PUBLIC NOTICE NO.10/2017

Subject: Implementation of WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement—regarding.

The WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA) is multilateral agreement containing a broad series of trade facilitation reforms spread out over a gamut of issues relating to the areas of transparency and predictability in trading across borders, with the aim of simplification and harmonization of procedures for expeditious clearance of goods.

2. India ratified the WTO Agreement on Trade Facilitation (TFA) in April 2016 and has also set up the National Trade Facilitation Committee (NCTF) as mandated by Article 23.2 of TFA. In the second meeting of the NTF Committee held on 08.06.2017 and chaired by the Cabinet Secretary, the proposed National Trade Facilitation Action Plan (NTFAP) 2017-2020 was presented.

3. The aforementioned Action Plan was finalized after incorporating the recommendations of the four Working Groups on key areas of Legislative Changes, Infrastructure augmentation, Time Release Study and Outreach along with the responses of the private sector members of NCTF. It has been released by the Hon'ble Finance Minister on 20.07.2017.
4. Also, the Action Plan includes the major objectives of the Government of India for fostering trade and development, key performance indicators, and 76 trade facilitation measures with definite timelines for their implementation. Each activity is identified with a lead agency responsible for its execution with either of the three timelines- Short Term (0-6 months), Mid Term (6-18 months) and Long term (18-36 months).

5. The primary aim of the Action Plan is to transform cross border clearance eco-system through efficient, transparent, risk-based, coordinated, digital, seamless and technology driven procedures which are supported by state-of-the-art sea ports, airports, land border crossings, rail, road and other logistics infrastructure. It also aims to bring down the overall cargo release time to within 3 days for Sea Cargo, within 2 days for Air Cargo & Inland Container Depots and on the same day for Land Customs Stations.

6. Since infrastructure and technology augmentation are prime enablers for trade facilitation, the NTAP contains 51 activities in these areas. Since they go beyond the ambit of TFA per se, they have been defined as a TFA Plus category. Similarly, enhancement of existing compliance levels to achieve global benchmarks in crucial segments like Time Release Studies, Post Clearance Audit and AEO scheme belong to the TFA Plus category.

7. This Action Plan also envisages improving the inter-ministerial co-ordination required for successful implementation of TFA in India, improve participation of our small and medium-sized enterprises in international trade & their involvement in global value chains, increase foreign direct investment, augment overall revenue collection, improve transparency in business and reduce the incidences of corruption.
8. Through the medium of this public notice, all the stakeholders involved in the flow of goods in the supply chain are sensitized to ensure compliance with the implementation of the commitments required by TFA and NTFAP. The copy of the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA) and NTFAP 2017-2020 have been uploaded in the website of Delhi Customs (www.delhicustoms.gov.in) and that of ICD Tughlakabad, Customs (www.icdtkd.gov.in).

9. This issues with the approval of the Commissioner of Customs.

(Avinash Pushkarna)
Addl. Commissioner of Customs (Import)

Copy to:-
1. The Chief Commissioner of Customs, CCCU (DZ), NCH, New Delhi for information.
2. The Commissioner of Customs (Export), ICD, TKD, New Delhi.
3. PA to Commissioner of Customs (Import), ICD, TKD, New Delhi.
4. All Additional /Joint Commissioners of Customs, Import Commissionerate, ICD Tughlakabad, New Delhi.
5. All Deputy/Assistant Commissioner of Customs, Import Commissionerate, ICD Tughlakabad, New Delhi
7. Shipping Line Association
8. Other relevant PGAs (FSSAI, AQCS, PQ etc.)
10. Guard File.

Deputy Commissioner (Technical)