



**OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL COMMISSIONER OF CUSTOMS
CUSTOM HOUSE :: PORT AREA :: VISAKHAPATNAM :: 530 035**

F No. S23/175/97-AP(Vol.IV)

Date:14.09.2016

**MINUTES OF THE PERMANENT TRADE FACILITATION COMMITTEE (PTFC) MEETING HELD ON
29.08.2016 AT 1630 HRS AT CUSTOM HOUSE, VISAKHAPATNAM**

MEMBERS PRESENT

S/Shri/Smt

1	C Rajendiran	Principal Commissioner	Chairman
2	Sudhakar Mishra	Additional Commissioner	Member
3	Rachna Tanwar	Deputy Commissioner	Member
4	Kshitij Jain	Deputy Commissioner	Member
5	S K Dutta	Asst. Commissioner	Member
6	Deepak Kumar Zala	Asst. Commissioner	Member
7	H S Naskar	Asst. Commissioner	Member
8	PVVV Srinivas	Asst. Commissioner	Member
9	P Gopichand	Asst. Commissioner	Member
10	T Ravi Varma	Asst. Commissioner	Member
11	G Narasimha Raju	Senior System Analyst, NIC	Member

The following Trade/Custodians attended the meeting:-

S/Shri

1	Sushil Mulchandani	CEO, VCTPL
2	G Sravan Kumar	Director, Sravan Shipping
3	P Sunil	Vice President, Sravan CFS
4	Kiran Kumar	Br Manager, SAP Global & Logistics
5	Surendra N	Manager, GSEC Ltd (Air Cargo Complex)
6	N Venkateswara Rao	Manger(IT), VCTPL

2. At the outset, Principal Commissioner, welcomed all the members of the Committee and highlighted the revenue trends for the first quarter of the current financial year.

3. Additional Commissioner informed that the agenda points discussed during the previous meeting have been resolved and read out the action taken report as under:

i) It was brought to the notice that physical copies of the Shipping Bills with LEO and Allowed for Shipment endorsement are being insisted upon by the terminal before the containers are allowed to be shipped

Action Taken: Although the LEO message is getting transmitted from ICEGATE to PCS and to Terminal Operator, there is no provision of granting 'Allowed for Shipment' in the ICES 1.5 as yet. This issue has already been taken up with DG (Systems).

ii) CHA Association had expressed that the Single Window Project (SWIFT) which has been implemented by the dept is very helpful but trade is not aware of the procedure involved. They had requested that one more awareness session be conducted for the benefit of the trade.

Action Taken: A training session has already been conducted for the trade on this topic and the information is also available on the website. It has been suggested that the trade conduct a seminar/meeting of the trade where Officer of Customs will give a lecture on Single Window Clearance, which will be more beneficial to the trade.

iii) It was brought to the notice by the Steamer Agents' Association that three sets of IGM are required to be submitted to Customs, one set to VCTPL and one to VPT, even though they are filing the IGM details electronically.

Action Taken: Only one copy of the IGM print out is being collected from the Steamer Agents in the Import Section of Custom, House. A Note has been issued to Customs (VCTPL) and ITP Cell, not to insist on submission of IGM copies, and has also been circulated. A letter has been written to VCTPL asking them to utilise the IGM details which are getting transmitted to them through PCS. Letter has also been sent to VPT to make use of the data being transmitted to PCS from ICEGATE instead of asking for copies of IGM.

iv) Representative of the Liners' Association informed that signed copies of the transshipment Permission (TSA) are being insisted upto by Customs at VCTPL before releasing the import containers from the terminal. It was brought to the notice that transshipment permission message is directly getting transmitted to VCTPL through PCS.

Action Taken: It has been ascertained from VCTPL that the message exchange in respect of TSA is not taking place properly from PCS to their system due to some reasons and they have taken up this issue with VPT. This issue can further be dealt with once terminal starts getting the TSA message through PCS.

4. Shri M Venkateswara Rao, Manager (IT), VCTPL gave a presentation on Message Exchange between ICEGATE, PCS and various stake holders. He explained how message exchange is helpful in faster clearance of cargo. He also outlined how the data is received and old data is retrieved from PCS. As and when all the messages start getting transmitted, the time taken at various process of cargo clearance will become faster as physical copies of the documents need not be submitted resulting in less human interaction and pre planning.

5. The following additional points were taken up for discussion:-

i) Chairman desired that the message exchange between ICEGATE and PCS should take place upto the desired level and a study on this be conducted over a sample period of 4/5 days. This would make it clear how many messages are getting actually transmitted from ICEGATE to PCS to VPT and Terminal Operator and vice versa.

ii) Chairman again emphasized the importance of Authorised Economic Operator (AEO) program and the benefits to all. He urged upon the trade to take advantage of AEO program and get on board. The representatives of the trade were encouraged to propagate benefits of this programme. It was also informed that the CBs, Liners, Steamer Agents along with other stake holders can apply and avail this program.

iii) Central Board of Customs & Central Excise is planning for an Integrated Customs Systems (ICS) comprising of end to end integrated customs platform with latest technology which would subsume the present ICES, ICEGATE and RMs into a single system. Chairman informed the members present about the of the Board's letter F No. IV(35)/10/2015-Sys/1485 dated 18.08.2016 and explained how this would be more useful when a Business Process Re-engineering (BPR) exercise focusing on comprehensive review of all steps involved is undertaken to streamline the workflow.

With the above discussions, the meeting was concluded by thanking all the members who were present in the meeting.

This issues with the approval of the Principal Commissioner.

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(B NARENDRA KUMAR)
Asst. Commissioner (App. Main)

To,
All Members, Permanent Trade Facilitation Committee
Custom House, Visakhapatnam – *by e-mail*

Copy submitted to:
The Chief Commissioner of Customs, Central Excise & Service Tax,
Visakhapatnam Zone – for information.

Copy to:
1. Supd(EDI) – for uploading on the website
2. Master copy