

F.No. 394/46/2020-Cus (AS)
Government of India
Ministry of Finance
Department of Revenue
Central Board of Indirect Taxes & Customs
Anti-Smuggling Unit

Room No. 501, 5th Floor, HudcoVishala Building,
Bhikaji Cama Place, New Delhi – 110066
Dated: 23/4/2020

To,

All Principal Chief Commissioners /Chief Commissioners of Customs,
All Principal Chief Commissioners /Chief Commissioners of Customs(Preventive),
All Principal Chief Commissioners /Chief Commissioners of CGST & Customs

Madam/Sir,

Subject: COVID-19 Pandemic – waiver of Demurrage Charges levied by ICDs/CFSS/Ports/Terminal Operators during lockdown – reg.

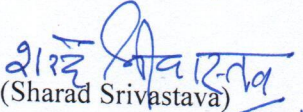
The Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India had issued order No. 40-3/2020-DM-I (A) dated 24.3.2020 and subsequent order dated 15/4/2020 alongwith its amendments to impose lockdown from 22nd March to 3rd May, 2020 to contain COVID – 19 pandemic in the country. On account of lockdown measures the logistics chain of businesses have been most adversely impacted. The chain includes the activities of all stakeholders (Importers, Exporters, Customs Brokers, Transporters, Labour, etc.) dealing with the clearance of cargo from Customs facilities viz., Ports, ICDs and CFSS. As a result, importers are not able to clear the import of consignments in many parts of the country for reasons that are beyond their control. In the circumstance, numerous importers and trade associations have requested for the waiver of penal charges, which are collected by the custodians on the imported goods lying at various ports, ICDs, CFSS beyond the normal free period.

2. In this context, it is seen that the Director General of Shipping, M/o Shipping vide Order No.7/2020 dated 29.03.2020 and vide Order No. 8/2020 dated 31.03.2020 has advised the Indian seaports, carriers, shipping lines not to impose any container detention charges on import and export shipments for the lock down period on cargo owners/consignees of non-containerized cargo (i.e. both brake bulk and liquid cargo) whether LCL or not for the lock down period due to delay in evacuation of cargo caused by reasons attributable to lockdown measures. Ministry of Shipping has again in its order vide No. PD-14033/4/2020-PD VII dated 21st April, 2020 (copy enclosed), directed inter alia that no penal charges demurrages, detention charges, dwell time charges etc shall be levied and ports shall ensure strict implementation by port users including ICDs, CFSS, Shipping Lines etc.

3. Accordingly, aforementioned orders issued by Ministry of Shipping and Director General of Shipping are brought to your attention for strict compliance by all the ICDs/CFSS of your zone.

Encl: As above.

Yours Sincerely,


(Sharad Srivastava)
Director (AS) 23.4.20