



OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY COMMISSIONER OF CUSTOMS
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**OPEN HOUSE TRADE FACILITATION MEETING HELD ON 05.02.2015 at
KAKINADA.**

The Open House Trade facilitation meeting of Kakinada Custom House was held on 05.02.2015 under the Chairmanship Shri. S.K.Rahman, Commissioner, CPC, Vijayawada at Kakinada .The following officers and representatives from Trade attended the meeting :

S/Shri

1. M.Sreekanth , Deputy Commissioner
2. V.Sreenivasa Rao ,Assistant Commissioner
3. K.Rama Rao, Assistant Commissioner
4. Lt. General (Retd) A.S.Rao , CEO of M/s. Kakinada Sea Port Limited
5. D. Surya Rao, Chairman and representatives of the Coconada Chamber of Commerce, Kakinada.
6. M. Satyanaraya, President and representatives of the Kakinada Customs Brokers Association, Kakinada.
7. T. Ramachandra Rao, Vice-Chairman and representatives of the Kakinada Steamer Agents Association, Kakinada.
8. G.Chandrasekhar, President and representatives Kakinada Stevedores Association , Kakinada.
9. Some of the major importers and exporters of Kakinada.

2. The following points were discussed

Point No 1: The Customs Brokers / Steamer Agents have requested for operating with single License for Kakinada Port as well as for Krishnapatnam Port.

Reply: The Customs Brokers License is to be registered Port-wise under ICEGATE and extension of the CHA to another Port for operation has to be made in accordance with the provisions under Regulation 7(2) of Notification No. 65/2013-CUS(N.T) dated 21.6.2013 issued under Customs Brokers Licensing Regulations, 2013, after fulfilling the requirements laid therein. Similarly the Shipping Agents / Stevedores are also registered port wise only. They can make a simple application addressed to Custom Preventive Commissionerate, Vijayawada. The Bond and BG initially given at the port of registration would be valid for other ports also within Custom Preventive Commissionerate, Vijayawada for extension of their services at other ports.

Point No 2: The Steamer agents Association have requested for exemption from rummaging twice at Deepwater Port as well as at Anchorage Port.

Reply: Normally Rummaging is not conducted twice for the same Vessel. However the Entry documents have to be filed depending on the Entry of the Vessel into the Port.

Point No 3: The Steamer Agents have requested for increasing the validity of their license period from existing 3 years to 5 years.

Reply: The practice prescribed by the then Commissioner vide para 6 of Public Notice No.14/2004 dated 18-03-2014 is being followed as on date. However, the issue will be considered after ascertaining the information from Vizag Custom House for uniformity within Zone and Chennai Custom House.

Point No 4: The Steamer Agents have requested for allowing boarding of Cargo Customs and Surveyors simultaneously with Rummaging Officers.

Reply: Normally, the Rummaging of Vessel by the Custom Officers does not take much time if the attention of the captain of the vessel, Shipping Agent, Stevedor is not diverted to any other agency. The activity of Rummaging by Customs shall not be disturbed by any other agencies from the point of view of Anti-Smuggling. However, in urgent and deserving cases it was decided to examine the request Vessel wise.

Point No 5: The Steamer agents have requested for one time immigration and health clearance at any Indian Port and no further immigration or health clearance for issuing the Port Clearance may be insisted upon.

Reply: The issue involves other Departments also and hence Customs will consider the request subject to the clearance from the above Departments.

Point No 6: The Custom Brokers Association have requested for return of their earlier FDRs which were submitted while getting their licenses renewed.

Reply: The present Office of the Customs Preventive Commissionerate is operating from Guntur temporarily without having sufficient office accommodation. Once the office has its own Building at Vijayawada, the relevant files pertaining to the earlier Visakhapatnam Commissionerate-II will be obtained and action will be taken to return the old FDRs at the earliest. However, the specific Customs Broker who apply for extension may approach Kakinada Custom House for taking up their specific case for obtaining old FDR from Visakhapatnam II Commissionerate.

Point No 7: The Chairman of Cocanada Chamber of Commerce has informed that there were 11 jetties under operation earlier and two jetties at Rake hall were de-notified during 2008. They have requested for re-notification of the same. If the request is considered, the loading of cargo to the extent of 3000 MTs. per day will be increased.

Reply: The issue will be examined positively, taking into consideration of the security and safety aspects of the cargo meant for export. It requires proper co-ordination between various stakeholders such as Minor Ports Department, Railways etc., Hence, the Cocanada Chamber of Commerce is requested to take up the issue with other Departments also for construction of compound wall before customs on taking up

Point No 8: The Kakinada Chamber of Commerce has reminded about the issue of Centenary Plaque and Customs Museum cum Library to be established in Customs house Kakianda.

Reply: As the renovation of Kakinada Custom House is going on by CPWD, the request would be considered at appropriate time. Co-ordination and support from Coconada Chamber of Commerce and other Trade Association is requested for carrying out the task.

Point No 9: The Custom Brokers Association has requested for conducting of training for the officers and also seminars with the Trade.

Reply: The training for the officers would be conducted within the Department. The Seminars / Workshops can be hosted by the Trade Association as the officers of Custom would come to deliver presentations / lectures / talks. Both these can be considered after 01.04.2015.

At the end, Chairman thanked the Shipping fraternity for conducting the Open house/Trade Facilitation Meeting and informed that the same will be held on every 1st Wednesday of the month and if Wednesday happens to be holiday, the meeting will be held on 1st Thursday. It is further informed to the trade that w.e.f. 1st January, 2015, the Customs operations including appraising has been working 24x7 and every forenoon of Wednesday has been designated as "Tax Payers' day" and the trade may approach any officer without any prior appointment from the departmental officers.


(M. SREEKANTH) 16.2.15
DEPUTY COMMISSIONER

To
The Coconada Chamber of Commerce, Kakinada.

All the associations of Custom Brokers / Stakeholders / Stevedors Association who participated in the meeting.

Copy to all officers of Custom House, Kakinada.

Copy to KSPL with a request to post it on its website.