



**OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER OF CUSTOMS (PREVENTIVE)**  
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**PUBLIC NOTICE No. 13/2021 - CUSTOMS**

**Sub: Implementation of the Sea Cargo Manifest and Transshipment Regulations - reg.**

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Attention of all stake holders including Authorized Terminal Operators(ATO), Authorized Custodians(ACU/CFS's, Authorized Sea Agents(ASA), Authorized Sea Carriers(ASC), Authorized other Notified Sea Carriers(ANC), Authorized Transhippers (ATP) is invited to the Board's circular no. 12/2021-Customs dated 30.06.2021 on the above subject.

2. Sea Cargo Manifest and Transshipment Regulations (SCMTR), 2018, were notified vide Notification No.38/2018-Customs (N.T.) dated 11.05.2018. The SCMTR seek to bring about transparency, predictability of movement, advance collection of information for expeditious clearance and supersedes the earlier regulations viz. Import Manifest (Vessels) Regulations, 1971 and Export Manifest (Vessels) Regulation, 1976. The Regulations stipulate for advance notice by authorized carriers for goods arriving in or being exported out of India through gateway seaports and further movement between Customs stations. They stipulate the obligations, roles and responsibilities for the various stakeholders involved in movement of imported/export goods. Based on the feedbacks from the various stakeholders, the changes were incorporated and the said regulations was made effective from 1<sup>st</sup> of August, 2019 with transitional provisions under Regulation 15 till the 30<sup>th</sup> of September, 2020.

3. Considering the disruptions caused due to Covid-19 Pandemic and non-readiness of the stakeholders, Board has issued several notifications time to time and the last one being Notification No. 50/2021-Customs (N.T.) dated 31.05.2021, vide which the transitional provisions under Regulation 15(2) have been extended till 30<sup>th</sup> June 2021 to enable submission of manifests under erstwhile regulations.

4. During this period, to handhold the trade, Directorate General of Systems has taken numerous outreach activities for both trade and officers. Advisories (on steps for registration, new pan – India Bonds, Dissemination of Entity Type information, message testing and filing, reports and enquiries) and communications from time to time have been issued to the field officers for engaging the stakeholders in handholding exercises and keeping the trade abreast with the latest developments with regards to the

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implementation of SCMTR and for smooth transition to the SCMTR regime. Directorate General of Systems has also issued various guidelines/advisory related to the registration process and filing requirements under the Sea Cargo Manifest and Transshipment Regulations (SCMTR) for different stakeholders such as Shipping Lines, Freight Forwarders, Transshippers etc, who are integral to the implementation of the said regulations. The guidelines can be found at the following link (<https://www.icegate.gov.in/SeaManifestRegulation.html>). Directorate General of Systems has organized several webinar sessions with authorized carriers/agents, custodians, freight forwarders, console agents and other notified carriers. These outreach sessions were aimed at sensitizing them towards message filing requirement under SCMTR as per guidance and the formats available in ICEGATE.

5. Board has reviewed the progress of the adoption of the new formats/procedures by the stakeholders. While it is noticed that the registration of the entities and submission of National Bonds is almost complete, very few entities keep filing the declarations as stipulated in the SCMTR. The Adoption of new message formats by the stakeholders is approx. 22% in case of Sea Carriers, while it is 31% for the transshippers. It is also seen that, the filing in Export related messages is exceptionally low, compared to the import related messages. In this stage it may be appreciated that complete and error free details of containers and its movement during Stuffing and the transshipment will greatly facilitate filing of Export messages. On analysis, it is seen that 44% of custodian has adopted new messages and only 36% of Stuffing Report is being filed by custodian in new format. As the same is not being filed in the new format, this leading to difficulty in further integration.

6. To re-iterate, as elaborated in various outreach activities by the DG Systems, it has already operationalized to procedure to enable online filing of the electronic declaration at certain events by the custodians. This will enable reconciling the declarations filed by various carriers thus error-free. The above category known as ACU/ATOs and includes custodians of Container Freight Stations (CFS), Inland Container Depots (ICD) and seaports. These ACUs/ATOs are required to file the stuffing reports (SF) and stripping reports (ST). Stuffing and stripping reports are required to be filed electronically by the Custodians including Terminal Operators wherever the cargo is being segregated or stuffed in different containers. Stuffing (SF) and Stripping (ST) messages will be filed for every equipment (container) giving the PCINs (Primary Cargo Identification Numbers)/MCINs (Master Cargo Identification Numbers) being stuffed into or stripped out of that container. Additionally, Custodians will also have to file notifications of actual time of arrival and departure of conveyance (ATE/ELR for Terminal Operators and AT/DT for other Custodians). The same has enabled on voluntary basis since March 2021 for migrating to the new procedure.

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6.2 Further, to speed up the direct delivery process, The ATOs are required to electronically file the following details with Customs, namely

- i. Voyage Call Number (VCN), which is required to be the port on confirmation of voyage by the vessel in such port.
- ii. Actual Time of Arrival (ATE), which is required to be filed immediately on arrival at the current port of call.
- iii. Equipment Landed on Arrival (ELR), which is also required to be filed on details of the containers offloaded from the vessel.
- iv. Equipment Loaded at Departure (ELR), which is required to be filed on details of the containers loaded on to the vessel.
- v. Actual Time of Departure (ATE), which is required to be filed immediately after departure from the Indian port of call.

7. Since sufficient time has been provided for adoption on voluntary basis, Board has decided that following messages by the Custodian i.e., Stuffing Message (SF), ASR Filing, DP Filing and AR filing by the Custodians and VCN message by the Terminal Operators will be made mandatory w.e.f. 20th July 2021. The detailed guidelines and FAQs for different categories of stakeholders are available on ICEGATE (<https://www.icegate.gov.in/SeaManifestRegulation.html>) and may be kindly referred to.

8. Further, Board vide Customs Notification No. 56/2021 -Customs (N.T) dated 30.06.2021 has extended the transitional provisions of SCMTR till 31<sup>st</sup> July 2021 for to enable carriers continue mandatory filing on parallel basis.

9. Difficulties, if any, faced in implementation of this Public Notice may be brought to the notice of the undersigned.

(एस. फ़हीम अहमद)  
(S.FAHEEM AHMED)

प्रधान आयुक्त  
PRINCIPAL COMMISSIONER

To

1. Notice Board of the Concerned Customs Formations
2. Copy submitted to the Principal Chief Commissioner of Customs & Central Tax, Visakhapatnam Zone, GST Bhavan, Port Area, Visakhapatnam – 530 035 for information

Copy to :

1. The Additional Commissioner of Customs, Krishnapatnam Custom House, KAPS Building, CVR Complex, Krishnapatnam Port Area, Gopalapuram,

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- MUTHUKURU – 524 344, S. P. S.R. Nellore District for information with a direction to give wide publicity among the stakeholders under the jurisdiction KPCH.
2. The Additional Commissioner of Customs, Kakinada Custom House, Port Road, KAKINADA – 533 007, East Godavari District for information with a direction to give wide publicity among the stakeholders under the jurisdiction KKDCH.
  3. The Deputy / Assistant Commissioner of Customs, ICD, MARRIPALEM – 522 233, Yedlapadu Mandalam, Marripalem Post, Guntur District for information with a direction to give wide publicity among the stakeholders under the jurisdiction of ICD, Marripalem.
  4. The Deputy / Assistant Commissioner of Customs, Customs Division, Visakhapatnam / Kakinada / Tirupati for information with a request to display this Public Notice on the Notice Boards of concerned Customs Division.
  5. Copy to Superintendent (Computers), CPC, Hqrs. Office, Vijayawada for display on CPC, Vijayawada website [www.apcustoms.gov.in](http://www.apcustoms.gov.in).
  6. Copy to M/s. Krishnapatnam Port Company Limited (KPCL), the Custodian / Custom Cargo Service Provider of Krishnapatnam Port , Muthukur , SPSR Nellore District for information with a request to upload this Public Notice on their website for the knowledge of the stakeholders and public.
  7. Copy to M/s. Kakinada Sea Ports Limited, the Custodian / Custom Cargo Service Provider of Kakinada Port, Kakinada, East Godavari District for information with a request to upload this Public Notice on their website for the knowledge of the stakeholders and public.
  8. Copy to M/s. Leap International Private Limited , the Custodian / Custom Cargo Service Provider of ICD, Marripalem – 522233, Yedlapadu Mandalam, Marripalem Post, Guntur District for information with a request to upload this Public Notice on their website for the knowledge of the stakeholders and public.
  9. Copy to The Kakinada Custom Brokers Association, Kakinada (through the Joint Commissioner of Customs, Custom House, Kakinada) for information with a request to upload this Public Notice on their website for the knowledge of their members and public.
  10. Notice Board.