PUBLIC NOTICE NO. 30 /2015-16

Subject: Online message exchange between Customs and other regulatory agencies - reg.

Attention of the Trade, Customs Brokers and all concerned is invited towards Boards’ Circular No. 09/2015-Customs dated 31-03-2015 regarding Online message exchange between Customs and other regulatory agencies in order to implement ‘Indian Customs Single Window Project’ to facilitate trade. This project envisages that the importers and exporters would electronically load their Customs clearance documents at a single point only with the Customs. The required permission, if any, from other regulatory agencies (such as Animal Quarantine, Plant Quarantine, etc.) would be obtained online without the importer/exporter having to separately approach these agencies. This would be possible through a common, seamlessly integrated IT systems utilized by all regulatory agencies and the importers/exporters. The Single Window would thus provide the importers/exporters a single point interface for Customs clearance of import and export goods thereby reducing interface with Governmental agencies, dwell time and cost of doing business.

2. On success of the Single Window Project with all regulatory agencies in ICD Tughlakabad, ICD Patparganj and JNPT, the Board has decided to extend the online message exchange system with Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) and the Department of Plant Protection, Quarantine and Storage (DPPQ&S) with the Customs with effect from 29.01.2016 at Air Cargo Complex, Sahar, Mumbai. Under the new online message exchange system for imported goods between these two agencies viz. FSSAI and DPPQ&S and the Customs, there will be seamless online exchange in real time of the Customs Bill of Entry (Import declaration) with these agencies and Release Order (RO) from both the agencies will be received by the Customs in electronic message format.

3. The salient feature of the new online message exchange system would be as under:

   • Indian Customs EDI (ICES) would transmit “BE message” to the FSSAI and DPPQ&S on completion of assessment of the relevant Bills of Entry (Bs/E) by the Customs ICES application after entry-inward of the consignment. The B/E message would be provided to FSSAI/DPPQ&S for all Bs/E falling under the identified Custom Tariff Heads (CTHs), as per list made available by the respective agencies.

   The Customs officers would be able to access the details of the Bs/E referred by the ICES to FSSAI/DPPQ&S.
The importers would be able to track the status of the Bs/E on ICEGATE (https://www.icegate.gov.in).

The receipt of the Bs/E message shall be acknowledged by the FSSAI/DPPQ&S through a receipt message to the ICES.

On processing of the Bs/E message by the FSSAI/DPPQ&S, these agencies would electronically transmit an RO, concerning each item of the Bs/E. From the Customs side, Out of Charge (OOC) will not be allowed in the system till the ROs received from the agency concerned for all the items. There are 6 types of RO, which may be provided by the FSSAI/DPPQ&S to the ICES, as follows:

(a) Release - goods can be released by the Customs.
(b) Destruction - goods to be destructed by the Customs.
(c) Deportation - goods to be exported back to the Country of Origin.
(d) No Objection Certificate (NOC) - goods can be released by the Customs.
(e) NCC (Non-compliance Certificate) - non-rectifiable defects observed in the goods.
(f) Product Out of scope - goods are out of scope for FSSAI/DPPQ&S.

In case, the Release Order falls under types (b), (c) and (e) above, the OOC would not be allowed in the ICES. Details of such consignments will be entered by the Customs Assessing Officer in the closure of B/Emenu after all processes are complete.

On receipt of RO online, the Customs ICES shall integrate the data in the ICES database, which shall be available to the Customs officers concerned.

The other formalities under the Customs Act, 1962 such as duty payment, goods registration, examination would continue during the time interval between transmission of Bs/E message from ICES to the receipt of RO message from FSSAI/DPPQ&S. During this period the samples of the goods under consideration may also be taken for testing purposes.

4. As aforementioned, all Bs/E falling under the identified Custom Tariff Heads (CTHs), as per list made available by the FSSAI, would automatically be sent by the ICES to this agency. However, in terms of Board's Circular No.3/2011-Cus dated 06.01.2011 import consignments that have been tested on previous five consecutive occasions and found in order may not be referred to FSSAI. Therefore, this Circular will be implemented by the Customs officers by not waiting for the RO from FSSAI in such cases. The ICES provides functionality for this purpose. This measure would be in place till a system based solution is developed. A procedure for informing FSSAI that the RO is not required in such cases is also being examined.
5. Since, the electronically received RO in regard to B/E referred to FSSAI/DPPQ&S shall be accepted by the Customs for clearance of the imported foods items/plant materials, the Customs shall not insist that a physical copy of the RO shall be issued by these agencies. Board also desires that the Customs should maintain a close liaison with these two agencies to ensure that responses from these agencies are received in time and there is no delay in clearance of goods except in cases where sampling is required.

6. It is clarified that as some of details required for other regulatory agencies may not be currently captured in the B/E format, in such cases, the importer would continue to furnish these additional details to the respective agency. Further, the mode and manner of payment of fee and other charges of other agencies will continue to be the same as per the existing practice.

7. Difficulty faced, if any, may be brought to the notice of the under signed at the earliest. This issues with the approval of Commissioner of Customs (Import).

(\text{Dr. Satish Dhuavale})
Additional Commissioner of Customs (Import),
Air Cargo Complex, Mumbai

Copy to:
1. The Chief Commissioner of Customs, Mumbai Zone-III
2. The Principal Commissioner of Customs (Import), ACC, Mumbai
3. The Commissioner of Customs (General), ACC, Mumbai.
4. The Commissioner of Customs (Export), ACC, Mumbai,
5. All the Addl. Commissioners of Customs, ACC Mumbai.
6. All DC/ACs of ACC, Mumbai.
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11. M/s CMC./ M/s Xeam Ventures