



सीमाशुल्क (निवारक) के आयुक्त का कार्यालय,
OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER OF CUSTOMS
(PREVENTIVE)

55-17-3, सी-14, 2 तल, औद्योगिक एस्टेट, ऑटोनगर, विजयवाड़ा –
520 007

55-17-3, C-14, 2nd Floor, Road No.2, Industrial Estate,
Autonagar, Vijayawada – 520 007

फोन/ Phone : 0866-2551261 फैक्स / Fax : 0866-2551156



STANDING ORDER NO .02 / 2023-Customs

Subject: - Jacket with camera for use by the Vessel Boarding Officers at the Sea Ports under Vijayawada Customs Commissionerate - procedure -Reg.

Internationally, uniform jackets with equipment such as walkie talkie, night binoculars, body worn cameras (BWCs), search light caps, has found an increasing use by the law enforcement agencies for specific areas of work, as per the requirement.

2. The use of similar uniform jacket with equipment for Customs has been examined by Board and Board has issued Circular 07/2023 dated 07.03.2023 in this regard.

3. In a seaport, the Boarding officer is the first government official to deal with the foreign vessel on its arrival to Indian ports and he/she has various responsibilities on his/her shoulders. The Boarding Officers are the face of Indian Customs at the ports and are the cutting edge functionaries of the Service whose visibility extends to the Shipping lines, terminal operators, logistic partners, custom brokers, businessmen and most importantly the common man. Thus, the boarding officer has to act as an Ambassador of the country and has to initiate customs formalities and procedure without causing any inconvenience to the trade.

4. As per his/her duties, he/she shall board all the vessels on their first arrival in India and collect the Arrival report consisting of General declaration, Vessel's stores list, Crew list, private property list of the members of the crew, a detailed list of embarking / disembarking of the passengers/crew, list of same bottom cargo, Vessel Cargo, vessel's currency declaration, list of arms, ammunition and satellite phones, list of permissible dangerous drugs for the use of vessel or its crew, if any, etc. He/she shall verify Bond stores and the consumable stores of the vessel with the declaration and shall put the items like liquor, cigarettes, tobacco, arms & ammunition and other such items of the vessel and its crew, under customs seal. He/she shall carry checks of minimum 5% of the property in possession of the crew with their declaration and shall put the excess quantity, if any, under seal.

5. The performance of the above duties and the interaction during the course of his/her duties require maintaining absolute transparency, legitimacy and accountability.

I/1151191/2023

Accordingly, the visibility of Customs officers at the port needs to be enhanced.

6. Keeping the above objective in mind, it has been decided to prescribe and use a jacket with body worn camera for the Boarding officers of all the Sea Ports under this Commissionerate. This will provide transparency, while carrying on physical checks on board and provide evidence in case of an offence or suspected offence. It will not only add to the visibility of the officer but also has the benefit of increased transparency, legitimacy, and accountability for both the citizens and the Customs especially in light of enhanced scrutiny of such public interactions.

7. In this regard, the following procedure shall be followed by the boarding officers-

(i) The boarding officer shall wear the jacket with their name and badges before boarding the vessel. The body worn camera shall be placed on the right side at a space specifically designed to hold the body camera. The camera shall be placed upright to capture the image of interaction with vessel's crew and verification process clearly.

(ii) The recording camera would be positioned in such a manner so that those watching the footage see the situation from the officer's perspective.

(iii) Officer shall activate their camera at the start of their boarding duty on approaching the gangway and make people aware that they are being recorded. The recording shall be continued uninterrupted until the officer de-boards the vessel and reaches back at the end of the gangway.

(iv) At the end of the officer's shift, the officer shall transfer the recorded data in an internal drive secured with password protection under the supervision of Superintendent. At the end of every day, a backup copy in hard disk to be sent and kept in safe custody of AC/DC concerned. The whole process shall be monitored by Superintendent (Docks) working in the subsequent morning shift. The recordings shall be retained for minimum 30 days. All the officers shall ensure safe storage of data and access to the same shall be restricted for outside use.

(v) The body camera after transferring all the data shall be handed to next shift officer safely. It needs to be recorded in the register immediately during handover.

(vi) The Astd. /Deputy Commissioners shall oversee these recordings on random basis every week and send the details of video reviewed and observations made to the Joint/Additional Commissioner.

(vii) The Joint/Additional Commissioner shall review these recordings and the observations made by the Astd./Deputy Commissioner every month and submit a monthly report to the Commissioner, Customs (Prev.).

8. The Standing Order shall come into force with immediate effect. Any difficulty faced in implementation of these instructions shall be brought to the notice of the undersigned.

I/1151191/2023

(K. ENGINEER)
आयुक्त / COMMISSIONER OF CUSTOMS

Copy submitted to the Chief Commissioner, GST, Central Excise and Customs,
Visakhapatnam Zone.

Copy to

1. Additional Commissioner's of Kakinada/ Krishnapatnam Custom House under the jurisdiction of CPC, Vijayawada for information and necessary compliance .
2. Computers section for uploading on the website.
3. Notice Board.