



सीमा शुल्क के आयुक्त का कार्यालय  
**OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER OF CUSTOMS**  
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Pune, 15/02/2022

**MINUTES OF THE 75th PERMANENT TRADE FACILITATION COMMITTEE**  
**MEETING HELD ON 30<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2021 AT 15:00 HRS.**

The 75<sup>th</sup> Permanent Trade Facilitation Committee Meeting of the Pune Customs Commissionerate was held on 30-12-2021 at 15:00 hrs via Video Conferencing under the Chairmanship of Shri.Yashodhan Wange, Commissioner of Customs, Pune.

The following members from the Trade and Industry attended the meeting:-

S.No.	Name of the Member	Representing
1	Shri. R.D. Bhargava	MCCIA
2	Shri.Pradeep Kale	PCHAA
3	Shri.Anand Paranjape	EXIM Management Services
4	Shri.Vinod Sharma	PCHAA
5	Shri.Bhagwan Singh	PCHAA
6	Shri.SantoshIngalkar	KSH Distriparks Pvt. Ltd.
7	ShriJalinderThite	Trade Representative
8	Shri.Kamta Mishra	Trade Representative
9	Shri. Ajay	DHL
10	Shri.Subandhu Sinha	DGM, GAIL India Ltd.
11	Shri.Sagar Gujarathi	Senior Officer, Bridgestone
12	Mr. T. Jayan	M/s John Deer India Ltd.

**3.** The following officers from the Department attended the meeting:

S.No.	Name of the Officer	Designation/ Formation
1	Shri. Dhruva Seshadri	Joint Commissioner
2	Shri V. Mangaraju	Joint Commissioner
3	Smt. Himani Dhamija	Deputy Commissioner, Preventive
4	Smt. Sumangala Sharma	Deputy Commissioner, Technical
4	Shri. Dhananjay B, Kadam	Deputy Commissioner, Pune International Airport, ICD-Dighi, CFS-Pimpri and ICD-Chinchwad
5	Shri. Sachin B.	Deputy Commissioner ICD-Talegaon, ICD-Bhamboli

	Ghagare	
5	Shri. Amit Nayak	Deputy Commissioner,Ratnagiri/Dapoli /Sindhudurg Division
6	Smt. Savani Kulkarni	Superintendent Technical-III(TPSC)
7	Smt. Sunita Jagtap	Superintendent Technical-III

4. The Chairman welcomed all the PTFC members and departmental officers present in the meeting via Video Conferencing.

5. Shri Dhruva Seshadri, Joint Commissioner, also welcomed all the members and introduced the Departmental Officers present in the meeting in person/On-line at the Conference Hall to the Trade.

The following issues were discussed based on agenda points submitted from the trade/ stakeholders:

**Point No.1 :Challenges faced under Faceless assessment of Bills of Entry under CAROTAR**(forwarded by PCHAA (Shri Pradeep Kale))

Certain members brought to the notice of the PTFC, instances wherein, at the time of taking final out of charge, an error message viz. "OOC cannot be given. Contact System R Manager" was being displayed, particularly in cases where FTA notification benefits are claimed and Form-I is being uploaded by the importer in terms of the CAROTAR, 2020. They also informed that the process of sending back the B/E for provisional assessment, even when the importer has executed bond and bank guarantee from beginning, etc. takes around 5-6 working days, leading to extra detention and demurrage being incurred by the importers.

They also requested to refer to the Standing Order No 40/2020 dated 02.11.2020 issued by JNCH and Standing Order No 26/2021 dated 27.08.2021 issued by JNCH Customs in terms of Board Instructions No 18/2021

Members of PCHAA suggested that:

- i. All Bills of entry need not be forwarded for Provisional assessment. Only in cases where specific information is required for verification, only then provisional assessment may be carried out.
- ii. Request for an assessment to be completed within 24 hours to avoid any delays.
- iii. Request for necessary Standing Instructions or Circular to be issued.

In reply to this, Shri. Dhruva Seshadri, Joint Commissioner stated that the assessing officers are complying with the extant Board Circular and Certificates of Origin are sent for verification only in rare cases. He also informed that the system alert, which is not an error, is binding on the officers.

**Action proposed:** It was decided that long pending CAROTAR verifications would once again be taken up with the Board, and that possibility of issuing a standing order along the similar lines of JNCH in this context would be examined.

**(Action: DC (Technical))**

**Point No. 2: Part delivery of FCL import consignments at ICDs in Pune**  
(forwarded by PCHAA (Shri. Pradeep Kale))

Members of trade expressed difficulties faced due to partial arrival of containers belonging to a single Bill of Entry filed at ICD's, wherein the balance containers arrive

belatedly due to various reasons such as congestion at port, shortage of vehicles, difficulty in movement and locating containers at port. It was submitted that the present system of awaiting the arrival of the last container of BE for carrying out goods registration, and absence of provision for partial examination/delivery, was leading to increased detention charges, ground rent, and reduced availability of containers.

It was suggested by members of the trade that manual permission may be given to clear part consignments, and that a Public Notice may be issued permitting part clearance, in line with other Customs sites such as Ludhiana wherein such procedures are already in place.

Shri Yashodhan Wanage, Commissioner of Customs directed that the possibility of issuing a standing order/public notice enabling partial delivery of consignments, may be examined.

**(Action: DC (Technical))**

**Point No.3: Conducting "G category" examination under CBLR on annual basis.**

PCHAA informed that currently, examination for G Card category is being conducted every two years. They requested the Commissionerate to conduct the examination for G Card category ( in terms of CBLR Regulation 13 (5)) every year and preferably in a fixed month, as availability of operational staff for Custom Brokers is very important for timely clearance of EXIM consignments at Custom Stations and ICDs,

The Commissioner of Customs directed the concerned officers to examine the possibility of holding G card Category Examination at a fixed time every year, possibly around the month of April-May.

**(Action:- DC (CBS))**

**Point No.4: "AEO-LO" Status of Custom Broker to be printed on Shipping Bill or Bill of Entry as the case may be.**

PCHAA reiterated the same point which was taken in 74<sup>th</sup> PTFC meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> February'2021 as Para No.5 and as per minutes of the meeting, it has been sent to CCU for further necessary action. In this connection, they informed that necessary changes in EDI systems are not yet reflected and that the AEO-LO status of Customs Brokers was still not getting printed.

**Point No.5 : Custom Brokers license issued by Pune Custom Commissionerate, Principal and Parent Commissionerate is Pune, Custom Broker need to register through Mumbai Custom House CB Section.**

PCHAA reiterated the point taken in 74<sup>th</sup> PTFC meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> February'2021 as Para No.6 and as per minutes of the meeting, it has been sent to CCU for further necessary action.

They informed that the difficulty still persists and accordingly requested take up the matter CBIC and DG Systems once again, in order to allow registration of Customs Broker licenses issued in Pune, through System Manager at Pune itself.

Shri. Dhruva Seshadri, Joint Commissioner mentioned that both the points 4 & 5 have

been taken up earlier twice and also in the previous PTFC meeting and would be taken up again. He also informed that the final decision on both matters would lie with DIC, Board or DG Systems as the case may be.

**(Action: DC (EDI) for point nos. 4 & 5)**

**Point No.6: Auto Capture of Data from ICDs to Gateway Port / Airport**

Shri Vinod Sharma, PCHAA stated that in case of Export Cargo / Containers, the manual feeding of data in the 'allowed for shipment request' (ASR), local EGM and Gateway EGM, is prone to human error, resulting in data mismatch, EGM errors and consequently delay in sanction of Drawback and IGST Refunds.

He suggested that auto capturing of data from shipping bill, while filling up the ASR and EGM fields, would reduce human error and time required for feeding the export stuffing report. This will also result in timely release of IGST refunds and Drawback claims. He requested for kind support for this.

In this regard, the Commissioner of Customs informed that the suggestion would be taken up with DG systems.

**(Action: DC (EDI))**

**Point No.7: Development of facilities and traffic for cargo movement Inbound and Outbound from Pune International Airport at Lohegaon.**

Shri Vinod Sharma, PCHAA explained that despite Pune being an industrial hub and having huge agricultural production in surrounding areas, exports and imports from the region continue to be predominantly via Mumbai International Airport. He added that Pune Airport is limited by the shortage of storage facility, handling equipment, labour etc, and there is a felt need to upgrade the facilities in order to handle International Cargo movement without any limitations of size, numbers and weight.

He suggested that, a special committee of various stakeholders could be formed to study the issue, call for stakeholder suggestions and work towards development of cargo facilities at Pune International Airport.

In this regard the Commissioner of Customs directed that a small, focused group of willing persons could be constituted with inputs from the stakeholders.

**(Action: DC (Technical))**

**Point No. 8: Pendency of AFS application**

Shri. Vinod Sharma also informed that, ICD Dighi has applied for Air Freight Stations but this application is pending at Delhi. The process of permission for AFS is taking considerable amount of time.

The Commissioner of Customs directed the officers to examine the status of the AFS application.

**(Action: DC (Technical))**

**Point No.9 :Point raised by Shri. Sagar Gujarathi , Senior Officer, Bridgestone India Pvt. Ltd., Chakan**

Shri. Sagar Gujarathi expressed that in case of M/s Bridgestone India Pvt. Ltd., verification request under CAROTAR has been sent to nodal officer 4 months prior, and feedback was pending. He expressed that their working capital is blocked for long periods of time due to bank guarantees furnished in the course of provisional assessment. He

requested the Commissionerate to get the decision quickly from the nodal officer. He also expressed difficulties in Faceless Assessment, particularly queries insisting on SVB letter and supporting documents in cases where supplier is an unrelated party.

In reply to this Shri. Dhruva Seshadri, Joint Commissioner stated that the Commissionerate would follow up with CBIC to expedite the verification process. He also informed that in case of undue delays in clearance, the trade may approach the Turant Suvridha Kendra, for escalation of grievances to the various National Assessment Centers/ FAG nodal commissionerates.

**Action:- Point Closed**

**Point No. 10 :Point raised by Shri. Siddharth Kambale, JSW Steel Ltd., Dolvi**

Shri Kambale had expressed the following grievances through email:

(i) Reassessment of Bills of Entry with addition of Social Welfare Surcharge @10% on BCD, whereas BCD shows 0% in EDI system.

(ii) He further requested that assessment may be facilitated without insistence of signature on Certificate of Origin in case of imports from Least Developed Countries, and quoted Circular No. 19/2021-Customs dt. 16-8-2021 in this regard.

(iii) He had also requested for facilitation of assessment of Bill Of Entry by (PAG) Port Assessment Group.

In response to the above points, Shri. Amit Nayak, Deputy Commissioner , Ratnagiri, submitted as follows:

With regard to Point no. (i), he submitted that the matter is subjudice and that the importer has already filed an appeal, for which decision was awaited.

With regard to Point no. (ii), DC Ratnagiri submitted that the party is very much capable of submitting signed original copies as has been done in the recent past. Therefore the importer's request to accept unsigned copies appears unreasonable to the extent that the reason for the same is not due to Covid Disruptions, which is the very purpose of the circular 18/2020 whose reference is found in circular 19/2021. However on being asked whether the said circular has been revoked or in force, it is submitted that the circular does not contain any sunset clause and appears to be in force.

The Commissioner of Customs, Pune directed the officers to examine such cases of Bills of Entry and assess the same in terms of the extant Circulars.

As regard point no. (iii), Shri. Amit Nayak, Deputy Commissioner replied that assessment by Port Assessment Group is only allowed in exceptional cases. The DC also explained the grievance of the importer, ie. their request for discharge of goods into another vessel at anchorage for coastal discharge at their factory located at Dolvi, in order to save berthing / unloading time.

Shri Yashodhan Wanage, Commissioner of Customs directed the DC (Ratnagiri) to examine the issue in detail to ascertain if a solution could be arrived at within the framework of law.

**(Action: DC (Ratnagiri) – to pursue with custodian)**

**Point No. 11 :Point raised by Shri. Shailendra Voleti, GM (Mktg. – Int’l LNG), GAIL India Ltd.**

Shri Shailendra Voleti raised an issue pertaining to Out Of Charge (OOC) for LNG cargoes being imported by GAIL at KLL Dabhol LNG terminal.

Shri Amit Nayak, DC Dapoli described the problem in detail. KLL i.e Custodian has notified only the jetty area of their terminal. No storage tanks are notified as of today, nor has EDI connection been provided. Therefore, once cargo is discharged from the vessel, it is stored in storage tanks outside the Customs Notified Area. Therefore, the same is being cleared for home consumption as soon as discharge begins. However, as stipulated under section 45, goods can be cleared for home consumption only after a written order i.e. Out of Charge is granted by the proper officer. Since no EDI system has been made available by the custodian, the process is completed at Dapoli Division Office where EDI system is available. The importer therefore is requesting to allow discharge of cargo outside Customs Area, inside the storage tanks, prior to Out of Charge.

The Divisional DC further stated that the issue could be resolved by notification of storage tanks as part of the custom area. He also informed that no application seeking notification of the storage tanks as part of customs area had been received from the custodian till date despite them being informed.

The Commissioner of Customs, Pune informed that action would lie with the Custodian for applying for extending the notified area to include the storage tanks, and then the Commissionerate would examine the application on merits and allow if deemed fit.

**(Action: DC (Dapoli) – to pursue with custodian)**

**Point No. 12: Issues related to upcoming budget updation and changes in HSN code.**

Sh Raj Deepak Bhargava, Avignon Shipping, raised a concern regarding possible charging of late fees in the context of late filing / amendments in Bills of Entry during the transition to the new HSN codes w.e.f. 01.01.2022.

The Joint Commissioner, EDI informed that regarding the transition, importers would have the option to file the B/E with the old HSN codes if filed before 1.1.2022, and the B/E would have to be recalled and reassessed in accordance with new HSN code, based on date of Entry Inward as per the provisions of Section 15 of the Customs Act. If B/E is filed on or after 01.01.2022, then the new HSN codes would anyway be available for filing.

**(Point Closed)**

**Point No. 13: Issues related to Faceless Assessment of Dredgers/Vessels etc.**

Shri Adesh More, M/s Boskalis Dredging India Pvt. Ltd. informed that bills of entry filed by them for import of vessels, dredgers etc. are going to faceless assessment groups and unnecessary queries are raised which adds to the dwell time and costs of the importer. Hence he requested that such assessments may be done expeditiously and with minimal queries.

Shri Dhruva Seshadri, JC, EDI informed that in terms of Circular No. 14/2021- Cus. dt. 07.07.2021, the Chief Commissioner, Pune Zone is the Co-convenor of the NAC for Group 5S which deals with assessment of vessels etc. and any specific instances of undue delays may be informed either to Pune Customs Commissionerate or to the CCO, Pune Zone for redressal.

**(Point Closed)**

**Point No. 14: Issues related to Refund of Project Cargo**

Shri Adesh More, M/s Boskalis Dredging India Pvt. Ltd. informed regarding instances of refund wherein after a lapse of a few months they receive a show cause notice for return of the refund amount paid along with interest, and though they are paying the interest this is causing confusion and financial unpredictability. He informed that the refund should be given once and for all after examining all aspects.

**(Action:- DC (Ratnagiri) to examine)**

**Point no. 15: Issues related to non-updation of EGM in the Shipping Bill**

Shri Govind Soni, GE India Pvt. Ltd., Chakan informed regarding 26 Shipping Bills filed by them at ICD Talegaon wherein neither the ICD's EGM nor Gateway EGM were updated, leading to certain difficulties.

He was requested to share the specific details of the Shipping Bills and attempt to resolve the issue with the assistance of officers at ICD Talegaon.

**(Action: DC (ICD Talegaon))**

**COMPLIANCE TO THE PARAS RAISED IN THE 74<sup>th</sup> PERMANENT TRADE FACILITATION COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 17<sup>th</sup> February, 2021 AT 16:00 HRS were discussed:-**

**Point 1:-** Shri. Anand Paranjpe, Exim Management submitted that in JNCH, the port code is same and hence 38 or more CFS' are covered under one registration. He requested for a similar procedure to be followed in Pune by shifting the registration to EDI or any other section in Pune Customs Headquarters and make the process online, in order to save time.

**Action Taken:-** It was agreed to examine the matter and issue a Public Notice/ Trade Notice if deemed fit.

**(Action: DC (EDI))**

**Point 2:-** Shri. Vinod Sharma, Best Agencies had raised an issue regarding first time imports, specifically the requirement of manufacturer importers to first inform the Customs site/ICD of import, and the subsequent obtaining of NOC from Headquarters SIIB, which takes sometimes 6 to 7 days. He suggested that, in order to reduce the dwell time, a simple intimation should be accepted in case of manufacturers; and in case of traders SIIB can examine the goods as per their norms.

Further Shri Anand Paranjpe discussed the need to review of the P.N.37/2020 parano.6 regarding first time import verification. He emphasized the need for clarity on whether the NOC has to be taken from SIIB/Headquarters compulsorily or at the discretion of the DC/AC of the ICD.

The concerned officers informed that no cargo is held up for want of SIIB approval on a regular basis. They also informed that in most cases, KYC documents are submitted well in advance and in rare cases where cargo is urgent and KYC is pending, filing of B/E is allowed and SIIB NOC is only required before OOC.

**(Action : DC(SIIB))**

**Point 3:** Shri. Pradeep Kale, Customs House Agents Association, Pune presented his point regarding delay in generation of the LEO/Gate pass of shipping bills. He informed that, sometimes it takes 4 Hours. The operation staff and custodian staff needs to wait till shipping bill or gate pass gets generated and container or CBT moves out of

ICD. The same should generated immediately as soon as LEO given by the officer.

It was informed that the issue has been resolved after specific instances were pointed out to systems.

**(Point closed)**

**Point 4:** Shri. Pradeep Kale, PCCHA raised a concern regarding late filing charges in case of transition periods (eg. Budget updation) due to mandatory filing of prior bill of entry as per Finance Bill 2021.

He informed that now the trade had adapted to the scenario of mandatory filing of prior bills of entry and clearance has been proceeding smoothly.

**(Point closed)**

**Point 5:** Shri Pradeep Kale, PCCHA submitted point that, when BE Numbers are not being generated due to EDI system issues or EDI system down, he has requested that late filing waiver should be automatically considered by the system instead of separate Public Notice.

On this point, Shri Dhruva Seshadri, JC EDI reiterated that late fee waiver is at the discretion of the assessing officer and hence in deserving cases the officers are already considering the request for late fee waiver where applicable. Further, in situations where known system issues or downtime is encountered, Public notice is being issued for blanket waiver of late fees for a specified period.

**(Point Closed. Similar PN has also been issued for Budget Updation 2022 on 02.02.2022.)**

**Point 6:-** Shri. Rajdeepak Bhargava, Director, Avignon Shipping Ltd., had pointed out the issue which the trade are facing on a regular basis. Due to changes made in Notfn. No. 50/2017 the CHA 47079000 were put under condition 9 which is mandatory for IGCRD instead of End use Bond which was the practice. He suggested that if the trade had been given sufficient notice (eg. 15 days) the disruption could have easily been avoided.

**(No Action as this issue has already been resolved by DG Systems. Hence point closed.)**

Smt. Himani Dhamija, Deputy Commissioner proposed the vote of thanks.

This is issued with the approval of the Commissioner of Customs, Pune.

**( Dhruva M. Seshadri)  
Joint Commissioner**

**Pune Customs  
Commissionerate**

F.No. VIII/Cus/Tech/48-97/PTFC/15-16/Pt.III  
Pune, 15/02/2022

**Copy to:-**

1. The Director General of Tax Payer Service, New Delhi – 110 109.
2. The Director(Customs), CBEC, New Delhi
3. The Chief Commissioner, CGST & Customs, Pune Zone
4. Dy./Asstt.Commissioner of Customs all Custom ICDs/Pune Airport/ Air Cargo
5. Dy./Asstt.Commissioner of Customs, Ratnagiri/Sindhudurg/ Dapoli Division
6. All members of PTFC, Pune
7. PCHAA/MCCIA/DCCIA, Pune
8. DGFT, Pune
9. Notice Board and Website/EDI Section
- 10.Master File