

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF NAC – 4/4A (METAL PRODUCTS) HELD AT 15.00 HOURS ON 30.07.2025 BY THE CONVENOR WITH THE MEMBERS OF THE NAC METAL PRODUCTS

2 emails

Customs Division Paradeep < cusbbs-pdp2023@gov.in >

Tue, 18 Nov 2025 6:55:20 PM +0530

To "Principal Commissioner Customs Port"<prcommr-port-cuskol@gov.in>,"Customs Preventive Commissionerate"<commrprev-cusbbsr@nic.in>,"Noida Customs"<noida-customs@gov.in>,"Commissioner Customs Ludhiana"<commr-cusldh@nic.in>,"MUNDRA MUNDRA"<commr-cusmundra@nic.in>,"commrprev-cusmum"<commrprev-cusmum@nic.in>,"commricdppg-cuscusdel"<commricdppg-cuscusdel@gov.in>,"CCU Customs Kolkata Zone"<ccu-cuskoa@nic.in>,"CCU Customs Mumbai Zone I"<ccu-cusmum1@nic.in>,"Chief Commissioner JNCH"<chiefcom@jawaharcustoms.gov.in>,"CC CHENNAI CUSTOMS"<ccchennaizone.tn@nic.in>,"CCPU DELHI ZONE"<cccpdz-cbec@nic.in>,"Customhouse Customhouse"<cus-ahmd-guj@nic.in>

Tags To diarise**1 Attachment(s)**MoM of NAC held on 30.07.20...
250.7 KB

Respected Sir/ Madam

Please refer to the enclosed Minutes of Meeting of NAC-4/4A held on 30.07.2025.

Para 10.2 of the attached MoM is as follows:

"10.2 The Working Group-III (Classification & Related issues) led by the Commissioner of Customs (Import-I), Mumbai and Commissioner of Customs (Prev.), Bhubaneswar were entrusted with the task of pursuing the report from the Nodal Commissionerates and to submit the same to NAC Secretariat for onward submission to Board."

In light of the aforesaid Para, this Commissionerate has been tasked to pursue for relevant reports in this regard from all FAG zones.

In this regard, you are requested to submit the requisite report for onward submission to the competent authority at the earliest please.

Regards
Paradeep Customs Division (INPRT1)**CCU Customs Mumbai Zone I** < ccu-cusmum1@gov.in >

Wed, 19 Nov 2025 10:56:36 AM +0530

To "CCO Mumbai Zone-I"<cco-mumzone1@gov.in>

1 Attachment(s)MoM of NAC held on 30.07.20...
250.7 KB

Regards,

O/o the Chief Commissioner of Customs,
Mumbai Zone-I

===== Forwarded message =====

From: Customs Division Paradeep <cusbbs-pdp2023@gov.in>

To: "Principal Commissioner Customs Port"<prcommr-port-cuskol@gov.in>,"Customs Preventive Commissionerate"<commrprev-cusbbsr@nic.in>,"Noida Customs"<noida-customs@gov.in>,"Commissioner Customs Ludhiana"<commr-cusldh@nic.in>,"MUNDRA MUNDRA"<commr-cusmundra@nic.in>,"commrprev-cusmum"<commrprev-cusmum@nic.in>,"commricdppg-cuscusdel"<commricdppg-cuscusdel@gov.in>,"CCU Customs Kolkata Zone"<ccu-cuskoa@nic.in>,"CCU Customs Mumbai Zone I"<ccu-cusmum1@nic.in>,"Chief Commissioner JNCH"<chiefcom@jawaharcustoms.gov.in>,"CC CHENNAI CUSTOMS"

<ccchennaizone.tn@nic.in>, "CCPU DELHI ZONE"<cccpdz-cbec@nic.in>, "Customhouse Customhouse"<cus-ahmd-guj@nic.in>
Date: Tue, 18 Nov 2025 18:55:16 +0530
Subject: MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF NAC – 4/4A (METAL PRODUCTS) HELD AT 15.00 HOURS ON 30.07.2025 BY THE
CONVENOR WITH THE MEMBERS OF THE NAC METAL PRODUCTS
===== Forwarded message =====

Respected Sir/ Madam

Please refer to the enclosed Minutes of Meeting of NAC-4/4A held on 30.07.2025.

Para 10.2 of the attached MoM is as follows:

"10.2 The Working Group-III (Classification & Related issues) led by the Commissioner of Customs (Import-I), Mumbai and Commissioner of Customs (Prev.), Bhubaneswar were entrusted with the task of pursuing the report from the Nodal Commissionerates and to submit the same to NAC Secretariat for onward submission to Board."

In light of the aforesaid Para, this Commissionerate has been tasked to pursue for relevant reports in this regard from all FAG zones.

In this regard, you are requested to submit the requisite report for onward submission to the competent authority at the earliest please.

Regards
Paradeep Customs Division (INPRT1)



मुख्य-आयुक्त का कार्यालय (सीमा शुल्क), गुजरात क्षेत्र
**OFFICE OF THE CHIEF COMMISSIONER OF
 CUSTOMS, GUJARAT ZONE**
 “कस्टम हाउस”, दूसरा तल, अखिल भारतीय रेडियो के पास,
 नवरंगपुरा -अहमदाबाद -380 009
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 NAVRANGPURA, AHMEDABAD – 380 009
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Date : 18-08-2025

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF NAC – 4/4A (METAL PRODUCTS)
 HELD AT 15.00 HOURS ON 30.07.2025 BY THE CONVENOR WITH
 THE MEMBERS OF THE NAC METAL PRODUCTS**

The fifth meeting of the re-organized NAC — Metal Products to review the functioning of Faceless Assessment Groups during the period **October, 2024 to June, 2025** and to discuss the issues related to Metal Products was held virtually under the Chairmanship of Shri Pranesh Pathak, Chief Commissioner of Customs, Ahmedabad Zone, being Convenor, with the Nodal Pr. Commissioner/Commissioner on 30.07.2025.

2. The following members of NAC 4/4-A (Metal Products) and officers have attended the meeting.

Sl. No.	Name of the Officer (Shri/Ms.)	Designation
1	Shiv Kumar Sharma	Pr. Commissioner, Ahmedabad Customs
2	Atul Saxena	Pr. Commissioner, Kolkata Customs (Port)
3	Nasim Arshi	Pr. Commissioner, Ludhiana Customs
4	Nitin Saini	Commissioner, Mundra Customs
5	R.K. Chandan	Commissioner, Jodhpur Customs (Prev.)
6	Bidhan Chandra	Commissioner of Customs – II (Import), Chennai
7	Vijay Rishi	Commissioner, Nhava Sheva-III, Mumbai zone-II
8	Pradyumn Kumar Tripathi	Commissioner (Import- I), Mumbai Customs
9	Dipak Kumar Gupta	Commissioner, Delhi Customs (Prev.)
10	Aseem Kumar	Commissioner, Customs (Prev.) Bhubaneswar
11	Alok Singh	Commissioner, Noida Customs
12	Rajeev Yadav	Commissioner, ICD Patparganj, New Delhi
13	S. Sathianarayanan	Additional Commissioner (CCO), Ahmedabad
14	Deepak Zala	Additional Commissioner, Mundra

		Customs
15	Arvind B Ghuge	Additional Commissioner, Mumbai Customs Zone-I
16	Heera Lal	Joint Commissioner, Ludhiana Customs
17	Chanchal Kumar Tiwari	Joint Director, DGTS, Ahmedabad
18	Prasanna Datar	Joint Director, NCTC, Mumbai.
19	M Sriram Venkatesan	Assistant Commissioner, Chennai-II (Import)
20	Appraiser	Group-IV, NCH, Mumbai Customs

3. At the outset, Shri S. Sathianarayanan, Additional Commissioner, CCO, Ahmedabad Customs Zone welcomed the Convenor, Shri Pranesh Pathak, Chief Commissioner of Customs, Ahmedabad and extended a warm welcome to all the members attending the web-meeting and began with the introductory remarks regarding the meeting agenda, which had been circulated to all NAC Metal Products members via Meeting Notice issued vide letter F.No. CCCO/TECH/APP/9/2022-TECH-O/o CC-CUS-ZONE-AHMEDABAD, dated 23-07-2025.

4. The Convenor, Shri Pranesh Pathak, Chief Commissioner of Customs, Ahmedabad Zone welcomed all the members to the meeting expressing confidence in having a productive discussion.

4.2 In his opening remarks, the Convenor invited reference to the FM Conclave held with all the (Pr.) Chief Commissioners/(Pr.) Director Generals in New Delhi on 19th and 20th of June 2025 and briefed about the discussions in the Conclave in relation to Faceless Assessment not yielding the desired results and failing to meet its objectives. Further, he touched upon the concerns raised by the trade to the Revenue Secretary and Cabinet Secretary about the overall functioning of NACs/PAGs and Faceless assessment. It has also been briefed by him that the Board's recent focus on streamlining and strengthening the functioning of the NAC. It was underlined that over the past few weeks, several communications including letters and directions received from the Board had been shared with members. These outlined key measures to be implemented by the NAC and all Nodal Commissioners. The communications pointed to an urgent need for introspection and remedial action across NACs. The focus, as emphasized, must be on systemic correction, trade facilitation and uniformity in assessment. The Convenor also pointed out that while challenges persist, opportunities for proactive reform exist, particularly in light of growing concerns raised at the Board level.

4.3 The Convenor specifically informed the members about the unease faced by the trade viz., increasing query percentage, particularly second queries, delays in processing bills of entry (even after three hours), and the unavailability of officers in some ports. The Convener then dwelt on the various recent communications viz. D.O. Letter No. 450/26/2019-

Cus-IV(Pt.), dated 18-06-2025, of Joint Secretary (Customs), CBIC, New Delhi inviting attention to the issues being raised by various trade associations regarding faceless assessment and the pendency in the FAGs., Board's letter F.No. 450/26/2019-Cus-IV (Pt.), dated 21-06-2025, regarding effective Monitoring of functioning of FAGs and redressal of import related grievances relating to Faceless Assessment. Report on Board's letter F.No. 450/26/2019-Cus.IV (Pt.), dated 02-12-2024, on action point for Board arising out of meeting of Revenue Secretary with CGST and Customs Zone in Mumbai on 05-09-2024- Bringing convergence in Customs decision making, Board's letter F.No. 450/26/2019-Cus. IV (Pt.), dated 09-06-2025, regarding periodic consultation with sectoral associations. The directions to which have already been communicated to all the Nodal Commissionerates by the Convenor office via several communications.

4.4 The Convenor also informed that, in line with Board instructions, a dedicated cell has already been established at the NAC Convenor's office. The details of the same shall be shared very soon. This unit would operate on a continuous basis, with close monitoring to ensure effective implementation. The functioning of the cell will be constant, with a focus on meeting the Board's expectations.

5. The Convenor highlighted that the Board's recent communications raised serious concerns on several issues such as delay in assessments and non-adherence to stipulated timelines, particularly delays in attending to the first query within three hours of allocation, raising of frivolous, piecemeal or multiple queries, causing delays and increased cost to trade, lack of adequate monitoring at various levels, ineffective grievance redressal mechanisms, including through TSK and AEM, inconsistency and lack of uniformity in assessment practices. It is also suggested by him that all bills pending for more than 48 hours must be reviewed on daily basis and appropriate corrective action must be initiated. The Convener emphasized the importance of minimizing the tendency to push bills of entry to PAG. The Convener also informed about a need for carrying out deeper study by the Nodal FAGs. A close monitoring of the pendency of clearances at all levels must be carried out by senior officers for Bills pending at their location.

5.2 The Convenor stressed that the Board wants to standardize queries so that these standardized queries can be presented to the trade. The repeated queries that FAGs come across in the NAC groups can also be used to educate the trade and consequently these repeated queries can be avoided. If nature of queries reflects repetitive nature, the same should be identified for capacity building or system-based solution.

(Action : All Nodal FAGs)

5.3 To operationalize this, it was decided that Working Group-I (Monitoring of Timely Assessment) led by the Principal Commissioner of

Ahmedabad, Commissioners of Customs, Kolkata Port and the Commissioner of ICD Patparganj-New Delhi, would collect performance data from nodal commissioners and submit a consolidated report within fifteen days, followed by monthly updates.

(Action : Working Group – I)

6 . One of the key agenda point for discussion was the persistence of divergent practices and repeated or unnecessary queries raised by officers during assessment. The Officers were reminded that such variations compromise the integrity of faceless assessment and increase the compliance burden on trade. Special attention was given to BIS and QCO-related clearances, where officers were urged to verify all documentation including Mill Test Certificates, NOC from the Ministry of Steel and manufacturer declarations. The suggestion to seek API integration with the Ministry of Steel's portal for real-time NOC verification was endorsed and it was proposed that the NAC take this matter up formally with the concerned Ministry.

6.2 The Working Group-IV (Good practices and variations in respect of Restrictions & Prohibitions) was entrusted with the task of independent examination, analysis including studying common patterns, consolidating a digest of frequently asked queries and submitting these to DG Systems for future algorithmic improvements. The group was instructed to consult Nodal Commissioners and prepare an initial submission within 15 days and a monthly report henceforth. Further, it was proposed that public notices be issued to guide importers on requisite documentation for various categories of goods, thereby minimizing avoidable queries.

(Action : Working Group-IV)

7 . On the matter of trade outreach, the Convenor reiterated Board's instructions regarding interaction with sectoral trade and industry for inputs, and on issues relating to assessment and so requested members to list out all the sectoral associations falling within their jurisdiction and conduct a periodic consultation every 15 days with those associations to discuss issues relating to faceless assessment and their suggestions thereof. It was also directed by the Convenor to all the members to express their views on the feasibility aspects of the such periodic trade consultation. After discussion, it was decided that a major interaction would be held with all Sectoral associations in the second fortnight of August 2025. Thereafter, meetings would be organized on a monthly basis or based on specific issues raised by the trade. All nodal commissioners were instructed to forward grievances proactively along with their comments so that focused meetings could be scheduled. Also, the Nodal Commissionerates were directed to conduct PTFC and CCFC meeting on regular basis, in accordance with the extant instructions.

(Action : All Nodal FAGs)

7.2 The Convenor requested the Members of Working Group-V to ensure that the Trade Bodies/Associations having Pan-India presence may be selected for the interaction and requested the Working Group-V to chart out the program accordingly and submit it to the NAC Secretariat. The Convenor further informed that as per instructions of Board's letter F.No. 450/26/2019-Cus. IV (Pt.), dated 09-06-2025, the requisite fortnightly report is also to be sent to Board. Therefore, Working Group -V has been instructed to initiate requisite measures in respect of scheduling of interaction with the associations and to send an action taken report to the NAC Secretariat within fortnight, followed by monthly basis as discussed, for onward submission to Board.

(Action : Working Group -V/all Nodal FAGs)

8. Concerns were raised regarding the effectiveness of the Automated Escalation Mechanism (AEM) and Turant Suvidha Kendras (TSK) in resolving importer grievances. Instances were cited where responses had not been issued even after the stipulated period, indicating poor supervision. The Convenor emphasized that nodal commissioners must take direct responsibility for monitoring pendency and any systemic bottlenecks should be flagged for escalation to the Board.

(Action : All Nodal FAGs)

8.2 The Commissioner, ICD Patparganj-New Delhi was entrusted with the task of examining this issue and submit the first report within a Fortnight followed by monthly updates.

(Action : The Commissioner, ICD Patparganj)

9. The Working Group-II (Valuation & Related issues) led by the Commissioner of Customs, NS-III, Mumbai-II and Commissioner of Customs-II (Import), Chennai were directed to take up any enhancements required in the MIS or any systems related challenges with the Joint Secretary (Customs) through DG Systems and submit the first report within a Fortnight.

(Action : Working Group -II)

10. Attention of the Members were also invited to the Board's letter dated 2nd December 2024, issued in reference to the action points arising from the meeting held by the Revenue Secretary on 5th September 2024, which highlighted several important directives. Among these, it was emphasized that the field formations may be advised to compile a list of audit objections, orders passed by the Authority for Advance Rulings, decisions of legal fora, instances of divergent practices and other related matters and submit a report on monthly basis. However, it was observed that only a few Nodal Commissionerates have submitted the Monthly report till date. **The Convenor reiterated that a**

consolidated monthly report till July-2025 must be submitted by all the National Assessment Centres (NACs) to ensure timely monitoring and compliance, as desired by Board

(Action : All Nodal FAGs)

10.2 The Working Group-III (Classification & Related issues) led by the Commissioner of Customs (Import-I), Mumbai and Commissioner of Customs (Prev.), Bhubaneswar were entrusted with the task of pursuing the report from the Nodal Commissionerates and to submit the same to NAC Secretariat for onward submission to Board.

(Action : Working Group -III)

11. The Convenor also drew the attention to CAVR Order 02/2023-Customs, dated 15-11-2023 and the related instruction/review directions issued. It has also been informed that the said CAVR order has been extended upto 28-11-2025; that therefore, the dealing officers may be sensitized accordingly.

11.2 During discussion, an observation has also been raised that the import of steel grade J3 has significantly declined over the past six months. This raises concerns about potential mis-declaration, which is being addressed by the NCTC. Field formations were requested to report any such instances so that risk parameters could be refined accordingly.

[Action : All Nodal FAGs]

12. A detailed analysis of the presentation and assessment timelines revealed significant disparity between Commissionerates. The Convenor then him-self-made Power Point Presentation (PPT). The major points taken for discussion during the meeting

12.1 The gist of the presentation is as follows:

FAG-4 : (a) The average assessment time of the Bs/E of FAG-4 (Overall NAC) is found to 53.76 Hours for the said period (maximum 91.82 and minimum 17.62 hours). However, the average assessment time of bills of entry at INNSA1 (JNPT-Mumbai-II) remained the highest at 82.59 hours, followed by INMUN1 (Mundra Customs) at 67.38 hours and INCPR6 (Ludhiana) at 64.03 hours whereas, lowest was found at 26.05 hours for INBOM1 (Mumba-I).

(b) The average BEs filed at FAG-4 is found to 659 during the relevant period. INMAA1 (Chennai) has dealt the maximum BEs at an average of 1502 BEs, followed by INBOM1 (Mumbai-1) with 911 BEs and INGHR6 (Delhi) with 870 BEs. Whereas, the least BEs dealt by INPRT1 (Bhubaneswar) with only 10 BEs.

(c) The average of total query percentage for FAG-4 (Overall

NAC) is found to 30.97%. However, the maximum query percentage during the said period of nine months is found for INMUN1 (Mundra) with 49.69%, followed by 45.25% by INCCU1 (Kolkata) and INCPR6 (Ludhiana) by 40.71%. Whereas, least query percentage was found for INMOM1 (Mumbai-I) at 12.05%.

(d) It is also observed from the scrutiny of query classifier of NAC-4 that the number of PH is found very high for FAG-INGHR6 (Delhi) as compared to other FAGs during the relevant period whereas, surprisingly during the month of May-2025 and June-2025, substantial increase in the number of PH is noticed i.e. 140 (out of 379 total queries) and 49 (out of 390 total queries) respectively for INMAA1 (Chennai).

FAG-4A: (a) The average assessment time of the Bs/E of FAG-4A (Overall NAC) is found to 49.11 Hours for the said period (maximum 77.89 and minimum 43.65 hours). However, the average assessment time of bills of entry at INNSA1 (JNPT-Mumbai-II) remained the highest at 59.92 hours, followed by INGHR6 (Delhi) at 57.63 hours and INCCU1 (Kolkata) at 51.71 hours whereas, lowest was found at 21.76 hours for INKKU6 (Jaipur).

(b) The average BEs filed at FAG-4A is found to 600 BEs during the relevant period. INMAA1 (Chennai) has dealt the maximum BEs at an average of 1672 BEs, followed by INCCU1 (Kolkata) with 844 BEs and INDER6 (Meerut) with 531 BEs. Whereas, the least BEs dealt by INKKU6 (Jaipur) i.e. 177 BEs.

(c) The average of total query percentage for FAG-4A (Overall NAC) is found to 29.44%. However, the maximum query percentage during said period of nine months is found for INNSA1 (JNPT- Mumbai-II) with 39.46%, followed by INCCU1(Kolkata) at 36.52% and INGHR6 (Delhi) at 35.81. Whereas, least query percentage was found for INKKU6 (Jaipur) at 16.10%.

(d) It is also observed from the scrutiny of query classifier of NAC-4A that the number of PH is found substantially very high during the month of May-2025 and June-2025, i.e. 89 (out of 295 total queries) and 71 (out of 286 total queries) respectively for INMAA1 (Chennai).

12.2 The Convener directed that all the FAGs to reduce the assessment time as well as query percentage and also emphasized the importance of minimizing the tendency to push bills of entry to PAG. The Convenor stressed that the Board wants to standardize queries so that these standardized queries can be presented to the trade. The repeated queries

that FAGs come across in the NAC groups can also be used to educate the trade and consequently these repeated queries can be avoided. The Convenor reiterated the need to avoid piecemeal or frivolous queries and instead focus on root-cause resolution. The Convenor directed the concerned Commissionerates with poor performance to submit explanatory notes and corrective action plans.

(Action : All Nodal FAGs/Working Group - I)

13. Trade Representation dated 01-07-2025 - Misuse of CAROTAR Rules – Misuse of ASEAN Free Trade Agreement for Chinese-Origin Steel Products Routed Viz Vietnam and Contravention of BIS License by the Units of Vietnam. Issue represented by Steel Furnace Association of India (SFAI) – via e-mail dated 01-07-2025.

13.2 The issue is raised by SFAI in line with their earlier representation, as discussed in the 4th NAC meeting dated 19-11-2024, wherein it has been stated by them that HR Grade 304 material of China is being imported into Vietnam converted into CR-304 and subsequently exported into India under a false claim that the input is sourced from Indonesia and thus, violating BIS Rules as well as ASEAN/APTA-CAROTAR regulations.

13.3 The Convenor has directed all NAC members to sensitize the dealing officers under their charge to remain vigilant and to exercise due diligence while dealing with the import of the said sensitive commodity.

13.4 Further, it is also expected from all the Nodal Commissionerates to also share the actions taken report including the details of evasion/illicit import/irregularities, if any, observed in the jurisdiction.

(Action : All Nodal FAGs)

14. Trade-representation with reference to O.M. dated 18-06-2025 issued by the Board regarding circumvention of directive issued by Ministry of Steel and CBIC, Ministry of Finance for adhering to Input material requirement in SIMS for shipments where Bill of Lading has been generated on or before 16th June 2025. Issue represented by Steel Furnace Association of India (SFAI) – via e-mail dated 01-07-2025. Wherein, it has been stated that Steel and Steel products of Ch. 72 and 73, as mentioned in the QCO order, are now mapped with the SIMs portal and thereby, the Board has instructed to ensure adherence of the said direction for the imports of BL on or after 16-06-2025. However, as alleged by SFAI, some of the importers are submitting House Bill of Lading of prior 16-06-2025 whereas actual import is after that.

14.2 The Convenor has directed all NAC members to sensitize the dealing officers to carry out necessary checks while dealing with such issue.

(Action : All Nodal FAGs)

15. During the meeting, apart from the above, the Convenor also invited this office letter dated 10-01-2025 with reference to action Points for Board arising out of meeting of Revenue Secretary with CGST and Customs Zones in Mumbai on 05.09.2024 (Boards letter dated 02-12-2024) and letter dated 19-06-2025 issued with reference to Action Points arising out of a meeting held regarding faceless assessment with Revenue Secretary on 31.05.2025 (Board's letter dated 12.06.2025) (copy enclosed). Also invited attention to (i) D.O. letter bearing F.No. 450/26/2019-Cus-IV (Pt.), dated 18-06-2025, of Shri Anupam Prakash, Joint Secretary (Customs), CBIC, New Delhi and (ii) letter F.No. 450/26/2019-Cus-IV (Pt.), dated 21-06-2025, issued by OSD (Customs IV), CBIC, New Delhi.

15.2 The Convenor has also directed to furnish the requisite reports, as desired by the Board and communicated to all NAC members by this office, without any delay.

(Action : All Nodal FAGs)

16. The Convenor also invited to this office letter dated 23-07-2025 vide which the compliance/comments on the following letters are called for.

(i) *Representation No. FFFAI/REP/314/2025, dated 10-07-2025, received from Federation of Freight Forwarders' Associations in India – requesting clarification on “Date of Arrival” for ICD imports under FAG-4 & 4A in relations to SIMS application. The compliance to that may please be provided by 28th July, 2025 positively please.*

(ii) *Representation dated 11-06-2025 received from Roller Chain Manufacturers Association, duly forwarded by office of the Chief Commissioner of CGST, Vadodara Zone, Vadodara regarding Roller Chains falling under IS2403:2024 imported from China illegally evading QCO.*

(iii) *Representation dated 04-12-2024 of Steel Furnace Association of India regarding misuse of ASEAN FTA – Vietnam and BIS/NOC related critical trade and compliance issues of CTH-7219/7220 SSFR and 7306-Welded Pipe & Tube.*

(iv) *Instruction No. 23/2025-Customs, dated 15-07-2025 issued by the Board in pursuance to ensuring adherence of Indian Standard of respective Input material of Steel and Steel Products intended for import which are notified in QCO and requires mandatory registration on SIMS portal.*

16.2 The Convenor has also instructed to furnish the requisite compliance/comments without any further delay.

(Action: All Nodal FAGs)

17. The Convenor has again informed to all the members that the action

taken report is due to be sent by 27.06.2025. The Convenor further informed that as the matter was already delayed and in order to ensure that a reply is sent to Board by 31-08-2025, the Convenor had directed that the Query Analysis Report by Working Group-I and the identification of sectorial associations related to NAC-Metal products Electrical Machineries and scheduling of interaction with the associations, by Working Group-V is completed and an action taken report is submitted to the NAC Secretariat by 28-08-2025 for onward submission to Board.

(Action : Working Group I & V/ all Nodal FAGs)

18. The Convenor mentioned that all the agenda items have been addressed and also invited members to raise any additional matters for discussion. No other matter was sponsored. The meeting ended with the Convenor thanking all the Members of the NAC Metal products nodal officers from the Directorates for their participation in the discussion. The following key decisions were reiterated:

- i. All working groups must submit their preliminary reports within 15 days and continue with monthly updates.
- ii. Assessment timelines and query rates would be reviewed regularly, with special focus on outlier Commissionerates.
- iii. A sector-wide trade outreach session would be conducted in August-2025, with monthly follow-ups thereafter.
- iv. Procedural anomalies regarding SIMS, BIS/QCO and RMS facilitation would be escalated to the Ministry of Steel and DGARM where necessary.
- v. A Special Cell at the NAC Convenor's Office is created for effective monitoring of pendency, coordinating with Nodal Commissioners and acting as the central point for grievance tracking. A WhatsApp group is also proposed to be formed for the sake of creating a platform in case of urgent communications.

19. In the second half of the meeting, a dedicated session was held also with trade representatives. Although time constraints limited the depth of the discussion, several issues were raised. Among them, the Representation No. FFFAI/REP/314/2025, dated 10-07-2025, received from Federation of Freight Forwarders' Associations in India – requesting clarification on “Date of Arrival” for ICD imports under FAG-4 & 4A in relations to SIMS application was discussed. The compliance to that have already been asked from the members and the Convenor also informed all the members to send the same by 15-08-2025.

(Action: All Nodal FAGs)

19.2 Trade representatives expressed concern over the loading of transaction values, particularly for metal fines. Importers complained of arbitrary valuations by FAGs, leading to GST input credit blockage and

refund delays. The Convenor acknowledged the issue and assured that values must be determined on a case-by-case basis using NIDB data, quality parameters and in accordance with Valuation Rules. He emphasized the use of speaking orders and invited views on procedural improvements.

19.3 Issues with SIMS registration were highlighted, especially concerning date mismatches between port arrival and ICD filing. Importers also reported payment failures and lack of refund mechanisms on the SIMS portal. The Convenor instructed officers to compile these concerns and submit a consolidated note for referral to the Ministry of Steel.

19.4 Lastly, the Convenor thanked to all the trade representatives requesting them to send their representation, in detail, to this office so as to enable the NAC Secretariat to include them as agenda points and can be discussed in the next meeting after seeking the comments from the nodal Commissionerates.

These Minutes are issued with the approval of Convenor, NAC-Metal Products.

(S.Sathianarayanan)
ADDITIONAL COMMISSIONER
ADC/JC-O/o Chief
Commissioner-Customs-Zone-Ahmedabad

Copy to:

1. The Under Secretary, Customs IV, CBIC, New Delhi.
2. All Nodal Pr. Commissioner/Commissioner of NAC - 4 & 4A Metal Products
3. The Joint Director, DGTS, Ahmedabad.
4. The Joint Director, NCTC, Mumbai.
5. All Zonal Pr. Chief Commissioner/Chief Commissioner of Customs, with a request to sensitize the officers dealing with import of Metal Products and also to share major irregularities/illicit import operandi, if any, noticed within the jurisdiction with reference to import of metal products.