

F.No.15021/40/2016 Dir.(ICD)
Department of Revenue
Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs
WCO Cell, 8th Floor, Jeevan Bharti Building,
Connaught Place, New Delhi-110001

New Delhi 14.12.2018

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 2019 –reg.

Respected Madam/Sir,

International Customs Day is celebrated on 26th January every year all over the world. The Convention establishing the Customs Co-operation Council was signed on 15th December 1950 in Brussels and entered into force two years later on 4th November 1952. The official inauguration session of the Council was held in Brussels on 26th 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 26th 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, 2019 to 'the swift and smooth cross-border movement of goods, people and means of transport' theme with the slogan **"SMART borders for seamless Trade, Travel and Transport."**
3. 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 for celebrating the International Customs day. **It has been decided by the Board that this year the International Customs Day shall be celebrated on Friday, the 25th January**

2019. 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 suggested date in a suitable manner and send a report along with Digital photographs in high definition (minimum 3000dpi, jpeg or gif format) of their activities on the occasion to the Board (soft copies to the emails jscus@nic.in & indiaawco-cbec@nic.in)

5. On this occasion, the Customs officers and representatives of the private sector who have demonstrated their commitment to the theme '**the swift and smooth cross-border movement of goods, people and means of transport**' 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 by **26th December, 2018**, 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 (indiaawco-cbec@nic.in).

Yours faithfully,


(Hardeep Batra) 21/12/2018

Additional Commissioner
WCO Cell