

Minutes /Actionable points arising out of the CCFC Meeting held on 31.07.2017:

In compliance to CBEC Circular No. 13/2015-Customs, dated 13.04.2015, the meeting of CCFC was held on 31.07.2017, in Room No.103, New Custom House, New Delhi, under the Chairmanship of Shri Sunil Kumar Sawhney, Chief Commissioner of Customs (DZ).

The meeting was attended by the following officers:-

Sr. No.	Name of the Officer (S/Shri/Ms.)	Designation & Department	Phone Number	E-mail-Id
1.	S. K. Sinha	Commissioner of Customs, ACC (Export)	25655385	commraccexp-cusdel@nic.in
2.	Sanjeev Srivastava	Commissioner of Customs, ICD-TKD (Export)	26366658	commrtkdexp-cusdel@nic.in
3.	B B Gupta	Commissioner of Customs, ICD, PPG	22233091	commricdppg-cusdel@nic.in
4.	Rajesh Nandan Srivastava	Commissioner of Customs, ICD-TKD (Import)	26368848	commrtkdimp-cusdel@nic.in
5.	V. Sangeeta	Commissioner of Customs, ACC (Import)	25652970	commraccimp-cusdel@nic.in
6.	Kavita Bhatnagar	Commissioner of Customs (General)	25655386	commrgen-cusdel@nic.in
7.	Manish Kumar	Commissioner of Customs (IGI Airport)	25652090	technicaligia@gmail.com
8.	Ravindra J. Dange	Addl. Commissioner, ACC (Export)	25654772	
9.	Anurag Sehgal	Joint Commissioner, CCCU (DZ)	25652987	sehgal.anurag@nic.in
10.	Arjun Kumar Meena	Deputy Commissioner, ACC (Export)	25655288	arjunl.meena@icegate.gov.in
11.	Zamir Ahmed	Asstt. Commissioner, CCCU (DZ)	25656086	zamir.ahmed@gov.in
12.	Anil Mehta	Dy. Director, Food Safety and Standard Authority of India (FSSAI)	23217833, 9818316559	anilmehta@fssai.gov.in aodelhi@fssai.gov.in
13.	Dr. Ajay Garg	AD (Imports) FSSAI, HQ	23231679	import@fssai.gov.in

14.	Dr. Vijay Kumar	RO AQCS	25063272	aqcshr-dodf@nic.in
15.	Gurvinder Singh	Honn. Secretary DCCAA	9810003738	dccaa.dccaa.in
16.	Sudhir Rana	Manager (Operations), Fedex	9873088610	sudhir.rana@fedex.com
17.	Madhurendra Chourasia	MGA (Operation), Express Industry Council of India	9911177863 40571122, 9599311143	madhurendra@eiciindia.org
18.	Manoj Kumar	VP OPS & Regulatory Attes., TNX Continental Express Division/EICI	9810274495	manoj.kumar@tnxcontinental.com
19.	Venancio D'souza	Manager Export, CELEBI	8800491097, 25601008	venancio.dsouza@celebiaviation.in
20.	Vinay Sharma	Manager Import CELEBI	8800491094	Vinay.sharma@celebiaviation.in
21.	Harjit Singh	Treasurer, DCCAA	9810061456, 41538290	ceroline@vsnl.com
22.	Mukesh Hira	Joint Secretary, DCCAA	9810891912, 26782808	dccaa@dccaa.in
23.	Kuldeep Thaly	Member, DCCAA	9810130296	dccaa@dccaa.in
24.	Deepak Kr. Chaudhary	Member, DCCAA	9810091619	
25.	A Pragatheesh	Wildlife Inspector, WCCB	9788814333	pragatheesh@gmail.com
26.	Nisha Kaushik	Drug Inspector, Asst Drug Controller, Central Drugs Standard Control Organization	8448027741	nkaushik09@gmail.com
27.	Tarun Sabharwal	AGM Cargo, DIAL	47197906, 9810056073	Tarun.sabharwalgmrgroup.in
28.	Murali Narise	Project Engg, Fedex	9873710969	mnarisetty@fedex.com
29.	Brijpal Tomer	Clarence Supervisor, DHL Exp	9582216167	brijpal.tomr@dhl.com
30.	Boben Philip	Project Manager, DHL Exp	9619554162	boben.philip@dhl.com
31.	Hardeep Kumar	Clearance Supervisor, DHL Express	9811112794	hardeep.kumar@dhl.com
32.	Dr. Dharmender Singh	ADC, DPPQQS, Faridabad	7506436980	dharmendrads92@yahoo.com
33.	Radhey Shyam	DGM/CEO, CONCOR	9560597171	rshyam@concorindia.com
34.	Parvez Ahmed	Assistant Director,	9810447346,	tcnarin@gmail.com

		Textile Committee	65496569	
35.	O.P.Verma	Deputy Director, Dte. Of PPQQS, Faridabad	9769070793, 2476361	opvermaddpp@gmail.com
36.	Umesh Chandra	Deputy Director, National Plant Quarantine Station	9999013803	npqfc@nic.n
37.	Dr. Vandana Pandey	Assistant Director (PP), National Plant Quarantine Station	9953539403	npqfc@nic.in
38.	Naveen Kumar	Manager ICD, CWC	7065600111	cwcicd-ppg@cewacor.nic.in cwcdli.icdppg@gmail.com
39.	Dr. S. Rajesh	Regional Director, WCCB	9968534165	ddnrwildlife@yahoo.co.in
40.	Manoj Sharma	S&M, CELEBI	9650893310 25601310	manoj.sharma@celebiaviation.in
41.	Sanjeev Saxena	Textile Committee		
42.	Dr. I. S. Hura	ADC, CDCSO	986826095	Inderjeet.hura@gmail.com

At the outset, Shri Sunil Kumar Sawhney, Chief Commissioner of Customs (D.Z.) welcomed all the participants and initiated the proceedings and informed the participants about the objective and mandate of CCFC and sought the cooperation of all participating Government agencies and other stake holders in meeting the objective of CCFC which is to facilitate the genuine trade in their imports and exports and their ease of doing business.

2. Thereafter, the following agenda items of the CCFC meeting were taken up:

A. Central Drug Standard Control Organization (CDSCO):

Issues:

Information received from various Port offices of CDSCO indicates that 100% of the Drugs including biological products, blood products, Vaccines, Critical Diagnostics (which requires 100% testing before release by Customs), Cosmetics, Medical Devices and Non Critical Diagnostics Kits which are regulated by the Drugs and Cosmetics Act and Rules made there under are not being referred to the O/o ADC (I), CDSCO, Port Offices, for ADC Clearance through online single window under ICEGATE. Though, for CTH code whatever forwarded by the Custom Authority, the necessary columns have been filled by CDSCO and the same has been submitted for further action.

RESPONSE: In this connection, it was observed that:

- i. It is the EDI system that automatically prescribes NOC from ADC before Out of Charge in respect of drugs, Vaccines, Elisa kit, lab reagents and cosmetics items etc.

- ii. If certain consignments requiring PGA clearance is not automatically pushed for such clearances being RMS facilitated, then message “PGA clearance waived” is displayed on screen. In those cases, consignments in general are not referred for PGA clearances manually.
- iii. If the system puts an NOC check, the BOE cannot be given out of charge until NOC is obtained. Manual interference is not accepted by the system.
- iv. It was also understood that for the dual use items, where the use is stated to be non-pharmaceutical, the item may not be getting referred to CDSCO.
- v. In cases where the system does not generate requirements of NOC from ADC for such products, the NOC is obtained manually on hard copy of the BE before releasing the consignments.

The Chair informed that in case certain drugs need to be included for the EDI system to prescribe NOC from ADC, the details of the same may be provided by CDCSO for taking up the matter with the RMD as was done in the recent past when on being pointed out by them, this office has sent a letter dated 04.07.2017 to the Risk Management Division (RMD), Mumbai for necessary action in case of product ‘Lifesol Neutraflow Single with non DEHP Extension Line’. A copy of this letter was also endorsed to CDSCO for their information as well.

B. Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI):

Issues:

1. A total of 345 Bills of Entry were forwarded through Single Window (SW) by the custom department from October 2016 to February 2017, out of which only 117 applications were filed in Food Import Clearance System for clearance (NOC). This office has no information about the current status of the remaining 228 Bills of entry which were referred to FSSAI by the customs through SW but were not filed in Food Import Clearance System (FICS) for clearance. Kindly provide the status of such consignments.

RESPONSE: In this connection, it was observed that while filing BE for clearance of food products, the ICES system automatically puts NOC check in terms of respective CTH. Since the implementation of Single Window Project for clearance of consignments related to PGA, only consignments which are selected for NOC from FSSAI by SW are marked to FSSAI. Applications which are marked to FSSAI by Customs but are not filed in FICS are due to the following reasons:

- a) Waiver of FSSAI NOC by Customs if the importers submit five consecutive NOC as per CBEC Circular No. 3/2011-Customs dated 06.01.2011. A status report was sent by ICD, TKD to FSSAI on 14.07.2017.
- b) There may be cases where Bills of Entry are marked to FSSAI but importer does not approach FSSAI Authority with necessary documents. Such cases would not be allowed clearance for home consumption without FSSAI NOC.

The Chair desired that at the end of each month, FSSAI should send a list of cases whose status needs to be checked to the respective Commissionerates for obtaining the requisite information and the Commissionerates would revert back to FSSAI within 10 days.

2. Applications are being manually forwarded to FSSAI by DC/AC custom which clearly indicates the failure of SW. Very few BOEs are being forwarded to FSSAI through SW. As per their office data analysis for the month of May it was found that 79 bills of entry were referred manually by DC/AC customs for NOC and only 01 bill of entry have been referred through Single window.

RESPONSE: In this connection, it was observed that the figures furnished do not appear to be correct. However, it is possible that in a few cases, the field formations may have decided to apply a particular treatment to the BE which is at variance with the decision received from the RMS owing to risks which are not factored in the RMS. Such a course of action is however taken only with the approval of the competent authority after recording the reasons for the same as laid down in CBEC's Circular No. 43/2005 dated 24.11.2005.

In cases where SW do not pick up/select B/E for FSSAI and waiver is also not given by the system but at the time of giving out of charge, requirement of NOC from FSSAI is reflected in the system, such cases are referred to FSSAI manually.

The Chair informed that manual references had increased in the month of May, 2017 due to ICES Systems issue. However, he desired that FSSAI should include list of such cases in their references made to the respective Commissionerate, as desired in response to issue at B1 above. The Chair further informed that in exceptional circumstances, manual references to FSSAI may be required. It was further stated that manual references to FSSAI on the requests of the importer would henceforth be reviewed by the Commissioners concerned and Standing Order for the Shed officers in this regard will be issued by them.

3. Examination of the data of the months of March, April & May, 2017 reveals that the manual referring of BEs taking too much time by AC/DC Customs and as per the data of 170 bills of entry, it was found that Customs has taken 15 days on an average while referring the BEs to FSSAI NOC. In some extreme cases a delay goes up to 78-102 days and that delay is completely at Customs end. This is the clear indication that Customs is discouraging the applicability of SW and forwarding the B/E manually for FSSAI to create a false opinion that FSSAI takes longer time for clearance of consignments.

RESPONSE: In this connection, it was stated that the delay in referring the Bill of Entry to FSSAI could be due to various reasons such as non-payment of customs duty, non-submission of reply to query raised by the Appraising Group or non-submission of the required documents. However, the averment of delay on the part of the Customs Officials may be due to incorrect understanding of the process in SWIFT regime.

The Chair therefore desired that the specific details of such Bs/E may be provided by FSSAI to the Commissioners concerned for verification of facts. These details can also be included in the list of cases in the FSSAI's reference which has now been decided to be made to the respective Commissionerates, as mentioned in response to the issue at B1 above.

4. There are cases where the examination order says FSSAI NOC required but the SW annexure on bill of entry shows waived off. For example: Bill of Entry no. 8782869, dated 6/03/2017. Sometimes customs insist to get NOC based on the remark on examination order (eg. BE no. 2392232 dated 11/07/2017)

RESPONSE: It was clarified that in case of Bill of Entry No. 8782869 dated 06.03.2017 filed in ICD, TKD, although examination order by Group officers had prescribed seeking NOC from FSSAI before Out of Charge yet the Bill of Entry was not marked to FSSAI as the goods were alcoholic concentrate imported by M/s Pernod Ricard and waiver had been given based on five previous NOC in terms of CBEC Circular No. 3/2011-Customs dated 06.01.2011 referred to at 1(a) above.

Further, in case of Bill of Entry No. 2392232 dated 11.07.2017, the Appraising Group had sought NOC from FSSAI as the same was not picked by the SW and the goods under import were vegetable fat of edible grade.

The Chair reiterated response as at B2 above and also suggested FSSAI to have a meeting between their officials and officials of Single Window, CBEC for better clarity on the same.

5. Communication gap between competent authorities involved in ensuring clearance of imported food. FSSAI has issued various letters to Customs for seeking data/ information regarding food consignments against which applications are lying pending in FICS for want of some clarification or submission of payment but got no reverts except from ICD-PPG. For e.g. Letter no. F-1/29/FSSAI/CORRESPONDENCE /NR/2016/1330/5189 (Sent to: DC IGI Airport); F-1/29/FSSAI/CORRESPONDENCE/NR/2016/1332/5192 (Sent to: DC PPG); F-1/29/FSSAI/CORRESPONDENCE/NR/2016/1328/5187 (Sent to: DC TKD); D.O/No.001/FSSAI/Imports/NR/2017-18/42 (Sent to: Commissioner of custom, TKD); and D.O/No.001/FSSAI/ Imports/NR/2017/18/57 (Sent to: Commissioner of custom, IGI Airport). Moreover, these letters were sent w.r.t. chapter VIII (12) (4) of Food Safety and Standards (Food Imports) regulation 2016, which states as *“the custom authority shall provide information regarding clearance, rejection, auction or destruction of imported articles of food on a quarterly basis”*.

RESPONSE: In this regard it was pointed out that this is not factually correct since reply to D.O No. 001/FSSAI/Import/ NR/2017-18/57 dated 05.04.2017 has been sent by the Commissioner of Customs (Import), Tughlaqabad vide ICD, TKD letter C. No. VIII/ICD/TKD/ Imp. Shed/SO Single Window/4/2016/8082 dated 14.07.2017. Further, the Commissioner of Customs, ICD, PPG had also sent reply vide letter VIII(6)ICD/PPG/Import Shed/Misc./448/2017/8458 dated 26.04.2017.

However, the Chair desired that there should be an institutionalised mechanism in this regard. Accordingly, the FSSAI was requested to specify a format in which the quarterly report is required by them.

6. As per the data received from ICD PPG, it was found that Customs has released even those consignments without FSSAI NOC which were referred through SW and applications were filed against them in FICS which clearly indicate that customs do not implement the SW applicability.

RESPONSE: In this regard it was stated by the Chair that the inference drawn by FSSAI does not appear to be correct since only one such case could be noticed for a consignment cleared through ICD, PPG. This was a case of import of tea in small pouches from Sri Lanka, which was in small quantity. The Commissioner Customs ICD, PPG mentioned that the FSSAI officials had verbally conveyed that the sample has to be drawn as per guidelines and since the quantity imported was less, the same was not enough for drawl of sample. Further, as the importer had stated that these tea pouches were for their personal use and not for sale, clearance was allowed.

The Chair desired that it would be more appropriate if such specific issues are taken up by FSSAI individually with the Commissioners of Customs concerned and in case the matter still persists, the same could then be taken up in CCFC meeting.

7. There are certain cases where the consignment is being forwarded to FSSAI through SW route, but due to implementation of RMS into ICEGATE and implementation of FIPS (designed based on RMS) into FICS (from the date 19/09/2016 onwards), these are being cleared from FICS without inspection and testing. This is a serious loop hole, as it may lead to clearance of consignments containing food items which should not be cleared without testing. Also the accuracy of data and safety of imported food will always be questionable due to double filtration of RMS. Example: Bill of Entry: 8786305, dated: 06/03/2017, referred through SW for FSSAI NOC, but waived off through FICS without testing.

RESPONSE: In this connection, it was observed that due to implementation of RMS ICEGATE & implementation of FIPS into FICS, the consignments requiring FSSAI NOC although routed under RMS are being cleared on receipt of NOC from FSSAI. However, in the cases where the SW Annexure of Bill of Entry shows waive off, the same was being done on the basis of 5 previous NOCs as per CBEC Circular No. 3/2011-Customs dated 06.01.2011. Further, the consignments which are facilitated through PGA corridor are not marked to FSSAI for NOC as per ADC, RMD Mumbai letter F.No.IV(27)/172/2016-SYS-RMD/380 dated 02.03.2017.

As regards the Bill of Entry No. 8786305 dated 06.03.2017 cleared from ICD, TKD, it was picked by SW but hard copy of Bill of Entry carried remarks “FSSAI waived off”, implying that although the Bill of Entry was selected by SW for NOC yet it was waived off through FICS. Based on the remarks on hard copy of Bill of Entry, the goods were allowed clearance without NOC from FSSAI.

The Chair suggested FSSAI to have a meeting between their Systems officials and officials of Single Window, CBEC for better clarity on such specific issue. FSSAI were also advised to provide adequate details of specific issues so that these could also be taken up by his office with the concerned officers of Single Window, CBEC.

8. The small consignments which are coming by courier mode for personal use are being referred to FSSAI. In maximum cases even the quantity was found very less to draw the samples, in such cases the decision may be taken at Customs end.

RESPONSE: In this connection, the Commissioner (General) reported that Protein powder up to 2 kg and food items like dates, chocolates, milk powder etc. up to 5 kg are cleared without getting NOC from FSSAI. When the consignment is having more than the above mentioned quantity, it is considered commercial quantity and hence referred to FSSAI for NOC. However, suggestion of FSSAI has been noted.

The Chair observed that since sampling of personal use items are not required by FSSAI, the same may not be required to be sent to them. Further, Commissioner (General) may issue standing instructions for the same based on relevant circular/instructions of the CBEC on the subject.

9. The Bills of Entry being referred through Single Window are being accepted within 24-48 hours by their office and after the scrutiny of the documents NOC/NCC is being issued within 05-06 days.

FSSAI suggested that system may be improved and the customs may be allowed to refer the consignment through Single Window route only for mitigating delays and manual clearance.

RESPONSE: It was observed by the Chair that as already elaborated with reference to earlier agenda points of FSSAI, the Single Window system has no scope for manual intervention. However, in case there are any suggestions for improving the System, the same may be given by FSSAI which would be communicated to Commissioner, Single Window, CBEC for its appropriate consideration. Commissioner, IGI Airport also informed FSSAI that regarding import of food stuff, clearance is given as per FSSAI, Regulations, 2016.

C. Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB):

Issues:

1. Speeding up of the Software Response Time for clearing cases of Export Consignments: After clicking F7 button of the computer for operating the system, it takes nearly a minute for displaying the Drop-Down Menu in which shipping bill number is to be entered. But in case of Import, the bill number is entered in the system directly which takes only 15 seconds to clear a paper. Therefore, it is proposed that same kind of system may be adopted in clearing the export shipments so that processing speed could be increased. Also, the computer system may be upgraded.

RESPONSE: As regards the suggestion for improving the System, the Chair observed that the matter will be taken up with DG (Systems), CBEC. As regards updating of computer system, the same was reported to have already been done.

2. Updating the Case status: Several expired shipping bills in respect of export consignments / goods are still shown pending in the system since January 2017. This may be addressed.

RESPONSE: The Chair desired specific details from WCCB in this respect so that the action can be initiated by the concerned Commissioners.

3. Non timely receipt of Cargo consignments: Although the Wildlife Inspectors are present in the office in the very afternoons, it has been observed that the samples are not being received by them in time. The samples are arriving much late and this creates delay in processing of the cases.

RESPONSE: It was observed that after the implementation of SWIFT, the data is seamlessly transmitted to the system of WCCB; therefore, it is the duty of wildlife officer to draw samples wherever required and submit the report online. Thus, the question of samples not being received on time does not arise.

4. Non providing of scientific names of the material: Currently the shipping bills are filed without any scientific names which are being displayed in the single window system. The processing speed could be substantially improved just by providing the scientific names of the material so that it could be immediately checked with the schedule of Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, CITES and Exim policy. The exporters / CHAs may be directed to invariably provide scientific names along with the vernacular names of the materials in transit.

RESPONSE: It was observed by the Chair that while the exporters or their agents would be advised by the Commissionerates to incorporate the scientific names in the Shipping Bills, however, the common name/trade name of the material or that as mentioned in the HSN which is universally accepted description, is being provided on the export documents.

5. It was pointed out by the stake holders that there is shortage of staff in WCCB. This causes delay in clearance of consignments. The WCCB representative stated that their department has taken up steps in this regard and it is expected that the staff shortage issues would get resolved in the near future.

D. Animal Quarantine and Certification Service Station (AQCSS)

Issues:

1. NOC (Letter of Guarantee) cases needs to be retained in the system. Further, default NOC option should be removed from system. Also, report 'Print' option should be activated as per AQCS requirement.

RESPONSE: The Chair observed that the matter would be taken up with DG (Systems) after specific details to that regard are elaborately provided by AQCSS.

2. **Additionally**, with the permission of the chair, an issue relating to DGFT notification No. 35/2015-20 dated 30.01.2017 was also raised by AQCSS stating that proper certification needs to be checked by Customs before exports.

RESPONSE: The Chair asked the Commissioners of Customs (Export) to examine this issue and if required, Standing Instructions may be issued or reiterated.

Commissioner, IGI Airport also informed AQCSS authorities that regarding import of pets, SOP has been developed and issued by them vide P. N. No. 02/Tech/2016 dated 04.02.2016.

E. Delhi Customs Clearing Agents Association (DCCAA)

Issues:

1. Provision for issue of Invoice by Custodians directly in the name of Importers/Exporters: In view of the implementation of GST, the implication and tax burden as Pure Agent has increased. Request from the trade is that the Invoices for the charges by Custodians to be issued in the name of Importers/Exporters with their GSTN detail to avail the ITC directly and to facilitate the Pure Agent concept in the right spirit as is being done by CONCOR.

RESPONSE: This matter was discussed at some length. It emerged from the discussions that most of the custodians have already implemented mentioning of GSTIN details. However, in case of CELEBI, their representative reported that the matter is under consideration. CELEBI was asked to expedite the implementation.

2. ICEGATE help desk is required to be strengthened and more responsive: Presently the ICEGATE help desk is not user friendly to the extent of addressing the queries instantly and conclusively. It is the need that the ICEGATE help desk may be strengthened and responsive to provide timely response with conclusive solution to the queries of the users.

RESPONSE: The Chair informed that the matter will be taken up with DG Systems.

3. Online transmission of Transference copies of Shipping Bill to the Gateway Port: Presently the transference copies are being printed and sent physically to the respective gateway port through the shipping line for loading of containers/shipments on the vessels. This leads to postal/ courier transit delays and resulting in missing the planned vessel in certain cases. Request from the trade is to transmit the transference copies electronically thereby reducing / eliminating the print outs.

RESPONSE: The Chair informed that the matter will be taken up with DG Systems.

4. **Additionally**, DCCAA representative, with the permission of the chair, mentioned that in the case of CONCOR, labour is provided by the CHA. However, it is the duty of custodian to provide labour and this practice is thus not appropriate. In this connection, the representative of CONCOR stated that they are working on the issue for amicable solution.

F. Express Industry Council of India (EICI):

Issues:

1. They raised the issue of availability of ADC, Wild Life inspectors, FSSAI at NCT. Further, there should be clarity of FSSAI regulation for shipment imported for personal consumption. A letter has also been written to the Director, FSSAI seeking clarification on regulations related to import of health supplements.

It was noted that the ADC and Wild life inspectors are available in Air Cargo Complex for necessary requirement. FSSAI has clarified that no NOC is required for the items imported for personal consumption. As per FSSAI regulation for shipment imported for personal consumption is cleared under undertaking by the Importer (Schedule-5) as per regulation 5 of Food Safety and Standard (Food Import) Regulations, 2016.

RESPONSE: On this issue, it was agreed that Wild Life inspector would dedicate one hour at New Courier Terminal (NCT) in addition to their stay at NCH. The Chair also reiterated directions for a standing instruction as at B8 above.

2. The Examination for G card issuance for Courier (Mumbai and Bangalore Customs have already conducted the G card exam, where as in Delhi there is no exam happened since 2011).

RESPONSE: Regarding examination for G Card holder, it was informed that Express Industry Council of India (EICI) has not furnished requisite data/information for requirement of G-Card Holders for Courier Business and their present availability. Once the data/information is available from their end, the decision to conduct G-Card exam will be taken.

G. AIR CARGO EXPORT

Issue: Implementation of SWIFT for Air Cargo export — Need for making WCCB officers available in Export Shed on all days of the week.

1. As per CBEC Circular No. 1/2017- Customs dated 04.01.2017- Single Window Interface for Facilitation of Trade (SWIFT) has been implemented for exports at Delhi Air Cargo as a pilot project w.e.t. 05.01.2017. Presently, this has been implemented only for Shipping Bills requiring approval of the Wild Life Crime Control Bureau.
2. At present, WCCB inspectors are available in the Air Cargo Export Shed only on three working days in a week and that too only for few hours in the afternoon, which is causing serious hardship to the trade in terms of delay, at times leading to cancellation of their export order, cost escalation and associated problems. Matter has been taken up with The Regional Director of WCCB vide letter 03.02.2017 as well as telephonically on several occasions to ensure presence of Wild Life Inspector on all days of the week since the export shed is functioning 24X7 including Saturday, Sundays and Government holidays. However, the issue has not yet been resolved.
3. An incident which occurred as recently as on 19.05.2017 is brought to notice to highlight the problem and the ad-hoc manner in which the lack of wild-life Inspectors is being addressed. A few urgent leather consignments which require NOC from WCCB were registered in the export shed on 19.05.2017 (Friday) for export on following day i.e. 20.05.2017. Shri Kaushik Mandal, Inspector, WCCB and Shri Pragesh, Inspector, WCCB the concerned WCCB officers who attend to such shipments could not be contacted as mobile number of both the officers were not reachable. Shri S. Rajesh, the Regional Deputy Director WCCB was then contacted and the problem explained to him whereupon Shri S. Rajesh himself visited the export shed alongwith another wild life inspector, Shri S. Sarath and they granted manual NOC in respect of Shipping Bill No. 6071478 dated 15/05/2017 and 6092916 dated 16/5/2017. The Regional Director also informed that there is an acute shortage of staff in WCCB and as such, Inspectors cannot be deputed on all days. While the personal intervention of Sh Rajesh is appreciated, however this cannot be the procedure to be followed on every such occasion. The issue of lack of adequate manpower of the WCCB to attend to such shipments on a daily basis has to be addressed.
4. The purpose of 24x7 and Single Window Interface for Facilitation of Trade (SWIFT) gets defeated when all the stake holders are not present on 24x7 basis.
5. In view of the above, it is requested that the matter may please be taken up with the Wild Life Authorities in the CCFC meeting for ensuring presence of wild life inspector at Export Shed on all days of the week including Saturdays and Sunday just as officers of Customs are present.

The WCCB representative pointed out shortage of officers/staff in this regard. However, stated that steps have been taken by their office for augmentation of the same.

The Chair emphasized the need for all PGAs to engage regularly with the Commissioners of Customs for resolving specific queries/concerns.

CONCLUSION: The Chair thanked all the participating members / agencies and stated that with the support of all the agencies, the trade facilitation could be further enhanced. It was also stated that PGAs and other stake holders need not wait for the CCFC meetings and if there are any issues which need intervention by Commissioners of Customs or at his level, the same may be taken up without delay.

The meeting ended with the vote of thanks to the chair.