



केन्द्रीय कर एवं सीमा शुल्क के मुख्य आयुक्त का कार्यालय  
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF COMMISSIONER OF CENTRAL TAX & CUSTOMS  
केन्द्रीय वस्तु एवं सेवाकर विशाखापट्टणम क्षेत्र CENTRAL GST VISAKHAPATNAM ZONE  
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F.No. VIII/48/47/2019-CC(VZ)

Date: 09/07/2021

**PUBLIC NOTICE No. 02/2021**

*Sub: Improvements in Faceless Assessment - Measures for expediting Customs clearances – reg.*

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Kind attention of the importers, Customs Brokers, Shipping Lines/ Agents, Logistics Service providers, CFS/ ICD Custodians, Trade and other stake holders is invited to Boards Circulars No. 14/2021-Customs dated 07/07/2021, No. 40/2020-Cus dated 04/09/2020, No. 34/2020-Cus dated 30/07/2020 and No. 28/2020-Cus dated 05/06/2020 and this office Public Notices No. 02/2019 dated 25/10/2019 and No. 01/2020 dated 14/09/2020 on faceless assessment.

2. Board has recently comprehensively reviewed the implementation of Faceless Assessment and deliberated on the further measures required for expediting the pace of assessment and Customs clearance of imported goods. Board finds that by and large the objectives of Faceless Assessment in terms of expeditious assessments, anonymity in assessments and uniformity in assessments have been met. However, Board observes that there is even now scope for improvement which would potentially lead to a substantial increase in the pace of assessments and Customs clearance, while further enhancing the uniformity in assessments and anonymity with a view to reduce interface with the trade.

3. Accordingly, Board has decided to implement the following measures in the Customs Faceless Assessment and clearance processes:

3.1 **Enhancement of facilitation levels:** Board has earlier reviewed the facilitation levels in imports and vide Circular No. 39/2011-Customs dated 02/09/2011 decided the facilitation targets should be 80% for Air cargo Complexes, 70% for Seaports and 60% for ICDs. Various initiatives have since been taken to leverage technology as well as simplify extant procedures. As a result, the overall average facilitation levels have already exceeded these levels with the All-India average facilitation level across all Customs stations being 77% for May 2021. Board also notes that the use of machine learning and the other state of art technologies now enables RMS to more precisely target the risky consignments thereby enabling more focused attention on lesser number of Bills of Entry for assessment by the FAGs. Thus, Board has decided that w.e.f. 15/07/2021 the facilitation level across all Customs stations would be increased to 90% relating to RMD. It is clarified that the element of randomness in interdiction of any Bill of Entry would be retained by RMS. This measure is expected to enable faster clearance of non-risky imports with enhanced focus on risky imports, so that revenue remains safeguarded. The aforementioned circular stands modified accordingly.

### 3.2 Expediting assessment process:

- (i) The working hours of all FAGs shall be uniform from 10 AM till 8 PM on any working day. However, considering the nature of Customs functioning, adequate number of assessing officers will be made available during the holidays as per the fixed roster. Also, in the event of administrative exigencies or local circumstances that may emanate from time to time, the jurisdictional Pr. Commissioner/ Commissioner may permit the officers to work beyond the prescribed time interval of 10 AM to 8 PM by way of issue of local instructions.
- (ii) The total number of queries which can be raised by an Appraising Officer in respect of a Bill of Entry would now be restricted to 3 (three). Further, such queries can now be raised without seeking approval of the Addl./Joint Commissioner of Customs. Circular No. 55/2020-Customs dated 17.12.2020 stands suitably modified. In this regard, considering this limit to the number of queries, Board desires that, Appraising Officer raises query in a clear and holistic manner giving reference to supporting details/documents with respect to Valuation/Classification etc., so that the importer does not have any doubt and is in a position to reply categorically for early completion of verification.
- (iii) The option to `set-aside` 5 (five) Bills of Entry, which is already available with the Appraiser/Superintendent would henceforth not require an approval of the Deputy/Assistant Commissioners of Customs. It is expected that the Appraiser/Superintendent would utilize the facility to set aside certain BEs (upto the limit) to address some genuine issues.

**3.3 Re-organisation of FAGs - Specialization:** To promote specialisation in assessment, Board has decided to create separate FAGs for certain commodities, which also contribute appreciably to revenue. These new FAGs would become operational from 15.07.2021, and would be as follows:

Present Assessment Group (CTH)	New FAGs (CTH)
1(01-26)	1 (01-15) – Primary Products 1
	1B (16-26) – Primary Products 2
4 (72-83)	4 (72-73) – Ferrous Base Metals
	4A (74-83) – Non-Ferrous Base Metals
5 (84)	5 (8401-8469) – Mechanical Machinery -I
	5E (8470-8473) – Mechanical Machinery -II
	5N (8474-8487) – Mechanical Machinery -III
5A (85)	5A (8501-8516) – Electrical Machinery
	5C (8517-8531) – Communication & related Equipment
	5M (8532-8548) – Micro-Electronics
5B (86-92)	5V(86-87) – Vehicles
	5F (88) – Aircrafts
	5S (89) – Vessels
	5I (90-92) – Instruments & Apparatus

**3.4 Re-organisation of FAGs - Optimisation of workload:** The composition and the performances of various FAGs across zones in recent times have been examined considering the volume of Bills of Entry handled by the FAGs. To further optimise their performance, Board has decided to re-organise the NACs as per Annexure I of this Public Notice. Consequently, Annexure II to Circular No.45/2020-Customs dated 12/10/2020 is modified to this extent. Due care has been taken to balance the objectives of improved and faster assessments with the efficient deployment of available manpower. In particular, the endeavor has been to ensure that the

reconfiguration of the FAGs does not lead to a disproportionate reduction/increase in the overall workload (i.e. BEs) presently being handled by the Zones. Since the parameters for setting up of NACs/ re-organisation are dynamic variables, Board would carry out periodic reviews in consultation with NACs for further improvement in the performance of Faceless Assessment.

**3.5 Enhancing Direct Port Delivery (DPD):** Circular No.29/2019-Customs dated 05/09/2019 stipulates the eligibility criteria for availment of DPD by the importers. Since then a number of measures including advance filing of Bill of Entry have led to quicker turn-around time for the import cargo. The present decision to enhance the facilitation levels is also a step in this direction. However, while facilitation levels are going up, the DPD levels are not rising commensurately. This is primarily because the present policy is to have an entity based DPD while facilitation levels are linked primarily to Bills of Entry. Accordingly, in order to enhance DPD for faster Customs clearances as well as de-congestion of ports, Board has decided to shift from entity based DPD to a Bill of Entry based DPD. In short, in partial amendment to the said circular, Board has decided that, as a general principle, all the advance Bills of Entry which are fully facilitated (do not require assessment &/or examination) would be granted the facility of DPD. It is clarified that, this facility is over and above the present system of entity based DPD extended to AEO clients. However, the entity whose Bill of Entry has been facilitated for DPD would be required to adhere to the requirements of the ports/terminals/custodians for taking physical delivery of the container. Further, to optimise the ground handling by the ports/terminals/custodians, the ICEGATE shall modify the electronic message being sent to the ports/terminals/custodians on arrival of the cargo, to additionally flag the containers granted (or ready for) DPD along with IEC details. The flag would also indicate the requirement of scanning of specific containers, wherever applicable. This would be done at the stage of Entry Inwards to facilitate efficient planning in stacking and movement of these containers and thus quicken their turn-around time. Similar message would be sent to the importer/Customs Broker.

**3.6 Automated generation of examination orders:** In order to enhance uniformity and streamline the examination orders, Board has decided to introduce RMS generated uniform examination orders at all Customs stations across the country. Further, the imports of items which ordinarily warrant First Check as per para 2.3 of Circular No.45/2020-Customs dated 12.10.2020 would now be directly routed to the shed for First Check examination. Such First Check Bills of Entry will now be referred to the FAG for assessment only after a First Check examination report has been uploaded by the Shed Officers in the Customs system. The detailed implementation advisory on this will be issued shortly.

**3.7 Anonymised escalation:** To better address the grievances of trade relating largely to delays in assessment, DG Systems shall soon shortly operationalise an Anonymized Escalation Mechanism (AEM) on ICEGATE which would empower importers/ Customs Brokers to directly register his/her requirement of expeditious clearance of a delayed Bill of Entry, which may be pending for assessment or examination. The features of the AEM would include, amongst others:

- i. In case of delay of more than 1 working day, an importer/Customs Broker would be able to initiate AEM through ICEGATE or approach TSK for the same.

- ii. The AEM will automatically route the grievance to the concerned FAG/Import Shed, with a notification to Additional/Joint Commissioners of Customs of the concerned FAG and Port of Import.
- iii. The concerned FAG is required to dispose the grievance promptly and same shall be monitored by the concerned Additional/Joint Commissioner of Customs of the concerned FAG/Import Shed.
- iv. The status of the disposal would be updated on the dashboard of ICEGATE, TSK, FAG and to the concerned officers.
4. As aforementioned, the changes stipulated in paras 3.1 to 3.5 will come into effect from 15/07/2021.
5. Any difficulties faced or doubts arising in the implementation of this Public Notice may please be brought to the notice of Additional/ Joint Commissioners of Customs of respective Commissionerate.
6. This issues with the approval of the Principal Chief Commissioner of Customs and Central GST, Visakhapatnam Zone, Visakhapatnam.

  
(Y. BHASKARA RAO) 09/07/2021  
Joint Commissioner

Copy for information to

1. The Joint Secretary (Customs), CBIC, North Block, New Delhi.
2. The Principal Director General of Systems & Data Management, CBIC, New Delhi.
3. Officer on Special Duty (Customs IV), CBIC, DoR, New Delhi.
4. Customs Broker's Association, Visakhapatnam & CPC, Vijayawada
5. Notice Board.

Copy to

1. The Principal Commissioner of Customs, Custom House, Visakhapatnam.
2. The Principal Commissioner of Customs, CPC, Vijayawada.

--- With a request to issue suitable Standing Order for implementation of the referred Board Circular and this PN.

**Annexure I**

**(Revision of Annexure II of Circular No.45/2020-Customs dt.12.10.2020)**

**National Assessment Centres**

<b>National Assessment Centre &amp; Co-Conveners (Pr.CC/CC of the Zone)</b>	<b>Faceless Assessment Groups (Chapters covered by Customs Tariff Act, 1975)</b>	<b>Nodal Commissioners &amp; FAG from Zones (Existing)</b>	<b>Nodal Commissioners &amp; FAG from Zones (Revised)</b>
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Primary Products  <u>Co-Conveners:</u>  Kolkata, Guwahati	1 (01 to 15)- <i>Primary products 1</i>	1. Ahmedabad 2. Bengaluru 3. Bhubaneswar 4. Chennai 5. Delhi 6. Delhi (Prev.) 7. Guwahati 8. Kolkata 9. Mumbai II 10. Mumbai III 11. Patna (Prev.)	1. Ahmedabad 2. Bengaluru 3. Chennai 4. Delhi 5. Kolkata 6. Mumbai, Zone II 7. Mumbai, Zone III 8. Thiruvananthapuram 9. Tiruchirappalli (Preventive) 10. Visakhapatnam
	1B (16 to 26)- <i>Primary products 2</i>	12. Thiruvananthapuram 13. Tiruchirappalli (Prev.) 14. Vishakhapatnam	1. Ahmedabad 2. Bhubaneswar 3. Chennai 4. Delhi 5. Guwahati 6. Kolkata 7. Mumbai, Zone II 8. Tiruchirappalli (Preventive) 9. Visakhapatnam

National Assessment Centre & Co-Conveners (Pr.CC/CC of the Zone)	Faceless Assessment Groups (Chapters covered by Customs Tariff Act, 1975)	Nodal Commissioners & FAG from Zones (Existing)	Nodal Commissioners & FAG from Zones (Revised)
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Mineral Products  <u>Co-Conveners:</u>  Bhubaneswar, Visakhapatnam	1A (27)	1. Ahmedabad 2. Bengaluru 3. Bhubaneswar 4. Chennai 5. Delhi 6. Kolkata 7. Mumbai I 8. Mumbai II 9. Mumbai III 10. Pune 11. Tiruchirappalli (Prev) 12. Visakhapatnam	1. Delhi 2. Bhubaneswar 3. Chennai 4. Mumbai Zone II 5. Visakhapatnam
Chemicals 1  <u>Co-Conveners:</u>  Mumbai Zone II, Ahmedabad	2, 2A, 2B, 2C, 2D, 2E and 2F  (28-38)	1. Ahmedabad. 2. Chennai 3. Delhi 4. Delhi (Prev.) 5. Hyderabad 6. Kolkata 7. Meerut 8. Mumbai I 9. Mumbai II 10. Mumbai III 11. Thiruvananthapuram 12. Visakhapatnam	1. Ahmedabad. 2. Chennai 3. Delhi 4. Delhi (Preventive) 5. Hyderabad 6. Kolkata 7. Meerut 8. Mumbai I 9. Mumbai Zone II 10. Thiruvananthapuram 11. Visakhapatnam

National Assessment Centre & Co-Conveners (Pr.CC/CC of the Zone)	Faceless Assessment Groups (Chapters covered by Customs Tariff Act, 1975)	Nodal Commissioners & FAG from Zones (Existing)	Nodal Commissioners & FAG from Zones (Revised)
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Chemicals 2  <u>Co-Conveners:</u>  Mumbai Zone II, Bhopal	2G (39)	1. Ahmedabad 2. Bhopal 3. Chennai 4. Delhi 5. Delhi (Prev.) 6. Hyderabad 7. Kolkata 8. Meerut 9. Mumbai I 10. Mumbai II 11. Mumbai III 12. Patna (Prev.) 13. Thiruvananthapuram 14. Visakhapatnam	1. Ahmedabad 2. Bhopal 3. Chennai 4. Delhi 5. Delhi (Preventive) 6. Kolkata 7. Meerut 8. Mumbai Zone I 9. Mumbai Zone II 10. Visakhapatnam
Chemicals 3  <u>Co-Conveners:</u>  Chennai, Patna (Preventive)	2H, 2I, 2J, 2K  (40-49)	1. Ahmedabad 2. Bengaluru 3. Bhopal 4. Chennai 5. Delhi 6. Delhi (Prev.) 7. Kolkata 8. Meerut 9. Mumbai I 10. Mumbai II 11. Mumbai III 12. Nagpur 13. Patna (Prev.) 14. Pune	1. Bengaluru 2. Bhopal 3. Chennai 4. Delhi 5. Kolkata 6. Meerut 7. Mumbai Zone I 8. Mumbai Zone II 9. Nagpur 10. Patna (Preventive) 11. Pune 12. Tiruchirappalli (Preventive) 13. Visakhapatnam

National Assessment Centre & Co-Conveners (Pr.CC/CC of the Zone)	Faceless Assessment Groups (Chapters covered by Customs Tariff Act, 1975)	Nodal Commissioners & FAG from Zones (Existing)	Nodal Commissioners & FAG from Zones (Revised)
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
		15. Thiruvananthapuram 16. Tiruchirappalli (Prev.) 17. Visakhapatnam	
Textile Products  Co-Conveners:  Bengaluru Tiruchirappalli (Preventive)	3,  (50-70)	1. Ahmedabad 2. Bengaluru 3. Chennai 4. Delhi 5. Delhi (Prev.) 6. Kolkata 7. Mumbai I 8. Mumbai II 9. Mumbai III 10. Patna (Prev.) 11. Thiruvananthapuram 12. Tiruchirappalli (Prev.).	1. Ahmedabad 2. Bengaluru 3. Chennai 4. Delhi 5. Delhi (Preventive) 6. Kolkata 7. Mumbai Zone I 8. Mumbai Zone II 9. Tiruchirappalli (Preventive)
	3A (71)	1. Ahmedabad 2. Delhi 3. Delhi (Prev.) 4. Kolkata 5. Chennai 6. Mumbai III	1. Delhi 2. Delhi (Prev.) 3. Kolkata 4. Chennai 5. Mumbai III
Metal Products	4 (72-73)- Ferrous base metals	1. Ahmedabad 2. Bengaluru 3. Bhopal 4. Chennai	1. Ahmedabad 2. Bhopal 3. Chennai 4. Delhi



National Assessment Centre & Co-Conveners (Pr.CC/CC of the Zone)	Faceless Assessment Groups (Chapters covered by Customs Tariff Act, 1975)	Nodal Commissioners & FAG from Zones (Existing)	Nodal Commissioners & FAG from Zones (Revised)
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
<u>Co-Conveners:</u>  Delhi (Preventive), Nagpur		5. Delhi 6. Delhi (Prev.) 7. Guwahati 8. Hyderabad 9. Kolkata 10. Meerut 11. Mumbai I 12. Mumbai II 13. Mumbai III 14. Nagpur 15. Pune 16. Thiruvananthapuram 17. Vishakhapatnam	5. Mumbai Zone I 6. Mumbai Zone II 7. Nagpur 8. Visakhapatnam
	4A (74-83) – Non-ferrous Base Metals	1. Ahmedabad 2. Bengaluru 3. Bhopal 4. Chennai 5. Delhi 6. Delhi (Prev.) 7. Guwahati 8. Hyderabad 9. Kolkata 10. Meerut 11. Mumbai I 12. Mumbai II 13. Mumbai III 14. Nagpur 15. Pune	1. Ahmedabad 2. Bengaluru 3. Chennai 4. Delhi 5. Kolkata 6. Mumbai Zone II 7. Mumbai Zone III

National Assessment Centre & Co-Conveners (Pr.CC/CC of the Zone)	Faceless Assessment Groups (Chapters covered by Customs Tariff Act, 1975)	Nodal Commissioners & FAG from Zones (Existing)	Nodal Commissioners & FAG from Zones (Revised)
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
		16. Thiruvananthapuram 17. Vishakhapatnam	
Mechanical Machineries  <u>Co-Conveners:</u>  Mumbai Zone III, Hyderabad	5 (8401-8469) – <i>Machinery &amp; Mechanical Appliances - I</i>	1. Ahmedabad 2. Bengaluru 3. Chennai 4. Delhi 5. Delhi (Prev.) 6. Hyderabad 7. Kolkata 8. Mumbai II 9. Mumbai III 10. Thiruvananthapuram	1. Ahmedabad 2. Bengaluru 3. Chennai 4. Delhi 5. Kolkata 6. Mumbai Zone II 7. Mumbai Zone III 8. Thiruvananthapuram 9. Visakhapatnam
	5E (8470-8473) <i>Machinery &amp; Mechanical Appliances - II</i>	1. Ahmedabad 2. Bengaluru 3. Chennai 4. Delhi 5. Delhi (Prev.) 6. Hyderabad 7. Kolkata 8. Mumbai II 9. Mumbai III 10. Thiruvananthapuram	1. Bengaluru 2. Chennai 3. Delhi 4. Mumbai Zone II 5. Mumbai Zone III
	5N (8474-8487) – <i>Machinery &amp; Mechanical Appliances - III</i>	1. Ahmedabad 2. Bengaluru 3. Chennai 4. Delhi	1. Ahmedabad 2. Bengaluru 3. Chennai 4. Delhi

National Assessment Centre & Co-Conveners (Pr.CC/CC of the Zone)	Faceless Assessment Groups (Chapters covered by Customs Tariff Act, 1975)	Nodal Commissioners & FAG from Zones (Existing)	Nodal Commissioners & FAG from Zones (Revised)
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
		5. Delhi(Prev.) 6. Hyderabad 7. Kolkata 8. Mumbai II 9. Mumbai III 10. Thiruvananthapuram	5. Kolkata 6. Mumbai Zone II 7. Mumbai Zone III
Electric Machineries  <u>Co-Conveners:</u>  Delhi, Meerut	5A (8501-8516) <i>Electrical machinery</i>  5C (8517-8531)- <i>Communication and related equipment</i>  5M (8532-8548)- <i>Micro-electronics</i>	1. Ahmedabad. 2. Bengaluru 3. Chennai 4. Delhi 5. Kolkata 6. Hyderabad 7. Mumbai I 8. Mumbai II 9. Mumbai III 10. Thiruvananthapuram	1. Ahmedabad 2. Bengaluru 3. Chennai 4. Delhi 5. Kolkata 6. Mumbai Zone I 7. Mumbai Zone II 8. Mumbai Zone III 9. Thiruvananthapuram  1. Ahmedabad 2. Bengaluru 3. Chennai 4. Delhi 5. Hyderabad 6. Mumbai Zone II 7. Mumbai Zone III  1. Bengaluru 2. Chennai 3. Delhi 4. Meerut 5. Mumbai Zone II 6. Mumbai Zone III

National Assessment Centre & Co-Conveners (Pr.CC/CC of the Zone)	Faceless Assessment Groups (Chapters covered by Customs Tariff Act, 1975)	Nodal Commissioners & FAG from Zones (Existing)	Nodal Commissioners & FAG from Zones (Revised)
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Automobiles and Instruments  <u>Co-Conveners:</u>  Chennai, Pune	5V (86-87)- <i>Vehicles</i>	1. Ahmedabad 2. Bengaluru 3. Chennai 4. Delhi 5. Delhi(Prev.)	1. Ahmedabad 2. Chennai 3. Delhi 4. Delhi (Preventive) 5. Mumbai Zone II
	5F (88) – <i>Aircrafts</i>	6. Hyderabad. 7. Kolkata 8. Mumbai II 9. Mumbai III 10. Thiruvananthapuram	1. Bengaluru 2. Delhi 3. Hyderabad 4. Mumbai Zone II 5. Mumbai Zone III 6. Thiruvananthapuram
	5S (89) – <i>Vessels</i>		1. Ahmedabad 2. Mumbai Zone I 3. Mumbai Zone III 4. Pune 5. Thiruvananthapuram 6. Visakhapatnam
	5I (90-92) – <i>Instruments &amp; Apparatus</i>		1. Bengaluru 2. Chennai 3. Delhi 4. Kolkata 5. Mumbai Zone II 6. Mumbai Zone-III
Misc. products/Project Imports  <u>Co-Conveners:</u>	6 (93-98)	1. Ahmedabad. 2. Bengaluru 3. Chennai 4. Delhi 5. Delhi (Prev.)	1. Ahmedabad 2. Chennai 3. Delhi 4. Kolkata 5. Mumbai Zone III

National Assessment Centre & Co-Conveners (Pr.CC/CC of the Zone)	Faceless Assessment Groups (Chapters covered by Customs Tariff Act, 1975)	Nodal Commissioners & FAG from Zones (Existing)	Nodal Commissioners & FAG from Zones (Revised)
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Mumbai Zone I, Thiruvananthapuram		6. Hyderabad 7. Kolkata 8. Mumbai I 9. Mumbai II 10. Mumbai III 11. Thiruvananthapuram 12. Visakhapatnam	