

Government of India
Ministry of Finance
Department of Revenue
Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs
WCO Cell, 8th Floor, Tower II, Jeevan Bharti Building,
Connaught Circus, New Delhi-110001
Tel: +91-11-21400124
Email:- indiawco-cbec@nic.in

F No. 15021/40/2016-Dir.(ICD)/Pt-1/

Dated: 10.12.2019

To

All Members of Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs
All Chief Commissioners of Customs and Customs (Preventive)
All Chief Commissioners of GST / Customs
All Director Generals
All Joint Secretaries/Commissioners working in the Board

Respected Madam/Sir,

Subject: International Customs Day (ICD) Celebration 2020 –reg

International Customs Day (ICD) is celebrated worldwide, every year on 26th of January, to commemorate the inaugural session of the Customs Co-operation Council held in Brussels on 26th January 1953 with the participation of representatives of 17 member countries. The convention establishing the Council had been signed on 15th December, 1950. In 1994, the Customs Co-operation Council adopted a new name – ‘World Customs Organization (WCO)’. On 26th of January every year, the Customs administrations of member countries of the WCO organize various national events to celebrate the occasion and to promote a dedicated theme, chosen every year by the WCO Secretariat for the International Customs Day and to be continued throughout the year.

2. In continuation of this customary practice, the WCO Secretariat has decided to dedicate International Customs Day, 26th January, 2020 to **‘the contribution of Customs towards a sustainable future where social, economic, health and environmental needs are at the heart of our actions’** with the slogan **“Customs fostering Sustainability for People, Prosperity and the Planet”**.

3. As member administration, it has become a well-established tradition for us to celebrate the International Customs Day. However, as 26th January is devoted to Republic day celebrations, a suitable date is generally fixed after 26th January for celebrating the day. **It has been decided by the Board that this year the International Customs Day shall be celebrated on Monday, the 27th January 2020.** As part of the celebrations, members of the trade, office bearers of CHA Associations, senior level officers of other departments associated with Customs and other stakeholders can also be invited to the function.

4. The field formations are requested to celebrate International Customs Day on 27.01.2020, in a suitable manner and send a report along with high definition digital photographs (minimum 300dpi.jpeg or gif format) of their activities undertaken on the occasion to the Board (soft copies to the emails jscus@nic.in, Hardeep.Batra@icegate.gov.in & indiawco-cbec@nic.in)

5. On this occasion, the Customs officers and representatives of the private sector who have demonstrated their commitment for ensuring contribution of Customs towards a sustainable future where social, economic, health and environmental needs are at the heart of our actions would be awarded "WCO Certificate of Merit".

6. You are requested to recommend/nominate names of suitable officers and representatives of the private sector for awarding the WCO certificate of Merit, along with the justification/proposal for their nomination. The nomination and the justification/proposal (along with the vigilance clearance and APAR grading for the last 5 years in case of the nominated Customs officers) should reach the Joint Secretary (Customs), CBIC on or before **26th December, 2019**, so that their names can be considered by the Board for awarding the WCO Certificate of Merit. The nomination may be sent by email to jscus@nic.in with a copy to hardeep.batra@icegate.gov.in & indiawco-cbec@nic.in.

Yours faithfully,



(Hardeep Batra)
Commissioner, WCO Cell