



05-09-2025

**MINUTES OF THE CUSTOMS CLEARANCE FACILITATION  
COMMITTEE (CCFC) MEETING OF MUMBAI CUSTOMS, ZONE-I HELD ON  
14.08.2025 AT NEW CUSTOMS HOUSE, MUMBAI**

The 4th meeting of the Customs Clearance Facilitation Committee (CCFC) for the Financial Year 2025-26 of Mumbai Customs Zone-I was held on 14.08.2025 at 12 PM in the Conference Hall, 2nd Floor, New Custom House, Mumbai under the chairmanship of Chief Commissioner of Customs, Mumbai Zone-I. The list of the participant is attached as Annexure A.

2. Shri Balmukund, Additional Commissioner of Customs (CCO) extended a warm welcome to all the attendees. The Chair then extended his greetings and welcomed the PGAs and trade representatives to the meeting. Then, the meeting proceeded with action taken note of CCFC meeting held on 16.06.2025.

3.1. **SOP for roles and responsibilities:** In the previous meeting, the Pr. Commissioner (General) was directed to issue a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) in consultation with the associations, with respect to outlining the roles and responsibilities of Customs Brokers. During this meeting, BCBA informed that the General Commissionerate has prepared the draft SOP, a copy of which has been received by them, and that they will be providing their comments/suggestions thereon. The Chair directed BCBA to submit their inputs to the General Commissionerate for finalization of SOP.

**Action: BCBA**

3.2. Further, in previous meeting, it had also been directed to the General Commissionerate to provide the comments on all policy related matters i.e. changes in CBLR, 2018 submitted by the BCBA. In this regard, ADC, CCO informed to the Chair the suggestions were provided by the General Commissionerate for some points but not provided the suggestions for changes sought by BCBA in CBLR, 2019. In this regard, the Chair directed to give comments on all policy related matters for taking further action.

**Action: Pr. Commissioner (General)**

4. **Penalization of Customs Brokers during adjudication:** In the previous meeting, President, BCBA raised the issue that Customs Brokers are being penalized under Section 114 of the Customs Act during adjudication for interpretative issues such as classification or notification benefits.

In this regard, ADC, CCO informed that the matter is already settled. The Board has already clarified on numerous occasions and recently vide Board's Instruction No. 20/2024-Customs dated 03.09.2024 to not make licensee a co-noticee in a routine manner.

In this regard, the Chair directed all to follow the Board's Instructions while

deciding the matters.

**(Point closed)**

5. **Concern regarding F-Card Examination:** In the previous CCFC meeting, the President, BCBA raised concerns over significant deviations in the F-Card exam held on March 18, 2025, compared to previous years, and has represented the issue to the Joint Secretary, Customs. In this regard, it was directed by the Chair that to examine the matter and taken up with NACIN, along with a copy of BCBA's representation.

In this regard, the ADC, CCO informed that the matter had been referred to NACIN, Palasamudram, vide this office letter dated 25.06.2025. The Chair observed that NACIN, Palasamudram has already submitted that the examination was conducted appropriately within the available guidelines, and accordingly directed to close the point.

**(Point Closed)**

6 . In the previous CCFC meeting, President, BCBA informed that the process of provisional to final assessment of BEs still requires manual intervention even after relevant documents such as Test Reports or SVB orders are submitted through e-Sanchit. In this regard, it was requested the development of an automated mechanism where upon uploading the documents, the Bs/E are directly routed to the assessing officers screen for final assessment. In this regard, it was directed by the Chair to refer the matter to the DG Systems.

In this regard, the ADC, CCO informed that the matter has been referred to the DG Systems, New Delhi for examination vide this office letter dated 25.06.2025. The Chair directed to close the point as this office has taken the action and now matter is under the purview of DG Systems.

**(Point Closed)**

7. **Cancellation of old test Bonds without physical Copy:** In the previous CCFC meeting, Shri Paresh Thakkar, representative of BCBA, highlighted that a large number of Test Bonds executed prior to 2020 remain pending for cancellation. It was suggested that, in such cases, the Assessing Group may cancel the Bonds upon receipt of the Test Report, even if the physical copy is unavailable, due to the age of the records. Further, it was requested that a similar approach may be adopted for Bonds executed post TSK implementation, as Test Reports are digitally available in ICES. An advisory may be issued accordingly. In this regard, it was directed by the Chair to Commissioner (Import-I) and Commissioner (Import-II) to examine the suggestion given by BCBA.

In this regard, Commissioner, Import I informed that in practice, upon receipt of the Test Report, the Assessing Officer of Group proceed with the cancellation of the bond in ICES 1.5 even in the absence of the physical copy of the bond. However, in cases where the physical copy of the bond is available or subsequently traced, the bond cancellation stamp is affixed on the said copy upon the request of the importer/CHA.

The Chair observed that as the Commissionerates are following the practice as suggested by the BCBA, the Chair instructed to close the point.

**(Point Closed)**

8. **Streamlining the Warehousing Procedure through Digital Automation:** The President, BCBA highlighted the procedural challenges faced in handling warehousing procedures outlined in Board Circular No. 25/2016 and Public Notice No. 83/2016 & 104/2021 issued by JNCH, Nhava Sheva. Despite these guidelines, the current practice for warehousing Bills of Entry (B/E) copies bearing the endorsement of receipt of goods

remains a manual process where the physical documents are delivered to the Bond Officer by the Customs Broker (CB) or importer. In this regard, it is requested that a system may be developed to automate the receipt and digital transfer of these endorsed documents to the concerned department.

In this regard, Commissioner (Import II) informed that the issue has been taken up with the DG Systems.

In this regard, the Chair directed to follow up with the DG Systems for all the warehouse issues and new developments.

**Action: Commissioner (Import-II)**

**9. Digital Access to Custom Passes via Mobile Application:** In the previous CCFC meeting, the President, BCBA suggested issuing Digital Customs Passes via CBLMS with features like QR code validation, real-time verification, integrated photo/ID, and access logs, accessible through mobile apps or browsers. Shri Bipin Jadhav, DC, informed that such passes with QR codes are available via browser, but QR code readers are not installed at port gates.

In this regard, it is informed by the Pr. Commissioner (Gen) that a Public Notice No. 17/2025-26 dated 10.07.2025 was issued, informing that QR code-enabled Customs passes are being issued through CBLMS, and that pass holders are permitted to present and verify these passes using mobile phones. BCBA representatives appreciated the initiative taken by Customs Zone I.

In this context, the Chair has instructed to close the point as the issue has been settled.

**(Point Closed)**

**10. Release of Goods when sample is drawn under RMS instructions:** As per current practice, when the RMS directs a sample to be drawn for testing, the concerned Assessing Officer at the FAG level proceeds to assess BoE under Second Check, without making it provisional or marking it as First Check. In such cases, members of the trade are left in an uncertain position where they must await the test report before the goods can be released, despite compliance with all other procedures. In this regard, it is requested that a clear directive may be issued that in cases where a sample is drawn under system-directed targeting (RMS), the goods may be released on provisional basis, pending the test report, unless there is a strong reason to withhold release.

Further, President, BCBA highlighted the issue of Base Oil where samples are drawn in each consignment even in case of same supplier/importer and Bs/E are assessed provisionally.

In this regard, Commissioner, Import I informed the Chair that when the system instructs to draw sample, the test report is essential and the same is required to be entered in the system to conclude the policy conditions and other parameters. Further, with regards to provisional release, the same can be considered on case-to-case basis on the request of the Importer.

In this regard, Shri Hiren Ruparel, BCBA, further stated that in certain cases, Bills of Entry (B/E) are assessed under the second check procedure; however, departmental comments from NCTC direct that samples be drawn. Customs Brokers become aware of this requirement only at the stage of examination. Consequently, the B/Es are neither assessed provisionally nor placed under first check. Although the B/Es are assessed, due to the departmental instructions for drawl of samples, the goods are not released by the docks until the test reports are received. This has been causing difficulties to the trade.

The Chair instructed that specific instances be shared so that the matter may be taken up with NCTC.

**Action: BCBA & Commissioner Import II**

**11. Regarding Mapping of Test Memo Through ICES System:** In many cases, CTH are not mapped in the ICES, thus Test Memo can't be generated through System. Subsequently it requires permission from the Additional Commissioner for manual test memo. In this regard, it was suggested that CTH mapped in the ICES system should be made available on the ICEGATE website, which will enable stakeholders to verify in advance whether specific CTH are mapped and if any discrepancies are found can be intimated to DG Systems and Customs well in advance. In this regard, the Chair informed that the issue has been discussed in CCG meeting and the DG, system & CRCL is working on the issue and this issue will be resolved shortly. Further, ADC, CCO pointed out that such item is not imported in Mumbai Port, INBOM1. Keeping view this, the Chair instructed to close the point.

**(Point Closed)**

**12. Agenda point raised by BCBA:**

**12.1 East-West Connectivity Project by MMRDA:** The proposed East-West Connectivity Project by MMRDA is expected to significantly impact access to Mumbai Port, particularly for cargo movement. The resulting disruption may lead to logistical challenges and could potentially cause a diversion of cargo away from Mumbai Port, thereby affecting its efficiency and competitiveness in the long term. In this regard, Chair noted that this issue is not related to Customs and more of like facilitation. In this context, a presentation of proposal of MMRDA was presented by Shri Dilip Sheikadhar, representative of MbPA.

In this context, President, BCBA requested that this issue may raise to the higher level of State authority and to the Board because instant MMRDA proposal will adversely affect the Trade due to traffic diversion and dust due to construction. The Chair directed General Commissionerate to discuss the matter with MbPA and examine it for further reference.

**Action: Pr. Commissioner (General)**

This issues with approval of the Chief Commissioner of Customs, Mumbai Customs Zone-I.

Additional Commissioner of Customs  
CCO, NCH, Mumbai

Copy to:

1. The Under Secretary, (CUS IV), CBIC, North Block New Delhi
2. All Pr. Commissioners/Commissioners of Customs, Mumbai Zone I
3. All the Members of the CCFC Meeting by email
4. BCBA, Mumbai by email

5. AC/DC, EDI (with a request to upload the minutes on the Zonal website Office)