

15th October, 2020/16366

The Chairman

Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs
Department of Revenue
Ministry of Finance, Govt. of India
New Delhi.

Natubhai Patel
President

Hemant N. Shah
Sr. Vice President

K. I. Patel
Vice President

Pathik S. Patwari
Hon. Secretary

V. P. Vaishnav
Hon. Secretary (R)

Sachin K. Patel
Hon. Treasurer

Respected Sir,

Sub: Difficulties faced by the importers in Faceless Assessment System for imports

Greetings from Gujarat Chamber of Commerce and Industry (GCCI).

At the outset, we appreciate the initiative for roll-out of the Faceless Assessment System for imports, aimed at simplifying the procedure and reduce the time taken in compliance, thereby promoting Ease of Doing Business.

However, we would like to inform you about some issues in the system being faced by the importers, which is diluting the whole objective of introducing this initiative and is also causing loss of business to the importers due to pile up of cargo.

Sir, below are some of the issues faced by importers for clearance of import consignments under this new initiative:

- Wrong examination orders are being generated by the system and first check examination are being given in cases where not warranted.
- Examination orders are being raised for 100% of imports, unlike in the earlier system
- There are cases of delays in assessment beyond 24 hours
- Labelling related queries are also being raised in the new system which are time-consuming due to slow clearance
- 100% fee is being levied in Bank Guarantee, Export Promotion Capital Goods (EPCG) and provisional assessment
- There is a lot of confusion regarding (i) recalling and reassessment of bill of entry and (ii) whether it is Faceless Assessment Group (FAG) or Port Assessment Group (PAG).



- There is a mismatch of holidays at location leading to delay in clearance
- Denial of exemption notification and enhancement of assessable value without raising the query

Sir, instead of simplifying the process, the above issues are causing undue delays and pile-up of cargo which is adding to the expenses and resulting in huge financial burden. Also, the process is more time-consuming and complicated, contrary to the objective for which it was introduced.

We therefore request you to kindly intervene in the matter to resolve the above-mentioned issues at the earliest, so that the importers do not have to face undue hardships, especially in this current challenging scenario.

With Regards,

Sincerely,

Natubhai Patel
President

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