Plexconcil Circular dated 23.06.2020

To, All the Members of the Council,

Dear Sir/ Madam,

<u>SUBJECT : CUSTOMS INTRODUCES PAPERLESS CUSTOMS - ELECTRONIC</u> <u>COMMUNICATION OF PDF BASED COPIES OF SHIPPING BILL & E-GATE PASS TO</u> <u>CUSTOMS BROKERS</u>

We wish to inform you that Customs are continuing its trend to make their operation more and more paperless and promote faceless, paperless and contactless customs CBIC decided to rely upon digital copies of the Shipping Bill and do away with the requirement of taking bulky printouts from the Service Center or maintenance of voluminous physical dockets in the Custom Houses.

Board directs that w.e.f. 22.06.2020 only the digital copy of the Shipping Bill bearing the Final LEO would be electronically transmitted to the exporter and the present practice of printing copies of the said document for the exporters and also for maintaining a docket in the Customs House would stand discontinued.

The Circular also highlighted the salient features of the secure electronic communication of the Final LEO copy of the Shipping Bill and the Gate pass copy of Shipping Bill.

1. Final Let Export Order (LEO) Copy of Shipping Bill

To promote a paperless environment, Board has decided to do away with the taking the printouts (namely Customs Copy and Exporter Copy). Instead, Directorate General of Systems has enabled a

functionality of communicating by email, the PDF version of the Final LEO copy of the Shipping Bill to the Customs Broker and exporter, if registered.

This electronic Final LEO copy can serve multiple purposes such as being shared with DGFT, Banks etc.

This Final LEO copy of the Shipping Bill will have the following features:-

a) The PDF version will bear a digitally signed and encrypted QR code which can be scanned to verify the authenticity of the document using Mobile App ICETRAK. The QR code is tamper proof, which is digitally signed by CBIC to ensure the authenticity. Key details like SB No., SB Date, FOB value, Package Details are available in the secured QR Code

b) A version number is also embedded in the QR code which can be used to ascertain whether the document is indeed the latest version (in case of cancellation of LEO etc.). The same would be verifiable at ICEGATE Enquiry.

Let Export Order (LEO) message shall also be sent to custodians who are integrated with ICEGATE.

2. e-Gatepass Copy of Shipping Bill:

Taking cognizance of the logistics needs, the Directorate General of Systems would henceforth communicate through email, the eGatepass PDF copy of the Shipping Bill to the Customs Broker and the Exporter, if registered.

Accordingly, the Board has decided to do away with the printing of Transference copies of Shipping Bill

The following are the features of eGatepass copy of the Shipping Bill:

- a) The electronic document provides key summary details like Container/Packages related to logistics movement and facilitates authentic, easy and quick verification by the Custodian, at the point of Entry /Exit.
- b) There will be two types of QR codes (i) for the entire eGatepass document, and (ii) for each container/package covered under the eGatepass. This will ensure that only those containers/package move out which are covered under the Gatepass document.

It is re-iterated that for the purposes of exports, all the supporting documents should mandatorily be uploaded in eSanchit and collection of physical dockets shall be dispensed with.

For more details, you can download the Circular from the link below: https://www.cbic.gov.in/resources//htdocs-cbec/customs/cs-circulars-2020/Circular-No-30-2020.pdf

This is for your information.

Best regards

Plexconcil Team