

**F.No.21000/50/2015-IC(ICD)**  
**Department of Revenue**  
**Central Board of Excise and Customs**  
**WCO Cell, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Bhai Veer Singh Sahitya Sadan,**  
**Bhai Veer Singh Marg, Gol Market, New Delhi-110001**

New Delhi 23.11.2015

To,  
Chief Commissioners of Customs  
Chief Commissioners of Customs Preventive  
Chief Commissioners of Central Excise, Customs and Service Tax  
Chief Commissioner of Central Excise (TAR)  
Directors General (All)  
Commissioners/Director in all Directorates  
The Chief Departmental Representative, CESTAT  
Joint Secretaries/Commissioners posted in the Board

**Subject: International Customs Day Celebration 2016 -reg**

Respected Madam/Sir,

International Customs Day is celebrated on 26<sup>th</sup> January every year all over the world. The Convention establishing the Customs Co-operation Council was signed on 15<sup>th</sup> December 1950 in Brussels and entered into force two years later on 4<sup>th</sup> November 1952. The official inauguration session of the Council was held in Brussels on 26<sup>th</sup> January 1953 with the participation of representatives of 17 countries. In 1994 the Customs Co-operation Council adopted a new name - World Customs Organization (WCO). On 26<sup>th</sup> January every year the Customs administrations of Member States (currently 180 Members) of the WCO organize various national events to celebrate the first session of the Customs Co-operation Council.

2. On its part, the WCO Secretariat chooses a theme for the International Customs Day. This year the WCO has decided to dedicate International Customs Day, 26th January, 2016 to the '**Digital Customs**' theme with the slogan '**Progressive Engagement**.'

3. It has become a well-established tradition for us to celebrate the International Customs Day. However, as 26<sup>th</sup> January is devoted to Republic day celebrations, a suitable date is generally fixed after 26th January for celebrating the International Customs day. **It has been decided by the Board that this year the International Customs Day shall be celebrated on Wednesday, the 27<sup>th</sup> January 2016.** 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 27.01.2016 in a suitable manner and send a report along with Digital photographs in high definition (minimum 300dpi, jpeg or gif format) of their activities on the occasion to the Board (soft copies to the emails [jscus@nic.in](mailto:jscus@nic.in) & [indiawco-cbec@nic.in](mailto:indiawco-cbec@nic.in) )

5. On this occasion, the Customs officers and representatives of the private sector who have demonstrated their commitment to the Digital Customs theme would be awarded “WCO Certificate of Merit”.

6. You are requested to nominate suitable officers and representatives of the private sector for award of WCO certificate of Merit along with the justification/proposal for their nomination. The nomination and the justification/proposal (along with the vigilance clearance certificate in case of customs officers and last five years APAR grades) should reach the Joint Secretary (Customs), CBEC before **31<sup>st</sup> December, 2015**, 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](mailto:jscus@nic.in) with a copy to [indiawco-cbec@nic.in](mailto:indiawco-cbec@nic.in) )

Yours faithfully,

(Dr.Kavita Bhatnagar)  
Additional Commissioner  
WCO Cell