



सीमाशुल्कनिवारककेआयुक्तका कार्यालय

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER OF CUSTOMS PREVENTIVE COMMISSIONERATE

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C.No.VIII/48/159/2016-PREV.

Date: 09/09/2016

STANDING ORDER No. 05/2016-Cus

Sub: To improve the efficiency and streamline the Rummaging of vessels-Reg.

Attention is invited to the Board's instruction No.25/2016 dated 23.08.2016 in respect of Rummaging of vessels, aircrafts and vehicles. The instruction therein, may be followed scrupulously. Further, in terms of the said instructions, the following procedure shall be followed for the rummaging of ship/vessel.


2. While selecting suspect vessels for the purpose of rummaging, the following parameters may be taken into account viz., ships/aircrafts arriving from sensitive ports (Viz. Dubai, Sharjah, Singapore, Hong Kong and Colombo etc.,)/ having higher risk profile; composition of crew; frequency of visit of ship; random selection; passenger/cargo vessel; the risk elements relating to smuggling of contraband goods, perceived threat to national economy and security and experience of rummaging and their outcome. These parameters shall be reviewed by the concerned Joint Commissioners once in every quarter based on fresh inputs received from rummaging exercises, intelligence, trends in smuggling etc. If specific intelligence/information is received regarding smuggling etc., detailed rummaging shall be carried out without fail.

3. In a rummage, the entire suspect vessel/ship has to be thoroughly searched for prohibited and restricted goods (viz. drugs, arms & ammunitions, counterfeit currency, obscenities, seditious literature and other goods which have not been declared), which have been concealed in various parts of the ship/vessel which include the engine room, the bridge, officers and crew quarters, cargo hatches, lockers, life boats, paneling of cabins, etc.

4. The Supdt. of the team or the leader of the team will ensure that the officers and sepyo of the rummaging team take adequate precautions to safeguard themselves as well as vessel/ship under rummaging. The nature of all the precautions, in this connection, cannot normally be enumerated but shall include the following:

- Before starting the rummaging, the team must inform the Master of the Vessel or the ships Chief Officer on duty.
- They must also inform the engineer concerned before opening any oil tank, water tank, cofferdams or any vital portion of machinery and engine room.
- They must allow adequate time for escape of gas/fuel; air before entering any tank and in such places, the officers must always work in pairs.
- It must be ensured that all the officers/personnel, who have entered such tanks or closed places, have emerged, there from, before such tank etc., are closed.
- No smoking regulations on the vessel/ship are to be strictly observed.
- Boiler suits, torches and certain tools should be carried by the searching officer, wherever it is necessary.
- The team leader or Supdt. of the team should ensure that all the officers/personnel report back to him and leave the vessel/ship along with him.

5. If sufficient number of officers and sepoy are not available, only one or two sections at a time can be rummaged and special officers should be posted at the key points to prevent contraband goods being shifted about from the sections to be rummaged to the sections already rummaged.
6. The officers of the rummaging team have in law full access to each part of the ship/vessel and have right to break open and search any place, box, etc. to which the access is denied or obstructed. However, care should be taken that the work is conducted in such a manner that it causes the least loss and annoyance.
7. The rummaging is generally carried out under the supervision of Superintendent, in-charge of the team, who will brief the officers to different sections of the ship/vessel unless there is information about a particular spot on the vessel in which case the officers have to concentrate on those specific areas.
8. Whilst insisting on making a thorough search, the officers should avoid giving annoyance to the ship's personnel and damaging the ship in anyway. They must not search vital part of the ship/vessel except in presence of the Ships Officer. In case such officer refuses to attend, then master of the vessel/ship be asked to present himself during the search. Officers' cabin and crew quarters should not be searched unless the occupants are present. In case of any deviation resulting in inconvenience to the shipping company, the trade or the officers, it shall be the duty of the Superintendent (Preventive), to bring it to the notice of the Asstt./Deputy Commissioner of Customs (Prev) / Joint Commissioner of Customs.
9. If any prohibited or restricted goods are located, attempt should be made to call two independent and respectable witnesses on board and goods be recovered under panchanama. The containers in which contraband is concealed should also be seized, but if such containers happen to be articles of furniture belonging to the ship, they should not be removed except with the permission of the Deputy/Assistant Commissioner in-charge. In his report, the seizing officer should mention every detail, down to the minutest, which may have any bearing on the case. All seized goods and exhibits should be properly sealed, labelled and signed by the seizing officer as well as the ships Officer.
10. A proforma rummaging report is stipulated in Board's Instruction No.25/2016 in Annexure-I. The same shall be used for rummaging exercise. The rummaging report shall be signed by the Superintendent in charge of rummaging after each rummaging exercise and counter signed by the Deputy/Assistant Commissioner in charge of rummaging. Rummaging sections should also maintain the rummaging register as given in Annexure-II of above cited instruction of Board.
11. The above instructions shall be brought to the notice of officers under your jurisdictions with a direction to follow these scrupulously. Any instance of deviation shall be viewed seriously.


एस.के.रहमान १९४
आयुक्त

To

The Joint Commissioner of Customs,
Krishnapatnam/Kakinada Custom House,
Krishnapatnam/Kakinada.