

एम. अजित कुमार

अध्यक्ष

M. Ajit Kumar

Chairman



भारत सरकार

वित्त मंत्रालय

राजस्व विभाग

केन्द्रीय अप्रत्यक्ष कर एवं सीमा शुल्क बोर्ड

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Dear Colleague

While the country continues to battle the Covid pandemic, the government has accelerated measures to ensure that essential and critical lifesaving supplies and vaccines are quickly made available to the common man. In this connection, exemption has been extended from Basic Customs Duty and Health Cess to oxygen, oxygen-related equipment, ventilators, Covid-related vaccines, etc. *vide* notification No. 28/2021- Cus dated 24.04.2021. It is absolutely imperative that these goods are cleared expeditiously. It is encouraging to note that each Zone has quickly, on the very same day, appointed a nodal officer at the level of Joint/ Additional Commissioner(s) to attend to any issue that may arise on a 24\*7 basis. At the level of the Board, Joint Secretary (Customs) will be the Nodal officer who will monitor and coordinate the hassle-free clearances of critical goods across the country.

Chief Commissioner, Mumbai – III Customs Zone, has issued a Public Notice containing a template for stakeholders seeking urgent clearances of Covid-related imported goods. This would simplify and help monitor the clearance process of such essential imports which are in compliance with specified standards, etc., as may be applicable. The said chart has been incorporated on the CBIC website by DG Systems. Trade should make use of this facility where needed.

Keeping in mind the need of the hour, Kolkata Customs swung into action and made emergency and timely arrangements to facilitate clearance of imported ISO containers for oxygen storage and transport at Indian Air Force Base, Panagarh. This action has also come to the notice of the Hon'ble Finance Minister who has tweeted to state, "Need of the hour. Facilitation and smooth passage for life saving materials is absolutely critical. Keep the good work going".

In the midst of our fight against the pandemic, DRI has continued its focus on anti-smuggling activities. It had gathered specific intelligence that a consignment declared as wooden logs with cocaine concealed in the container was reaching Tuticorin port on 20.04.2021. Officers of DRI Chennai Zonal Unit intercepted the container which is part of a