

	<p align="center">OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER OF CUSTOMS (IMPORT- I), सीमा शुल्क आयुक्त का कार्यालय (आयात 1-), APPRAISING GENERAL SECTION, NEW CUSTOM HOUSE, मूल्यांकन सामान्य अनुभाग, न्यू कस्टम हाउस BALLARD ESTATE, MUMBAI - 400 001 बलार्ड एस्टेट, मुंबई- 400 001</p> <p>Email-Id: agl.mumbai@gov.in Phone: 022-22757491</p>
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F. No. CUS/AG/PN/8/2021-A/G

Date: 18.03.2026

Public Notice No. 42/2026**Sub: - Standard Operating Procedure for Handling of Diverted Break Bulk Cargo for International Transhipment at Mumbai Port - Reg**

In view of closure of the strait of Hormuz resulting in the compelled diversion of vessels carrying cargo destined for ports in the Persian Gulf and in compliance of CBIC Circular No. 12/2026 dated 17.03.2026, it has been decided to permit on a case-to-case basis, temporary unloading, storage and onward international transhipment of diverted break bulk cargo through Mumbai Port, subject to the procedure outlined below.

2. The transhipment of imported goods to a place outside India is permissible under section 54(2) of the Customs Act, 1962. Filing of cargo manifest declarations and the responsibilities of the Authorized Sea Carrier/Authorized Shipping Agent in respect of such cargo are governed by the Sea Cargo Manifest and Transhipment Regulations, 2018 (SCMTR).

3 . Accordingly, prior to the arrival of the vessel, the Authorized Sea Carrier/Shipping Agent shall electronically file the Sea Arrival Manifest (SAM), declaring the cargo intended for international transhipment, in accordance with the provisions of the SCMTR, along with such other documentation as may be required. The details of such cargo, including description of goods, quantity, port of destination and other relevant details, shall be correctly declared in the manifest.

4. The permission for international transhipment shall be granted by the Import Noting Section, Import-I Commissionerate, NCH after verification of the relevant documents, including the bond (included with condition of re-export and indemnification) executed by the Shipping Agent or their authorised representative. At the time of seeking such permission, the Shipping Agent shall produce a certificate from the Mumbai Port Authority (MbPA) confirming the availability of adequate and secure storage space within the Customs-notified area and indicating the designated storage location. MbPA shall ensure that the identified storage area is properly secured, segregated and suitable for storage of such cargo before issuing the certificate. Entry Inwards under section 31 of the Customs Act, 1962, and boarding of the vessel shall thereafter be carried out by the concerned Customs Boarding Officer in accordance with the prescribed procedure, after verifying the permission accorded by the Import Noting Section, Import-I Commissionerate, NCH.

5. After the grant of Entry Inwards and permission for unloading, the cargo shall be offloaded under the supervision of the Concerned Customs Boarding Officer. At the time of unloading, the cargo shall be jointly verified by the aforesaid Customs officer, the authorised representative of MbPA, and the Shipping Agent or their authorised representative

6. Cargo prohibited under section 11 of the Customs Act, 1962, including arms, ammunition, explosives, or other goods considered a threat to national security, shall not be permitted for transshipment. Restricted goods may be permitted subject to the applicable provisions of law and on fulfilment of all prescribed conditions.

7. All goods so unloaded shall remain under the custody of the Mumbai Port Authority (MbPA), as custodian under section 45 of the Customs Act, 1962, in respect of goods lying in the Customs-notified area. The custodian shall ensure that such international transshipment cargo is stored in a secure, clearly demarcated, and segregated area, separate from import, export, or coastal cargo, so as to prevent intermingling. The designated storage area shall be properly secured by boundary wall/fencing and covered by continuous CCTV surveillance. The security, safe storage, and proper handling of such cargo shall be the responsibility of the custodian, who shall ensure compliance with the Handling of Cargo in Customs Areas Regulations, 2009.

8. MbPA shall regulate the acceptance and storage of international transshipment cargo in such a manner that normal EXIM operations of the port are not adversely affected. Such cargo shall be handled only subject to the availability of adequate secure storage space and operational feasibility.

9. Such international transshipment cargo shall be stored within a Customs-notified area under the custody of Mumbai Port Authority (MbPA). However, as the Customs-notified areas within Mumbai Port are not contiguous, it may be necessary to move such cargo through non-notified area for storage at Customs notified area. In all such cases, the cargo shall be moved under Customs escort. For this purpose, the Shipping Agent shall submit an application to the Deputy/Assistant Commissioner of Customs (Preventive General), seeking permission for above said movement under escort.

10. The custodian shall also maintain proper records of receipt, storage, handling, and subsequent movement of such cargo and shall ensure that the goods are not removed, tampered with, or otherwise dealt with except with the written permission of the proper officer of Customs.

11. Whenever the cargo is required to be transhipped/exported onward to the foreign destination, the Shipping Agent shall arrange for the cargo to be presented at the loading berth for shipment after obtaining prior permission of the Import Noting Section, Import-I Commissionerate. In cases where the cargo was stored in a Customs-notified area under Customs escort, the same shall be brought to the loading berth under Customs escort. Before loading, the cargo shall be verified by the

concerned Customs Boarding Officer with relevant records as verified at the time of unloading.

12. The cargo shall thereafter be loaded onto the outbound vessel under the supervision of the Customs Boarding Officer. The Shipping Agent shall declare the details of such cargo in the Export General Manifest (EGM)/Sea Departure Manifest in accordance with the provisions of the SCMTR.

13. International transshipment cargo shall ordinarily be exported within thirty days from the date of unloading, failing which the provisions of section 48 of the Customs Act, 1962, shall apply, unless the proper officer extends the period on sufficient cause being shown.

14. Any discrepancy noticed by the officers of Customs at any stage during the process shall be immediately reported to the Deputy/Assistant Commissioner of Customs in charge of Import Noting Section, Import-I Commissionerate, NCH for appropriate action.

15. In the event of any technical or system-related issues in filing the required electronic declarations under SCMTR, the matter may be taken up with DG Systems, and the proper officer may permit temporary manual filing of documents until the issue is resolved.

16. The Shipping Agent and Custodian shall ensure that the cargo is duly transhipped/exported to the declared foreign destination within the stipulated time. Such cargo shall not be permitted to be imported into India or cleared for home consumption or diverted into the Domestic Tariff Area. Any failure to comply with, or contravention of, the procedure prescribed in this SOP shall render the concerned person(s) liable to action under the relevant provisions of the Customs Act, 1962, or any other applicable law, rule, or regulation in force.

17. This public notice shall remain valid till 31.03.2026 unless otherwise extended or rescinded and shall be treated as standing order for the departmental officers.

Digitally signed by
PRADUYMN KUMAR TRIPATHI
(Pradyumn Tripathi)
Date: 18.03.2026 14:26:04
Commissioner of Customs,
Import-I Commissionerate
New Custom House, Mumbai

Copy to: -

- I. The Principle Chief Commissioner of Customs, Zone-I, NCH, Mumbai
- II. All Principal Commissioner/ Commissioner of Customs, Zone-I, NCH, Mumbai
- III. All Additional/ Joint Commissioner of Customs, Zone-I, NCH, Mumbai
- IV. The Traffic Manager, MbPA
- V. All Deputy/ Assistant Commissioner of Customs, Zone-I, NCH, Mumbai
- VI. All Deputy/ Assistant Commissioner of Customs, EDI – for uploading in website
- VII. Trade Associations – via email
- VIII. Office Copy.