

ICES Advisory 16/2020 – Streamlining of Certain Imports Processes in ICES – reg.

Dear all,

Over the past few days, a number of changes and improvements have been introduced on the Imports side in ICES to streamline/simplify certain processes in Systems. These have been implemented with the objective of aiding both the trade as well as the officers in the Customs clearance process followed in System, particularly during these difficult times.

A detailed advisory on these changes is attached. Trade and officers in your jurisdiction may pl be guided suitably for the benefit of all concerned.

सादर/Regards

क्षितिजजैन, भा.रा.से. / Kshitij Jain, IRS

उपनिदेशक / Deputy Director

प्रणालीमहानिदेशालय/ DG Systems

सीबीआईसी, नईदिल्ली/CBIC, New Delhi

ICES Advisory 16/2020 – Streamlining of Certain Imports Processes in ICES – reg.

To further streamline the clearance process in imports and make it more efficient especially in these critical times, a number of changes and improvements have been implemented in the System in the last few days. These changes are not only facilitative for the Trade, they would also simplify certain processes for the Customs officer, thus aiding in the faster overall clearance of goods. The changes are listed below:

1. Regularization of Prior BE

1.1. Regularization of prior BE is done automatically by the System at the time of goods registration if the IGM is filed with the same Bill of Lading and given Entry Inwards.

In cases where the actual Bill of Lading is different from what was declared in the Prior BE, an option was available with the AC in ACL role to amend the B/L details in the BE. However, for regularization of the BE, the importer (or the Customs Broker) had to approach the goods registration officer having AAI role (usually in the shed). This made regularization a cumbersome process.

Now, the option for regularization of prior BEs has also been given in the ACL role itself to fasten the process and mitigate redundant physical interfacing.

1.2. Further, instances have been noticed when the auto regularization by System where the B/L details match gets stuck or does not happen on its own in some cases. As an additional measure to ensure auto regularization, a procedure has been introduced in the System to check for any such pending BEs every morning and regularize the same automatically.

2. Document submission details in SUP Role

2.1. Provision has been made in the System where the compliance verification officer can indicate while granting OOC or CCV in the SUP role, whether all the required supporting documents were uploaded online by the importer. This will provide critical feedback on the compulsory use of eSanchit for online submission of the supporting documents.

3. Entry of Warehouse Code for Warehouse Bill of Entry (WBE)

3.1 Option of declaring the Warehouse Code in the WBE at the time of filing is available with the importer. However, at times the importer does not know at the time of filing which warehouse the goods will be allotted to. Option was available in the SUP role to manually enter this warehouse code for a WBE any time before any Ex-Bond BE is filed against that WBE.

3.2 To further secure the process and have a more reliable accounting of warehoused goods, it has now been made mandatory to have the warehouse details entered in the System before OOC wherever not given at the time of filing the WBE, failing which OOC will not be allowed by the System.

4. Further streamlining of Automated queuing for OOC:

4.1. In the present implementation of auto queuing of every BE for OOC, certain bills of entry were set aside by the System and not queued up automatically before the OOC officer. These were cases

- a) Selected for Scanning
- b) Where NOC was not received from PGA
- c) Where OTP was not received for deferred payment
- d) Where Warehouse Code was not entered in case of WBE

4.2. The above necessitated the importer to physically approach the OOC officer for activation of these BEs for clearance. In many cases, the importer would also not come to know immediately of the status of such BE.

4.3 Now, these BEs would also be automatically queued with other BEs. Instead of System setting them aside, a pop-up would be displayed to the officers with the above reasons, as applicable, enabling them to decide accordingly. In case the officer requires any clarification, a query can be raised to the importer. This will further remove the need for physical interface even for the above few scenarios.

The above measures may be given wide publicity and officers in your jurisdiction may be suitably guided so that the intended benefits reach all the stakeholders.