate officer to allow actual movement of goods – like details of IGM/Air way Bill, total packages etc.

(iii) There will be two types of QR codes (a) for entire eGatepass document, and (b) for each package covered under the Gatepass. This will ensure that only those package move out which are covered under the Gatepass document.

(iv) The eGatepass copy is generated only for the purpose of Customs verification. EDI OoC message shall continue to be sent to the Custodians through MFTP as they are registered on ICGATE.
5. The electronic communication of the Final eOoC copy of BoE and eGatepass copy is expected to bring immense benefits in terms of time and cost of compliance and reduction in interface for the trade, while providing enhanced security features for verification of authenticity and validity of the electronic documents. This measure would be made effective from 15th April, 2020.

6. All the trade associations/members of Customs Brokers Association are requested to take note and publicize the contents of this Public Notice among their members / constituents.

7. For the departmental officers, this may be treated as Standing Order.

8. Difficulties, if any, may be brought to the notice of Additional Commissioner of Customs (Technical), ACC Import, New Customs House, New Delhi.

This issues with the approval of Principal Commissioner of Customs, ACC(Import).

\[\text{Nagendra Yadav} \]
\[15/04/2020\]

Additional Commissioner of Customs (Technical)
ACC (Import)

Copy forwarded to:-

1. The Chief Commissioner of Customs (DZ), New Custom House, New Delhi.
2. The Principal Commissioner of Customs, ACC (Import), NCH, New Delhi.
3. The Additional/Joint Commissioner, ACC (Import), New Custom House, New Delhi.
4. The Deputy/Assistant Commissioner (Import Shed), Air Cargo Complex, New Delhi.
5. The Deputy/Assistant Commissioner Group (I&II), (III,IV&VI), V, VA, VB, SIIB, ACC (Import), NCH, New Delhi.
6. The Deputy Commissioner (EDI), ACC (Import), NCH, New Delhi for uploading this Public Notice on the Official Website.
7. Shri S. Ramakrishna, President, Delhi Customs Brokers Association, 260-61, Anarkali Bazar, Jhandewalan Extension, DDA Shopping Complex, New Delhi-110055.
8. Delhi International Airport Ltd, IGI Airport, Cargo Terminal, New Delhi.

\[\text{Joint Commissioner of Customs (Technical)}\]
\[\text{ACC (Import)}\]