



OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER OF CUSTOMS (IMPORT & GENERAL)
NEW CUSTOM HOUSE, NEAR IGI AIRPORT, NEW DELHI

C. No. VIII (12)I&G/Tech/PTFC/47/2009/Pt.

Date: .09.2014

MINUTES OF PTFC MEETING HELD ON 16.09.2014

The Meeting of the Permanent Trade Facilitation Committee (PTFC) was held on 16.09.2014 at 11.30 hours in the Committee Room, New Custom House, New Delhi. The meeting was chaired by Sh. S.R. Baruah, Commissioner of Customs (Import & General). The following officers of the department attended the meeting:-

1. Sh. G. M. Kamei, Additional Commissioner
2. Sh. V. K. Gahlot, Additional Commissioner
3. Sh. Rajiv Ranjan, Joint Commissioner
4. Sh. Subodh Singh, Deputy Commissioner
5. Sh. Manoj Kumar, Deputy Commissioner
6. Sh. Deepak Kumar, Assistant Commissioner
7. Sh. P.K. Seth, Superintendent
8. Sh. G. K. Kapoor, Inspector

The following members of PTFC attended the meeting:

1. Sh. Sushant Nigam, GM, DIAL,
2. Shri M. D. Kala, GM, DIAL
3. Shri Sanjiv Edward, Head of Cargo, DIAL
4. Shri S. K. Chaudhary, EC Member, DCCAA
5. Shri Rajender Goyal, Treasurer
6. Shri Anil Jaiswal DCSC
7. Shri Sanjiv Mansukani, DCSC, MGR
8. Shri Mukesh Sharma, CMC Ltd, ACAAI
9. Dr. Ravi Kant Sharma, CASCO, M/o Health
10. Sh. Anil Mehta, Food Safety and Standards Authority of India
11. Sh. Ashish Dewan, Air India
12. Dr. Rajesh Kumar, National Plant Quarantine Station
13. Sh. Nikhil Vohra, British Airways

14. Sh. P.S. Atree, P.S. Atree & Co. Pvt. Ltd.
15. Sh. Suriender Singh, Import Manager, CELEBI
16. Sh. Yashpal Taneja, Fedex
17. Dr. Sandeep Pandey, Nation Plant Protection Quarantine Station
18. Sh. Kailash Gupta, DCCAA.
19. Sh. Sanjay Singhal, DCCAA.

The Commissioner Sh. S.R. Baruah welcomed all members attending the PTFC meeting. He also welcomed the members of Plant Protection & Quarantine, Food safety and Standards Authority of India, and Ministry Health and requested representatives of trade to address their issues to the concerned departments. He appreciated the continued efforts and involvement of the stakeholders in the process of collective decision-making, and in resolving operational issues.

The discussion started with the Agenda points sponsored by the Department.

Point No. 1: Benefits of being an Authorised Economic Operator (AEO) :- It was emphasized that the growing concern amongst Customs Administrations was the need to ensure security in global supply chain in international movement of goods : from the point of origin i.e. the point of export to import in the receiving country. In this context, the attention of the stakeholders was drawn to the CBEC Circular No. 37/2011-Customs dated 23.08.2011 and Circular No. 28/2012-Customs dated 16.11.2012 on the subject Authorised Economic Operator (AEO) programme for implementation. AEO program was an effective tool for Customs to Business partnership towards a common objective of securing supply chain. Under AEO Programme, approved economic operators were given preferential treatment in terms of faster clearance and less physical inspections along with other benefits subject to their conformance of prescribed security standards and compliance with tax laws. As such all stakeholders interested in getting the benefits of the AEO Programme were requested to implement the same on voluntary basis. The representatives of the trade and stakeholders expressed support for this program.

Point No. 2 : Requirement of declaring Standard Unit Quantity Card (UQC):- It was pointed out that as per CBEC Circular No. 26/2013-Customs dated 19.07.2013, the issue of poor quality of trade EXIM data had been engaging the attention of the Government. The Board noted that Standard Unit Quantity Codes (UQC) indicated in the Customs Tariff Act, 1975 were not being uniformly declared by importers and exporters for the same items across different Customs locations. This resulted in poor quality data, making comparisons and aggregations difficult. The use of non-uniform UQCs for the same item also vitiated the quality of the NIDB data and reduced its utility to the assessing officers, who were unable to ascertain the contemporaneous values or assessment practice of a given item in different Customs locations.

Attention of the Customs Brokers was also invited to the Customs Tariff Act, 1975 which prescribed only a single Unit Quantity Code (UQC) against each Tariff item, and that it was the requirement of the law that the same was properly declared by importers/ exporter/ Customs Brokers in the Bills of Entry/ Shipping Bills. As such, Trade and Customs broker were requested to ensure at the time of filing Bill of Entry ,that Unit Quantity Code (UQC) should be consistent with the Customs Tariff Act, 1975 which prescribed only a single Unit Quantity Code (UQC) against each Tariff Item (8 digit level). On this agenda item, some concerns were expressed regarding difficulties in implementation in certain cases of imports and exports. However, after deliberation, there was general consensus that the provisions of the CBEC circular needs to be followed in its letter and spirit.

In addition to the foregoing, on the request of trade, the following issues were also discussed:-

Point No. 3 :- Refund of security deposit for renewal of customs broker licence: It was informed that as per clarification issued under the Boards Circular No. 08/2014-Customs dated 13.06.2014 at the time of renewal of Customs Broker licences, security deposits of Rs. 75000/- or 50,000/- as the case were to be accepted as security deposit by this office in place of the prescribed amount of Rs. 5 Lakh. As there was no provision of refund on this account, the practice being followed was to return the security deposit of Rs 5 Lakh after deposit of Rs 75000 or Rs 50000 as the case may be, by the concerned person. It was also informed that such cases are being dealt with in the Policy Section on case to case basis.

Point No. 4 :- Expedient refund of demurrages for the period 10th July to 14th July, 2014 by CELEBI/DIAL :- The representatives of the custodian informed the committee that a total 53 cases seeking waiver of demurrage charges had been received by them, out of which in 10 cases refunds had already made and remaining 43 cases were being processed. The Commissioner requested them to clear all 43 cases on priority basis. They were also requested to circulate their policy in this regard as a measure of transparency.

Point No. 5 :- Custodian was also informed about the complaints have been received regarding theft of high valued mobile phones from consignments. As the footage of CCTV installed at various locations was not of good quality, no conclusion could be drawn regarding the identity of the persons involved. The Commissioner emphasized that this is a serious matter and suggested that DIAL should put full proof mechanism in place and install more quality cameras for clear footage so that such eventualities are prevented. The Commissioner emphasized that we should have zero tolerance for such evens and responsible persons should immediately be booked as per provisions of the law.

