PUBLIC NOTICE NO. 35 /2015-16

Subject: Extending the Indian Customs Single Window to other locations and other participating Government Agencies - reg.

Attention of the Trade, Customs Brokers and all the stakeholders concerned is invited towards Public Notice No.30/2016 dated 28.01.2016 regarding online message exchange between Customs and other regulatory agencies and also Board’s Circular No. 03/2016-Cus dt.03.02.2016 on the aforesaid subject.

2. Upon success of the Single Window Project of online message exchange between Customs and FSSAI and DPPQ&S at Air Cargo Complex, Mumbai, the Board has decided to extend the online message exchange for imports at Air Cargo Complex, Mumbai to other regulatory agencies such as Animal Quarantine, Plant Quarantine, Drug Controller, Textile Committee etc. vide Board’s Circular No.03/2016-Cus dated 03.02.2016.

No Objection Certificate on ICES for use by Drug Controller / Animal Quarantine / Wild Life Crime Control Bureau:

3. The Board has decided to implement a system of online granting of “No Objection Certificate” (NOC) under ICES for the imported goods coming under the purview of the following Agencies namely (i) Drug Controller (ii) Animal Quarantine (iii) Wild Life Crime Control Bureau. Under this system of granting NOC for imported goods, the offices of these agencies will be connected to the ICES. Upon the online filing and assessment of the Bill of Entry, the system will identify Bills of Entry that contain items requiring NOC from these agencies. The system will then automatically re-direct the Bills of Entry to the concerned officers serving with these Agencies for granting NOC. Initially, as is the case with FSSAI and PQIS, the selection of items to be referred to these agencies will be based on Customs Tariff Head only. /Subsequently, criteria will be introduced.
4. To obtain NOC from these agencies, the Customs Broker or Importer would have to produce hard copies of check-lists, import licences, and other certificates/documents as required by the Agency, along with a copy of the Bill of Entry. Based on the Bill of Entry Number, the Agency’s officer will retrieve the Bill of Entry online on ICES, verify the documents and record its decision online. At this stage, the Agency’s office may:

(i) **Release** - No Objection Certificate

(ii) **Out of Scope**: Item does not require the Agency's NOC

(iii) **Reject**: Item is not permitted for clearance for home consumption. Agency's office may make a suitable recommendation in respect of the item such as re-export or destruction. (The Agency will record this remark online). Customs shall take further necessary action on the Bill of Entry.

(iv) **Withhold NOC**: NOC has been temporarily withheld for want of further documentation and/or testing after entering suitable remarks in the system by the Agency. This Bs/E can be retrieved by Agency's office for a further decision (Release/Provisional NOC/Out-of-Scope/Reject) after the information is received.

(v) **Provisional NOC**: NOC is granted subject to the production of Letters of Guarantee and carrying out testing of samples as required by the Agency. Customs may release goods after a Bond or Letter of Guarantee is accepted for the Bill of Entry and the requisite samples are drawn. [Provision will be made for the capture of Letter of Guarantee Number or Bond Number to be entered by the Agency.]

5. Out of Charge will be given for the Bill of Entry only after the Agency enters Release/Out of Scope/ or Provisional NOC for all items of the Bill of Entry. Since, the Agency's office records the NOC online, Customs shall not insist on the physical copy of the NOC.

6. In case 'Rejection', by the Agency, in addition to the remarks entered into by the Agency online on ICES as described in 4(iii) above, the Agency will also advise the basis for rejection so that the concerned Assistant/Deputy Commissioner in the Appraising Group can take further course of action, including adjudication under the provisions of the Customs Act, 1962. Likewise, in case of Provisional NOC, where the samples upon testing fail to meet the qualifying criteria, the Agency's officer will advise on the outcome of tests to the concerned Assistant/Deputy Commissioner in the Appraising Group, which will take further action on the Bill of Entry, including adjudication, where necessary.
7. The Single Window "No Objection Certificate" or NOC module is being introduced on a pilot basis with effect from 05/02/2016 at JNCH, ACC Sahar, Air Cargo Delhi, ICD Tughlakabad, and ICD Patparganj for Drug Controllers Office, Wildlife Crime Control Bureau and Animal Quarantine.

Lab Module in ICES for use by CRCL, Textile Committee and other Agencies:

8. Another feature has been introduced in ICES to bring online the process of referring samples of consignment for testing and analysis. It is referred to as the 'Lab Module'. This feature was launched at a few locations to automate the process of referring samples drawn from consignments to testing facilities of the Central Revenues Control Laboratories (CRCL). Now, this module has been fine tuned in order to extend it for the testing of consignments by laboratories/referral agencies under the Textile Committee, and to other Agencies to whom Customs may refer samples/documentation for testing and/or NOC.

9. Under the 'Lab module', Customs officers who are responsible for examination of goods and drawal of samples can generate Test Memos online, record the details of the samples drawn online and print test memos. Customs will duly dispatch the samples drawn from the consignment to the concerned laboratory/referral agency. Upon the receipt of the samples, the laboratories can access the Test Memo details online, and when tests/analysis is carried out, the laboratory/referral agency shall record the results/findings online. This results/recommendation can be accessed by Customs instantaneously, and thereafter, Customs can take further necessary action on the consignment without waiting for the physical copy of the test results/recommendation.

10. Under the Single Window project, the Lab Module will be used when a reference has to be made by a Customs Officer online to another Government Agency for NOC/ Clearance at the stage of examination, then he may make a reference using the lab module. For example, after going through examination instructions, Compulsory Compliance Requirements (CCRs), documents or goods, if the officer seeks to forward a sample to another agency such as the Textile Committee for testing of samples, he may draw a sample and forward it to the agency after filling-up details on the Lab Module.

11. To be able to send a sample to a laboratory or to make a reference to an agency using the lab module and the required fees for testing etc. and supporting documents required for these Laboratories/referral agencies are not currently provided in the Lab Module. Therefore, importers would continue to furnish the required documents to the respective agencies as before. Further, the mode and manner of payment of testing fee and other charges of these Labs/referral agencies will continue as per the
existing practice.

12. Difficulty faced, if any, may be brought to the notice of the undersigned at the earliest.

This issues with the approval of Principal Commissioner of Customs (Import).

(Dr. Satish Dhavale)
Additional Commissioner of Customs (Import),
ACC, 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.
8. CHA Associations.
10. Manager,
11. M/s Xeam Ventures
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