

ICES Advisory 14/2020 - Paperless Customs - Generation and emailing of PDF copies of eOOC and eGatepass - reg.

Dear all,

Reference is drawn to Board's Circular 19/2020 dated 13.04.20 on the electronic communication of PDF copies of Bill of Entry. In accordance with the circular, the PDF version of the final copy of the BE as well as the Gatepass will also be sent by email automatically on OOC w.e.f. 15.04.20. A detailed advisory on the same is attached.

Wide publicity may be given to this initiative for the benefit of the Trade.

सादर/Regards

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ICES Advisory 14/2019 dt 14.04.20 on PDF copies of eOOC and eGatepass

Reference is drawn to Board's Circular 19/2020 dated 13.04.20 on the electronic communication of PDF copies of Bill of Entry. As you would know, the PDF version first copy of the BEs, generated after assessment are already being sent by mail to Importers/Customs Brokers. At many places this copy is already being used for shed examination/compliance verification instead of the physical printout. Now, in accordance with the circular, the PDF version of the final copy of the BE as well as the Gatepass will also be sent by email automatically on OOC w.e.f. 15.04.20.

2. While the salient features of these newly introduced eDocuments have been elucidated in the Circular, following points may kindly be noted for verification:

- a. As is the case with PDF First copy, the eOOC and the eGatepass copies will bear a secure, digitally signed and encrypted QR code. The authenticity of the document can be verified by scanning the QR code using the ICETRAK mobile app available on the Google Playstore (Android). A valid QR code would return details like BE No/BE Dt, IEC, Port Code, Document version etc.
- b. Since both the First as well as Final copies of OOC can be generated more than once (in case of reassessment, OOC cancellation), checking whether the version presented is indeed the latest and valid one is important. For this purpose, an enquiry is being given on the ICEGATE website under Public Enquiries > Document Status > Bill of Entry to verify whether the Document version returned on scanning the QR code is indeed the valid version. Going forward, an app would be made available on the ICETAB using which the examining officer can directly verify the PDF First copy through ICES itself.
- c. The eGatepass copy will also have a similar QR code for every container under that Bill of Entry which can also be scanned and verified as detailed above. This will ensure secure gate out of eligible containers only. For non-containerized cargo, only B/L details and total packages would be available in the QR code.
- d. The eGatepass copy is generated only for the purpose of Customs verification. The EDI OOC message will continue to be transmitted to the registered Custodians through MFTP. In this context, as instructed in the Board's Circular, concerted efforts may be made to ensure that all the custodians in your jurisdiction are registered on ICEGATE and have on-boarded the ICEGATE MFTP (ref. ICES Advisory 14/2019 dt 13.06.2019)
- e. It may also be noted that above initiatives are being implemented to do away with the physical signing and collection of documents. Instructions given in this regard in the Board's circular may therefore be adhered to.

3. Wide publicity may be given to these initiatives for the benefit of the Trade in these times of Covid – 19 crisis.