Sub: Fraudulent practices by unscrupulous elements

Instances have come to the notice when some persons have received e-mails, calls etc. from unscrupulous elements stating that they have won a lottery or received a free gift / parcel / consignment from some persons known to them through social media, and certain amount is demanded from them in the name of Customs duty. They impersonate as Customs officers and give directions that such ‘deposits’ be made in some specified personal bank account created for the fraudulent purpose of extorting money, purportedly under the garb of facilitating Customs clearance of consignments. They may also issue fictitious receipts in the name of Indian Customs, for having paid the same amount as Customs duties etc.

2. The public is hereby cautioned to be wary of such unscrupulous people / organizations calls/ emails and not pay / deposit any money with them, as no such charge or duty is ever asked for by any officer of Customs to be paid in any personal bank account and all payments of Customs duty are mandatorily routed through nominated Nationalised bank/ Government banking channels.

3. It is, therefore, advised that authenticity of the documents/ calls/ e-mails may be verified and all documents like Air Way Bill, Bill of Entry, etc. may be demanded from the concerned courier company before payment of any such duty. In case, the public receives such suspicious calls/ mails regarding any courier package /shipments to be cleared through New Courier Terminal, New Delhi, then they may contact Assistant Commissioner of Customs, New Courier Terminal, New Delhi at 011-25652454 / 011-47019839 for seeking clarification regarding the authenticity of the same.

(SANJAY MANGAL)
COMMISSIONER OF CUSTOMS

Copy to:
1. The Additional Commissioner, CCCU (DZ), NCH, New Delhi, for information.
2. All Additional / Dy./Asstt. Commissioners, General Commissionerate, NCH, N.D
3. EDI Section, ACC (Import) Commissionerate with a request to upload on the Customs, Delhi zone web-site.
4. Commissioner, Directorate of Publicity and Public Relations, Customs & Central Excise, C.R. Building, I.P. Estate, New Delhi, for circulation and Newspaper advertisement.
5. Notice Board.

COMMISSIONER OF CUSTOMS