



भारत सरकार

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

सीमा शुल्क आयुक्त (पत्तन) कार्यालय

OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL COMMISSIONER OF CUSTOMS (PORT)

सीमा शुल्क सदन, 15/1 स्ट्रैंड रोड, कोलकाता- 700001

CUSTOM HOUSE, 15/1 STRAND ROAD, KOLKATA- 700001

Trade Facilitation Advisory

**Subject:- Trade Friendly Initiatives by Custom House Kolkata during  
the COVID-19 Lockdown period - regarding**

In the context of the national effort to battle COVID-19, the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India has issued Order no. 40-3/2020 DM-1 (A) dt. 24.03.2020 to impose a complete lockdown in India for a period of 21 days.

Whereas, Ministry of Home Affairs, Govt. of India, vide order no.40-3/2020-DM-I(A) dt. 25.03.2020 issued an addendum and included Customs clearance at ports/airports/land border in the exemption to Clause 1. Further, Operations of Railways and sea ports and their related organizations for cargo movement were also added in the exemption list.

As per MHA directive, Custom and various agencies such as Kolkata Port Trust, Shipping Lines, Container Freight Stations (CFS), Custom House Agents (CHAs), Transporters, Empty Yards Operators, Partner Government Agencies (PGAs such as FSSAI, Plant Quarantine etc.) linked to Port Operations are coming under Essential Services, and are permitted to travel to the ports or Customs House on passes issued by the port.

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Custom House Kolkata has been proactively monitoring issues arising due to the lockdown and has undertaken several initiatives to facilitate trade and seamless clearance of Import and Export Cargo during this period as below:

**1. 24\*7 Customs Clearances of Goods :**

Custom formations are working for clearance of both import & export cargo. Assessment, examination and ancillary work such as bond acceptance, warehousing, port clearance, amendment to documents is happening smoothly.

**2. Waiver of late fee for delay in filing of Bill of Entry:**

After entry inwards a late of Rs 5,000/- for the initial three days and there onwards Rs 10,000/- is being imposed if the Bill of entry was filed late after free time of one day. This late fee was waived by way of Public Notice 19/2020 dt. 21.02.2020 and Public Notice 19A/2020 dt 25.03.2020.

**3. Automated Clearance:**

Wherein the Shed Superintendent/Appraiser will be able to give the Customs Compliance Verification (CCV) report, as envisaged in CBIC Circular No. 15/2020- Customs dated 28.02.2020, to a Bill of Entry even on pending payment of Customs Duty, was implemented vide Public Notice No. 23/2020 dated 03.03.2020. This enables the shed appraiser to examine the goods even duty not paid. Duty can be paid later before Out of Charge.

**4. Waiver of Bond:**

A Public Notice No. 19D/2020 dated 03.04.2020 has been issued in this regard, in which the requirement of Bond under section 59, 18 is replaced by an undertaking. Importers can submit undertakings during the lockdown period which will be replaced by proper bonds later. This facility is available to Govt./PSU (Central, State, UT or Administrations and their undertaking), Manufacturer/Actual User Importer, AEO, Status Holder, all Importers availing Warehousing Facility (under Sec 59, CA 1962).

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**5. Advisory on Demurrage/Detention on ground rent charges:**

Apprehending the delay in securing release of goods from the ICD/CFS in view of Corona Lockdown, may result in levy of container detention charges by the Shipping Lines with Container Ground charges by CFS/ICDs, a Trade Facilitation Advisory was issued on 31.03.2020 to Shipping Lines and Custodians of ICD and CFS to adopt a sympathetic and humanitarian approach while levying the container detention charges/Ground charges for the period of Lockdown.

**6. Waiver of Late Fee :**

The officers are waiving the late fee as per the PN even on Whatsapp request received to any of the Custom Officer as per menu given in the EDI.

**7. Registration of MEIS Scrips:**

In order to minimize physical contact and facilitate trade during the Corona Lockdown period, a SOP for registration of licenses/scrips have been adopted, wherein if, the MEIS/Scrip has been received by Exporter/importer online or through email from DGFT they can inform electronically to Customs. It will be registered electronically through EDI System.

**8. Creation of E mail ID:**

One dedicated E mail ID has been created on the request of steamer agents (ASIC) to receive the port clearance request along with all the required documents and after processing the same will be communicated to them through mail.

In view of the above, Customs Brokers and other stake holders are advised to keep their offices open and involve themselves proactively towards clearance of Export and Import containers in close coordination with Port and CFS authorities so that supply chain remains intact and doesn't leads to congestion of the Port.

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This is purely an advisory issued in public interest meant for keeping operations running smoothly during the present lockdown period for the COVID-19 pandemic.

*Deep*  
10/04/20  
(Deep Shekhar)

Principal Commissioner of Customs (Port)  
Custom House, Kolkata

F No S60 (Misc)-238-2020 A(G)

Date - /04/2020

To:

All Concerned:

- I) Chief Commissioner of Customs, Custom House, Kolkata
- II) KoPT
- III) Principal Commissioner of Customs (A&A), Custom House, Kolkata
- IV) Commissioner of Customs (Port), Custom House, Kolkata
- V) Commissioner of Customs (Preventive), Custom House, Kolkata
- VI) All Joint/Addl Commissioner of Customs (Port, Airport, Preventive)
- VII) All Asst/Deputy Commissioner of Customs (Port, Airport, Preventive)
- VIII) CHA Association, ASIC, Kolkata
- IX) All CFS / DOCK
- X) EDI