



Federation of Freight Forwarders' Associations in India

National Apex Body of CUSTOMS BROKERS' ASSOCIATIONS IN INDIA

FFFAI/MINUTES/196/2019

10.12.2019

Minutes of the 13th Executive Committee Meeting for the term 2017-2019 held on 13th September, 2019.

Venue: Hyatt Regency – Chennai

A) Members Present

S.N	Office Bearers	Representing Association	Attendance
1	Mr. S.Ramakrishna - Chairman	Noida Custom Brokers Association	13/13
2	Mr. A.V.Vijayakumar - Chairman Elect	Chennai CHA Association	13/13
3	Mr. P.S. Atree - Vice Chairman	Delhi CB Association	12/13
4	Mr. Rajesh Verma - Vice Chairman	Ludhiana CHA Association	10/13
5	Mr.ShashidharV.Hebbar - Vice Chairman	Bangalore CHA Association Ltd	11/13
6	Mr.Sudip Dey - Vice Chairman	Calcutta CHA Association	12/13
7	Mr.Kartik Pancholi - Vice Chairman	Ahmedabad CHA Association	11/13
8	Mr. Adil Khan - Vice Chairman	Customs Broker's Assn Hyderabad	09/13
9	Mr. Amit Kamat - Honorary Secretary	Goa CB Association	13/13
10	Mr. Vinod Sharma - Honorary Treasurer	Pune CHA Association	12/13
11	Mr.SamirJ.Shah - Imm. Past Chairman	FFFAI	13/13
	Executive Committee Members	Representing Association	Attendance
12	Mr. Devang Joshi	Ahmedabad CHA Association	06/13
13	Mr. Devendra Thakker	Ahmedabad CHA Association	05/13
14	Mr. Sarfaraz A.Khan	Aurangabad CHA Association	08/13
15	Mr. C.S.Nagendra Prasad	Bangalore CHA Association Ltd	08/13
16	Mr.Karunakar Shetty	Brihanmumbai CB Association	06/13
17	Mr.Kiran Rambhia	Brihanmumbai CB Association	03/13
18	Mr.Dushyant Mulani	Brihanmumbai CB Association	12/13
19	Mr. S.Natraja	Chennai CHA Association	07/13
20	Mr. R.N.Sekar	Chennai CHA Association	07/13
21	Mr. R.Kumar	Chennai CHA Association	05/13
22	Mr. Divakar P.Nair	Chennai CHA Association	05/13
23	Mr. Vishal Dadha	Chennai CHA Association	09/13
24	Mr. V.S. Pradeep	Cochin CHA Association	02/13
25	Mr. Alan Jose	Cochin CHA Association	12/13
26	Mr. Suraj Mureleedharan	Cochin CHA Association	03/13





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27	Mr. R. Rajesh Kumar	Coimbatore Association	05/13
28	Mr. Dilip T. Abraham	Coimbatore Association	01/13
29	Mr. G. A. Kalyanamoorthy	Coimbatore Association	04/13
30	Mr. T.Abhimanyu	Customs Broker's Assn Hyderabad	08/13
31	Mr. Puneet Jain	Delhi CB Association	11/13
32	Mr. Harjit Singh	Delhi CB Association	11/13
33	Mr. Vipin Vohra	Delhi CB Association	05/13
34	Mr. Gurvinder Singh	Delhi CB Association	05/10
35	Mr. Vaneet Aggarwal	Delhi CB Association	06/10
36	Mr. J.A.D'souza	Goa CB Association	03/13
37	Mr. Anurag Vijayvargiya	Indore CHA Association	04/13
38	Mr. Amit Kumar Jain	Indore CHA Association	02/13
39	Mr.Mandava Satyanarayana	Kakinada CB Association	10/13
40	Mr. Sreeram Bhagawati	Kakinada CB Association	06/13
41	Mr. Ramesh Bansal	Kandla CB Association	05/13
42	Mr. Dhiren Chhaya	Kandla CB Association	07/13
43	Mr.Narinder Prabhakar	Ludhiana CHA Association	02/13
44	Mr.Philip C.C.	Mangalore CHA Association	04/13
45	Mr. Shareef M.	Mangalore CHA Association	03/13
46	Mr.Pramod Soneta	Mundra CB Association	05/13
47	Mr. T.V.Sujan	Mundra CB Association	06/13
48	Mr. Sudhir Agarwal	Nagpur CHA Association	10/13
49	Mr. Prakash Khemka	Nagpur CHA Association	04/13
50	Mr. Shankar Shinde	Nashik CHA Association	12/13
51	Mr.Kiran D. Nagare	Nashik CHA Association	05/13
52	Mr. R.K. Mehrotra	Noida Association	05/13
53	Mr.Pradeep Kale	Pune CHA Association	06/13
54	Mr. Rajdeepak Bhargava	Pune CHA Association	06/13
55	Mr. Pankaj Lodaya	Pipava Customs Brokers Assn	06/13
56	Mr. Chirag Shah	Pipava Customs Brokers Assn	03/13
57	Mr.Jagvir Singh	Rajasthan CHA Association	07/13
58	Mr.Sunil Sharma	Rajasthan CHA Association	05/13
59	Mr. L. Cecil Machado	Tuticorin Customs Brokers Assn	01/13
60	Mr. S.P.Verma	West Bengal CHA Society	07/13
61	Mr. Subhas Chandra Ghosh	West Bengal CHA Society	07/13





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	Nominee of Associate Members	Port	Attendance
62	Mr. Chanrdchari B.R	Bangalore	09/13
63	Mr. Roopesh Kumar	Bangalore	06/13
64	Mr. D.Vijayakumar	Chennai	03/13
65	Mr. N.V.S.Prasad	Chennai	02/13
66	Mr. M.A.ZahirHussan	Chennai	07/13
67	Mr. S.Balaji	Chennai	04/13
68	Mr. T.V.Gopu	Chennai	05/13
69	Mr. Mannu Choudhary	Kolkata	03/13
70	Mr. Nirav C. Thakker	Mumbai	05/13
71	Mr. Ganpat Korade	Mumbai	08/13
72	Mr. Maruti R. Gadge	Mumbai	07/13
73	Mr. Ramesh Joshi	Mumbai	10/13
74	Mr. Jogeshi Sethi	New Delhi	10/13
75	Capt. Ashish Samarth	Pune	04/13
76	Mr. B.N. Rajmoghon	Trivandrum	04/13
77	Mr. K.Suresh Kumar	Trivandrum	04/13
78	Mr. J.Pinto Villavarayar	Tuticorin	01/13
79	Mr. R. Sreedhar	Tuticorin	02/13
80	Mr. S. Sasikumar	Tuticorin	02/13
81	Mr. J. Manikandan	Tuticorin	01/13
	Advisors	Representing Association	Attendance
82	Mr. P.S. Krishnan	FFFAI	03/13
83	Mr. Rafeeq Iqbal	FFFAI	03/13
84	Mr. Debashis Dutta	FFFAI	11/13
	Special Invitee	Port	Attendance
85	Mr. Paresh Thakker	Mumbai	02/03
	Invitees	Port	
86	Mr. Ajay Sharma	Ahmedabad	
87	Mr. Avdhesh Saraswat	Ahmedabad	
88	Mr. Ratan Singh	Ahmedabad	
89	Mr. Dapshan Mashroo	Ahmedabad	
90	Mr. Belli Gowda	Bangalore	
91	Mr. Gires N	Bangalore	
92	Mr. S.Nand Prakesh	Bangalore	
93	Mr. K.N.Shivanna	Bangalore	
94	Mr. Rajendranath Bharati	Hyderabad	





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95	Mr. Hemchandra Yadav	Kandla	
96	Mr. Amit Khanna	Kanpur	
97	Mr. Gurpreet S. Bains	Ludhiana	
98	Mr. Dinesh Gupta	Mundra	
99	Mr. Vinayak Apparaj	Mumbai	
100	Mr. Kirti Mehta	Mumbai	
101	Mr. Kuldip Thakur	New Delhi	
102	Mr. Swapan Chakraborty	West Bengal	
103	Mr. Sujit Chakraborty	West Bengal	
B)	Member Not Present -Request for leave of absence received		
	Executive Committee Members	Representing Association	Attendance
1	Mr. Puttaraju	Bangalore CHA Association Ltd	07/13
2	Mrs. Philomena V.Pereira	Aurangabad CHA Association	06/13
3	Mr. Manoj H. Kotak	Mundra CB Association	04/13
4	Mr. Arun Sharma	Rajasthan CHA Association	06/13
	Nominee of Associate Members	Port	Attendance
5	Mr. Tej Mayur Contractor	Mumbai	06/13
C)	Member Not Present -Request for leave of absence Not received		
	Executive Committee Members	Representing Association	Attendance
1	Mr. O.G.Hari Raj	Association CHA Trivandrum	01/13
2	Mr. Sarat Kumar K.K.	Association CHA Trivandrum	01/13
3	Mr. Kishore Parulekar	Brihanmumbai CHA Association	05/13
4	Mr. Suresh Dalvi	Brihanmumbai CHA Association	05/13
5	Mr. Raju Goswami	Calcutta CHA Association	02/13
6	Mr. Basanta Basu	Calcutta CHA Association	01/13
7	Mr. P.S. Rajkumar	Customs Broker's Assn Hyderabad	07/13
8	Mr. Anil Thacker	Kandla CHA Association	02/13
9	Mr. Sandip Mishra	Kanpur Customs Brokers Assn	02/13
10	Mr. Sunil Kumar Gupta	Kanpur Customs Brokers Assn	01/13
11	Mr. Kishore Saini	Ludhiana CHA Association	02/13
12	Mr. Edward J. Coelho	Mangalore CHA Association	00/13
13	Mr. P. Jeyanth Thomas	Tuticorin Customs Broker's Assn	03/13
14	Mr. C. Karthikeya Prabu	Tuticorin Customs Broker's Assn	03/13
15	Mr. K.V. Krishna Kumar	Visakhapatnam CHA Association	00/13
16	Mr. G. Rajesh	Visakhapatnam CHA Association	01/13





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17	Mr. P.V.Jagannath	Visakhapatnam CHA Association	02/13
18	Mr. Sachi Kumar Koley	West Bengal CHA Society	01/13
	Nominee of Associate Members	Port	Attendance
19	Mr. R.Radhakrishnan	Chennai	05/13
20	Mr. K.B.N. Prasad	Chennai	02/13
21	Mr. S.S.P. Ashoak	Tuticorin	00/13
22	Mr. Peter Thanasingh	Tuticorin	00/13
23	Special Invitee	Port	Attendance
24	Mr. Omprakesh Agrawal	Mumbai	02/13

Agenda no.1: **Meeting call to order by Hon Secretary.**

Welcome Address by Chairman –FFFAI

Mr. Amit Kamat welcomed the Executive Committee Members for the 13th Executive Committee Meeting for the term 2017-2019 being the last meeting of the term and thanked Chennai Association for making excellent arrangement for the meeting on behalf of Chairman and entire Executive Committee Members. He read out the notice of the 13th Executive Committee Meeting. He requested Chairman Mr. S. Ramakrishna to chair the meeting and conduct the proceedings.

As Mr. S. Ramakrishna stated that this is the last Executive Committee Meeting which will be chaired by him. He conveyed that with the co-operation and team work of each Committee Members during his small tenure was fantastic and applauded for the members.

He further stated that he was grateful to the Chennai Association who have always been as generous as anybody else for being fantastic host and appreciated their gesture and honour and thank the entire team of Chennai Association.

He read out Anti-trust Statement (Attached as annexure - A).

He further stated that he would like to make two announcements namely,

- As some members have their flights early hence election will start at 04:30 PM and requested those members to kindly register their name with FFFAI Secretariat so that priority could be given to them to cast their vote.
- As per rule and regulation governing FFFAI elections Secretariat has received all the documents from the members except 3 members and requested those members to kindly submit their documents i.e. F/G/H card or license where the names are appearing before 04:30 pm. This will avoid inconvenience to the association who have forwarded their names and will also help FFFAI in conducting elections properly.

Mr. S. Ramakrishna welcomed Mr. P. S. Krishnan and Mr. Debashis Dutta Board of Advisors of FFFAI.

Mr. Amit Kamat requested Mr. S. Nataraja to welcome the Executive Committee Members.

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Mr. S. Nataraja welcoming the members stated that it was their privilege for hosting the last Executive Committee Meeting at Chennai and thanked the members for participating in the august meeting and thanked the Chairman for giving them the opportunity for hosting the meeting. Chennai Association felicitated the Office Bearers of FFFAI and Board of Advisor with bouquet of flower.

Mr. Amit Kamat stated that following associations had their election and new set of Office Bearers were elected.

- 1) The Kakinada Customs Brokers' Association had their General Body Meeting and following members were elected as the Office Bearers and Managing Committee Members of the Associations for the term 2019-2021.

Sr. No	Name	Designation
01	Mr. Mandava Satyanarayana	President
02	Mr. A.K. V.Chalam	Vice President
03	Mr. Sriram Bhagavathi	Hon.Secretary
04	Mr. Dipak Bhat	Jt. Secretary
05	Mr. Badam Ravi	Treasurer
06	Mr. V.V.Raghavulu	E.C. Member
07	Capt. A. Diwakar Rao	E.C. Member
08	Mr. C.Narasimha Rao	E.C. Member
09	Mr. M.S. Kumar	E.C. Member
10	Mr. A.V.Rangarao	E.C. Member
11	Mr. P.V.Rao	E.C. Member

- 2) Mundra Customs Brokers' Association had their General Body Meeting and following members were elected as the Office Bearers and Managing Committee Members of the Associations for the term 2019-2021

Sr. No	Name	Designation
01	Mr. Dinesh Gupta	President
02	Mr. Sanjay Dave	Vice President
03	Mr. Manoj Kotak	Secretary
04	Mr. HemchandraYadav	Jt. Secretary
05	Mr. Pramod Soneta	Treasurer





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- 3) Chennai Customs House Agents Association had their General Body Meeting on 7th September 2019 and following members were elected as the Office Bearers and Managing Committee Members of the Associations for the term 2019-2021.

Sr. No	Name	Designation
01	Mr. S. Nataraja	President
02	Mr. Bujangaraam G	Vice President
03	Mr. Karunakaran C. V.	Vice President
04	Mr. ZahirHussan M. A	Vice President
05	Mr. R. N. Sekar	Secretary
06	Mr. Divakaran P Nair	Joint Secretary
07	Mr. A. S. Aleemuddin	Treasurer

- 4) West Bengal Custom House Agents' Society had their AGM on 20th September, 2019 and following were elected as the Office Bearer for the term

Sr. No	Name	Designation
01	Mr. Shankar Prasad Verma	President
02	Mr. Raju Goswami	Senior Vice President
03	Mr. Debashis Modak	Vice President
04	Mr. SujitChakraborty	Vice President
05	Mr. PrabhatSrivastava	Secretary
06	Mr. SwapanChakraborty	Assistant Secretary
07	Mr. FaridZamal	Treasurer

He congratulated all the new elected members of the respective Association on behalf of Chairman and entire Executive Committee Members.

Agenda no.2: To note and grant leave of absence to all who have intimated. (note – no name announcements to be made).

Mr. Amit Kamat informed that a few Executive Committee members had request for leave of absence. He sought permission of the house to grant leave of absence to those who had requested. The house granted the permission.

Agenda no.3: To confirm the minutes of the 12th Executive Committee Meeting held at New Delhi on 23rd August, 2019 (Already sent by e-mail to members).

Mr. Amit Kamat stated that minutes of the 12th Executive Committee Meeting was circulated in advance and requested the house for observations if any in the minutes.

As there were no observations the minutes were unanimously approved duly proposed by Mr. M. Satyanarayana and seconded Mr. Rajdeep Bhargava.





Agenda no.4: To discuss regarding Indian Institute of Freight Forwarders matters: (IIFF)

Mr. Samir J. Shah stated that Ministry of Skill Development, Logistics Skill Council wanted to undertake project which is known as recognition of prior learning which means the staff working for the Customs Brokers must undergo small training program. The Training program will be between 18 hours to 20 hours which will be conducted at local association. After the training exams will be conducted and basis on the examination every staff working in this sector will get certificate of proficiency from the Central Government that he is good enough to work for Customs. He further stated that we are parallel working with CBIC through NACEN to ensure that Customs Brokers staff gets continual training. The module is being work out wherein members needs not pay more Rs.150/- to 200/- for the 18-40 hours program. The Government of India will pay for the training also.

He continued saying that FFFAI will approach the members in 28 locations as it is the Government Initiative which needs to do through Association and is known as RPL (Recognition of prior learning).

Agenda no.5: To approve applications received for Associate and Allied membership of FFFAI

Mr. Amit Kamat informed members that FFFAI had received 15 new applications for Associate membership 5new applications for Allied membership. He said that the applications were in order and requested the approval of the house for their admittance to the membership of FFFAI.

The house unanimously approved applications received for Associate and Allied membership of FFFAI.(Annexure B).

Agenda no.6: To consider & approve the Secretariat Report for the term 2018-2019

Mr. Amit Kamat informed the house that the Annual Secretariat Report was circulated to all the members of FFFAI and is also tabled in the meeting.

The Annual Secretarial Report was unanimously accepted and adopted by the house duly proposed by Mr. Karunakar Shetty and seconded Mr.Alan Jose.

Agenda no.7: To consider & approve the Income &Expenditure Account, Balance Sheet & Auditor's report for the financial year ended 31st March 2019

Mr. Amit Kamat informed members that the financial statements for the year ended 31st March, 2019 were circulated in advance and are tabled in the meeting.

Mr. M. Satyanarayana stated in the audited Balance Sheet and Income Expenditure statement there are certain amounts payable and receivable as on 31st March, 2019 and wanted to know whether they are cleared or pending as there is huge amount shown as payable and receivable.





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Mr. S. Ramakrishna informed Honorary Treasurer to appraise the house. He said he would like to complement each and every member from bottom of his heart for recovering the entire amount on account of FIATA World Congress 2018 and there is not bad debt. The amount receivable of Rs. 11 lakh is from FIATA on whose behalf FFFAI had done the expense. At FIATA the entire Secretariat has quit leaving few old stalwarts. The accounts are with them which they are likely considering to clear it and issue will be resolved.

Mr. Vinod Sharma conveyed his sincere thanks to all Members, Senior, Advisors, Office Bearers and Chartered Accountants for making the FIATA World Congress 2018 successful. He thanked M/s. B. M. Mehta & Co., M/s. Ashu Dalmia & Associate who helped to rectify and generated correct invoices. He thanked Chairman from bottom of his heart for supporting him to overcome the challenges. He thanked Mr. Kartik Pancholi for his suggestion in introducing combo package which helped to reduce cost for candidates and increase delegate registration. He thanked Mr. Mr. Alan Jose for getting International delegates in large number. There were 1175 delegates participation in the FIATA World Congress 2018 which was history in FIATA World Congress held till date.

In reply to query raised by Mr. M. Satyanarayana, Mr. Vinod Sharma stated that there are no payments receivable except two payments to be made which are shown in the balance sheet.

Mr. Philip CC stated that that as per financial statement there is an amount as interest payable on GST & TDS hence wanted to know whether we did not have funds to pay the GST & TDS in time or there was some other reason for not paying.

Mr. Vinod Sharma replied that due to error in system generated invoices the payment of GST had got delayed hence we had to pay the interest.

Mr. S. Ramakrishna further supplemented saying that organizing FWC 2018 was first time in the history of FFFAI. The FWC 2018 was complicated, difficult and more than that GST as law which was introduced in July 2017 is still not understood in the right perspective after two years. The FWC 2018 account was done on cash basis but while paying the GST we were not able to segregate the amount to pay the GST as per the requirement. Also, there was confusion whether members will be able to take the credit if the bill is in the name of company. It was decided to obtain ISD registration and we will make all expenses at Delhi against those GST, take credit and transfer the credit to Mumbai GST account, Mumbai eventually will bill to individual members.

Mr. P. S. Krishnan congratulated and appreciated in the way the FWC 2018 was conducted. Organising such an event was not easy and he further conveyed that FIATA World Congress 2018 was conducted in fantastic manner and appreciated the whole team for the hard work done especially Honorary Treasurer.

Mr. Vinod Sharma thanked M/s. B. M. Mehta & Co., auditors of FFFAI and FFFAI Secretariat staff for their support. He stated that his year was full of challenges and learning. He thanked all the Advisors of FFFAI, Office Bearers and Executive Committee members for believing him to deliver the responsibilities. He further stated that this was the great year in the history of FFFAI as we have surplus of 1.23 crore which is contributed by all the sponsors, advertisers, exhibitors and Executive Committee Members without which it would not have been possible.

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As there were no other observations as regards the Income & Expenditure Account, Balance Sheet for the year ended 31st March 2019, the house unanimously approved the Financial Statements for the year ended 31st March 2019.

Mr. Amit Kamat stated that there is one more points connected with this agenda point i.e. appointment of auditors and fixing of remuneration for financial year April 2019 to March 2020. We have not received the consent letter and remuneration from our auditor M/s. B. M. Mehta & Co., and requested Chairman to elaborate further on the issue.

Mr. S. Ramakrishna stated as per regulatory norms whether one Chartered Accountant can continue for more than 3 years if it is so then we have to change the auditor. He conveyed that audit report was received almost after 4 months due to delay on part of auditor hence there were considerable difficulties faced.

He conveyed that he would leave to new committee for taking the best decision.

Agenda no.8: To announce (tabled) nominations received from Ordinary Member (Member Associations) to the FFFAI Executive Committee for the term 2019-2021 approved by Returning Officer.

Mr. Amit Kamat stated that we have received nomination from 28 Ordinary Member (Member Associations) as per the criteria of FFFAI. All the nomination received were scrutinized by Returning Officers. He read out the names of the nominees nominated by the 28 Ordinary Members (Member Association) **[Annexure C]**

He further stated that as informed by Chairman during commencing of meeting that few nominees have to submit their F card or Customs Brokers License where their names appear are requested to kindly submit the same to FFFAI Secretariat.

Agenda no.9: To announce (tabled) nominations received from Associate and Allied members to the FFFAI Executive Committee for the term 2019-2021 approved by Returning Officer.

Mr. S. Ramakrishna stated that we have received nomination for nominee of Associate and Allied members which have been scrutinized by Returning Officers. Out the nominations received there are 15 nominations which are not in order and 13 nominations are in order. **(Annexure D)**

He further stated that as per practice we would give one more opportunity to the nominee of Associate and Allied members to clear their discrepancy and submit the same before the next Executive Committee meeting along with proper documents as there are large number of members in Federation who are keen to work with the Federation and it will be real pleasure for FFFAI to be inclusive association and do not want to exclude anybody. He requested members to submit the required document which is not prestigious issue but requirement of the law.





Mr. Philip CC stated that FFFAI has requested the Member Associations to nominate nominees with F card, valid license and details. Accordingly Member Associations have verified the documents before nominating the nominees and if FFFAI has the problem it should be intimated to the local association to provide the documents and cannot ask the individual members to provide the same. He stated further that while becoming member of FFFAI had submitted Customs Broker license to FFFAI hence it is available with FFFAI.

Mr. S. Ramakrishna responded saying that had spoken with President of Mangalore Association and was informed that it will be informed to the nominated nominees to submit the required documents.

Mr. S. Ramakrishna requested members to voluntarily submit the same to FFFAI Secretariat.

Agenda no. 10: **To report on activities done**

This point was not discussed.

Agenda no.11: Open brief discussions on:

Agenda no.11a.:**Customs Matters**

Mr. S. Ramakrishna stated those members who did not attend the 12th EC Meeting at New Delhi have missed the momentous one in the history of FFFAI.

Member CBIC (Legal) Dr. John Joseph and JS Customs Mr. L. Satya Srinivas addressed the members and there was excellent interactive session.

Though FFFAI Secretariat had circulated specific points of Customs Brokers related issue and problems faced by members, show cause notices issued with Customs Brokers name etc., however, very few members responded.

He further stated that FFFAI had sent circulars providing facility to members to help them recovery of outstanding from their clients. He requested all the members and President of the Association to respond and utilize the facility given by FFFAI.

Mr. Rajesh Verma stated that exporters are getting the AEO certificate but are not getting any benefits for RMS clearances. While filing the shipping bill there is no provision available to put the AEO certificate number hence how system will recognize whether the exporter is AEO certified and if Government wish to give some benefit the exporter will not be able to take.

Mr. S. Ramakrishna agreed that facility to put the AEO certificate is not available for export whereas it is available only for imports. The issue was taken up during the CCG Meeting and in the next term will follow up.

Mr. Rajesh Verma further stated there is another issue faced at Ludhiana regarding weight variations and it takes long time to resolve the issue at grass root level.





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Mr. R. Sreedhar stated that issue is regarding Sea Cargo Manifest Regulation (SCMR) which will get implemented within 45 days. As per the guidelines of SCMR the invoice value is not mandatory but shipping lines are mandatorily asking to put the invoice value and wanted to know whether it is mandatory to put the invoice value or not on bill of entry. Secondly there is no scope on SCMR for Customs Brokers as once the shipping bill gets registered the PCN number is generated automatically which goes directly to the shipper, custodian and shipping lines nothing comes to the Customs Brokers.

Mr. S. Ramakrishna replied to the points raised on weight, the issue was discussed with JS (Customs) during the 12th Executive Committee Meeting over lunch it was informed that VGM is prevalent throughout the world therefore it essential that if there is dispute ask shippers to compulsory send the VGM details so that such kind of dispute can be addressed. He stated that if the proposal is accepted that invoice and packing list should be mandatory documents along with bill of entry.

As far as UQC is concern in the system they have given parallel both UQC as per the tariff and UQC normally sold or invoiced. There is an issue how it is invoiced or put in the bill of entry.

He further stated that saying that if we really realize probably the item will be much lower and majority of the item there is duality of putting UQC in system of imports as per the tariff as well as invoice is possible. As per the provision of GST every manufacturer need to have stock statement, in that stock statement it goes automatically in the form of HSN code whatever declared hence there is less choice but to declare UQC as per what has been given. He complemented Mr. Rajesh Verma for his wonderful job in compiling data which was submitted to CBIC. He requested the members to compile more such information for further representation.

He responded to query raised on SCMR that SCMR is for shipping company and freight forwarder and not for the Customs Brokers. As per the circular it is required to mention invoice declaration in the bill of lading, but shipping lines are not willing to mention. He added that he had discussed with DG – System. During his discussion with DG System it was understood that even USA does not have such provision.

It is required to understand why Government is looking for HSN code and invoice value of the same. Eventually 167 countries have signed the agreement wherein one countries IGM will become another country EGM and vis-a-versa hence would like to carry out the same declaration which has been filed by the exporting country in terms of HSN, value and description has to come on the bill of lading. As of now it has been informed to provide first six digits of HSN code of major five commodities. The Government is keen to have data and statics that there are no variation between the exporting country and importing country. He requested Mr. Samir J. Shah to supplement on the issue.

Mr. Samir J. Shah supplemented saying that one country IGM will become EGM of another is the first stage, the second stage what WCO is talking about and also TFA wants is that there will be only one processing in exporting country, importing country will not process the cargo but will only collect the duty and check the licensing if any. World over there is resistance to put value on the bill of lading but there is no resistance to put HSN code on bill of lading except for some African countries but it appears that value and HSN on documents of carriage will become reality. He further said in 2024 the Customs Brokers will not be doing import clearance but will be doing only filing and payment of duty.





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Mr. R.K.Mehrotra stated that when any Commissioner issues alert it is not binding factor but just a legal opinion hence still show cause notices are issued to the importer immediately. He requested to take up the issue.

Mr. Pramod Soneta stated that nowadays we are getting remarks that drawback suspended kindly take approval from GST Commissioner and when approaching GST Commissioner it is informed that we are under LUT and no case is pending but there is no provision available on the system to mention that case is clear, drawback should be released.

Mr. Shankar Shinde stated that with regard to UQC, the major problem faced is Regular terms which takes as per international agreements which comes under the pieces and quantity but as per the tariff we try to convert into kgs, the issue comes when cargo goes for examination where there is variation in the weight due to conversion from pieces to kgs for the purpose of tariff. According to the Customs we should consider the weight which had come for the purpose of valuation which is the pain point, rather than the contract which is taking place between the two parties on the quantity base.

Mr. Divakaran Nair raised the issue regarding KYC and stated that after implementation of Turant the entire process is getting simplified as well as Customs is focusing more on compliance. He suggested that KYC document which is submitted to DGFT online by importer exporter can be integrated with ICEGATE which will safeguard the Customs Brokers.

Mr. P. S. Krishnan conveyed that any rules and regulation which are laid down by the Government are utilizing the same for their commercial advantage. He further requested the Chair to address issue of future of Customs Brokers.

Mr. S. Ramakrishna replied that FFFAI had addressed issue with Special Secretary (Logistics) Mr. Siva Sailam regarding the issue of Shipping Company.

He further stated that on SMTR we have represented that freight forwarder and shipping companies are charges to the Customs Brokers as manifest charges whereas they use the ICEGATE portal free of cost. FFFAI addressing considerable issue pertaining to Customs Brokers which take considerable time to fructify after they are addressed.

Mr. S. Nataraja conveyed that Chennai Association had forwarded LCL issue but so far have not received any feedback whereas Ministry of Shipping has given reply to Chennai Association.

Mr. Sudhir Agarwal further stated that there is issue at Nagpur at grass root level regarding valuation of imported items. The validity of information in NIDB data is not relevant on many occasions and there are several judgments passed by Courts stating that NIDB data is not substantial proof for carrying out valuation.





Mr. R. Kumar stated that whenever the load port is putting charges on the BL it is very useful for paying the amount and clearing the cargo but whenever charges are not mentioned shipping lines are charging abnormal charges for which Customs Brokers does not have any control.

Mr. S. Ramakrishna responded to the issued raised by the members as under;

- HSN Code – There are difficulties for HSN Code hence FFFAI had circulated to members to provide the difficulties faced so that it could be addressed.
- Audit – If there is variation in the weight and value, it is the justification which should be given by the importer whether that is valid or not.
- GST Issue – There were 5600 people blacklisted. There is direction from the Government that within 30 days they have to clear. The Government has come with clear mandate that how NOC should be taken from GST Directorate of that particular exporter and that the NOC will go to RMCC, RMCC sitting in Mumbai will forward to Dy. Commissioner or Jt. Commissioner at your location who is in-charge of drawback cell in the GST and alert will be taken out but it is difficult to get RMCC people initiated as they say it is the job of the Dy. Commissioner or Jt. Commissioner drawback who has to do it. There is gap to that extent otherwise procedure-wise it is very clearly implemented
- LUT export is not coming under alert it is the inputs credit against that export is coming under alert.
- KYC- as FFFAI we have given suggestion to develop centralized online KYC and during discussion in SCOPE meeting it was suggested by Special Secretary Logistics for developing central KYC process on FFFAI platform.
- Shipping lines charges are being taken up with the Special Secretary (Logistics). There is meeting on 30th, the Special Secretary (Logistics) is very clear that Shipping Lines charges are very exorbitant which needs to be reduced. The Special Secretary (Logistics) has also put responsibility on us to provide the original bills which are received by the Shipping Company to Exim Trade which is not conducive kind of suggestion as none of the freight forwarder can do it.

Mr. S. Nataraja stated that he had read the agenda of the DG Shipping meeting wherein they had quote three points, in which one of point was of CSLA Chairman – Mr. Deepak Tiwari stated that all the charges which are collected by the shipping lines are posted on the website.

Mr. S. Ramakrishna stated that every Shipping Companies are displaying their charges of terminal handling and the local handling charges on their website which was informed by Mr. Deepak Tiwari. During the meeting Special Secretary (Logistics) it was informed that there are urgent steps being taken to display THC and local handling charges in port community systems which will bring transparency in the system.





Agenda no.11b.:**GST & Service Tax Matters.**

Mr. Rajesh Verma stated that on Service Tax issue we are trying to make consolidated list of show cause notices issued for submitting to Member (Legal). He informed that Ludhiana Association has sent the list. He requested other Associations to forward the list as Sabh Ka Sath Sabh Ka Vishwas scheme in on and Department is asking all the notice to come forward and are unnecessary pressuring to deposit the tax and avail the scheme even if is not applicable. He opined that we should take up the issue.

Mr. M. Satyanarayana said as per the communication some members have forwarded the status of the show cause notices and suggested that there should be some deadline given and members who have not provided the details we should not wait and go ahead to represent with the details provided by the members.

He further stated GST audit will get initiated in near future hence FFFAI should upgrade the members how to go about the audit, what precaution to be taken.

Mr. S. Ramakrishna stated that during the meeting with Member (Legal) it was categorically informed that Sab Ka Sath Sab Ka Vishwas is for those people who have done mistake hence instead of going into litigation they can use this facilitation to correct the mistake by paying the penalty, but in those cases where there is no liability to be paid Government, there is no point in making application through Sab Ka Sath Sab Ka Vishwa scheme. This issue also has been addressed with Member (Legal) and Member (Legal) wanted small note which also has been submitted to him.

He further stated that regarding service tax every member has a problem but none of the members are compiling the show cause notices and forwarding to FFFAI. He once again requested members to compile the show notice sand forward to FFFAI, FFFAI will analysis the issue and take it up. Also the GST consultant is appointed in each region who will give opinion by charging Rs.10,000/- only and if require will fight the case with much lower rate than the other advocates.

Agenda no.11c.: **Port & Sea Freight related Issues.**

Mr. Ganpat Korade stated the CFS charges charged by steamer agents, NVOCCs and forwarders are very high. The issue was discussed with CFS operators to collect the charges as per the tariff mentioned on their website but few CFS have informed that charges are collected as per the directive of NVOCCs or forwarders which is not as per the tariff mentioned in their website.

Mr. S. Ramakrishna responded that during the meeting with Ministry CFSAI was also part of the meeting. The Ministry had set up another committee and they need to give report within three months. The following issues were informed.

- a. The shipping lines should not charge any CFS preference charge





- b. CFS should identify LCL charges which should be properly displayed on their website and apart from that displayed charges no other charges should be paid by the forwarders, Customs Brokers or by the importer.

Agenda no.11d.:**Airport & Air Freight related issues.**

Mr. Dushyant Mulani stated that certain custodians are charging for certain heads which are not approved by the AERA like EDI charge, Customs processing charge, document uploading charges.

He suggested across the country whether it is private custodian or Government custodian like Airport Authority of India. The data should be collated about the AERA charges which are in public domain and compare where the charges charged by the custodians are as per the gazette notification issued by the AERA or not. If not we need to take up the issue with the authorities.

He further stated that Special Secretary (Logistics) had also mentioned about the shortage of infrastructure at all airport and wanted data airport-wise and will depute team for inspecting airport-wise to get it improved.

Mr. Vipin Vohra stated that when freight forwarders are approaching the airlines to collect the delivery orders, delivery order is being issued but are not issuing the invoices though airlines are charging GST. Further he stated that lots of airlines are not accepting cheques and asking for the demand draft due to which there is lot of delay. He continued further saying that there are lot of airlines who does not allow deducting TDS also and wanting full amount.

Mr. P. S. Atree stated at Delhi also Custodian have started charging customs facilitation fee per kilo. The issue has been taken up with the Customs and AERA also. Even for deconsolidation of cargo also they are charging per kilo. He opined that different airports are charging different charge for the services which they were giving earlier also hence it is required to collate the data and taken up with the authorities.

Mr. S. Ramakrishna responded to Mr. Vipin Vohra stating that being Convener of Airfreight Council it should be spearhead by him and should collect the data on national level for representing. He further stated as per the documentation charges, facilitation charges, EDI etc., the issue has been addressed to Board Special Secretary and Ms. Vandana Aggarwal. FFFAI had taken up the issue very seriously wherein department has requested to provide the proof which was also submitted. He added that we cannot fight with custodian and airlines but it is required that objection is raised in each and every forum and national federation meeting of common points without any fear or taking advantage position it should be raised so that message goes across loud and clear.

Mr. Vipin Vohra continued further stated that for last 5-6 years the issue on Air Freight Station is pending as the terminal operators are not agreeing to the charges and Ministry of Civil Aviation is not able to take any decision.





Mr. S. Ramakrishna stated that DO without GST is gross violation and requested to provide the list of airlines so that communication can be sent to the airlines with copy of the GST Principal Commissioner wherever they are registered by which issue will get resolved. As far as cheque is concerned it is the commercial transaction and cannot force upon. TDS is the responsibility of the Customs Brokers to deduct it. He suggested if not able to deduct atleast for safety of Customs Brokers take it as net amount and pay TDS on gross amount as it is expense for us. He further stated that there will be argument that DO is not in the name of Customs Brokers therefore TDS cannot be deducted. In that case the on the bill it should be stamped stating it is the responsibility of EXIM trade whether it is importer or exporter to deduct TDS and give it to airlines so that liability does not come on Customs Brokers.

Agenda no.11e.:ICD related issues

Mr. Dileep Abraham stated that after recent reorganizing Coimbatore got integrated into Trichy Commissionerate it was represented to the Commissioner that there are 24 formations and Coimbatore and Trichy Customs Brokers are confined to file the shipping bills only in Coimbatore and Tripurand unable to file the shipping bills in another locations under same Commissionerate but no positive reply has been received. As the Coimbatore Commissioner has been transferred the formation is under Tuticorin Commissioner but have not represented as it was for brief period. He query whether the issue should be represented to the Board or not. He further stated that representation was forwarded to FFFAI so that Coimbatore Brokers gets integrated in the National directory so that shipping bills can be filed in all formation under the same Commissionerate.

Mr. S. Ramakrishna explained the house that earlier Coimbatore was under Coimbatore Commissionerate where in Tripur was part of it now the Commissionerate has been moved from Coimbatore to Trichy. The issue raised by the Coimbatore association is that Coimbatore license need not be endorsed anywhere and should be operative automatically.

He suggested fixing appointment with Chief Commissioner, Mr. A. V. Vijayakumar can visit and explain the issue to Chief Commissioner and try to resolve it.

Mr.Dileep Abraham stated further that recently there was form G exam conducted at Coimbatore. It was notified by the department that there will be written and oral exam hence had written to the Commissioner that as per the regulation only written exam should be conducted which was disregarded and exam was conducted. 26 applicants cleared the written examination and only 1 applicant cleared the oral examination. The case has been filed by one of members against the Commissioner stating that written exam is not mandatory which has not be replied by the department since 6-8 months and case is pending at Madurai High Court bench.

Mr. S. Ramakrishna replied that as per the Regulation it is only written examination but there are various location where both the examinations are conducted. He stated that we should wait for the development of the case filed by the member. In the meantime we will address the issue to JS (Customs), Member (Customs) with copy of Member (Admin).





Agenda no.12: Any other matter with the permission of the Chair.

Mr. S. Ramakrishna stated the Special Secretary (Logistics) is working very closely with Federation to give opportunity to work on Agri Logistics. He said there is co-operative society who had made study on Agri Logistics. During the Varansi conference also it was observed that local agriculturist were talking about the same. The intension is that agriculturist get very small value of money of its produce whereas when it comes to market or the user it is huge cost also there is loss of produce due to wrong handling etc., hence the co-operative society which is headed by IFS Officer they have made matrix that how value can be generated for agriculturist as well as end user along with intermediaries. The Special Secretary (Logistics) has stated that as Federation if we can work on this project it will be one more avenue to do the business. The Logistic Skill Council has developed packing material which is required for first mile to last mile without any wastage is being worked out. APEDA is also involved in terms of quality certification, grading certification etc.

Mr. Samir J. Shah stated that meeting was called by Special Secretary (Logistics) which was attended by FFFAI. During recent interaction the Special Secretary (Logistics) he query whether FFFAI members would be interest in

- i) Domestic India
- ii) To develop new export product

It was replied that our members would be interested. He gave the example stating that in Karnataka Tomatoes, Cabbage, Onion, Pomegranate and Pink Onions are going across the country but there is no system in which it is happening. One of the Government body has done study and have come out with the portal, while studying the portal it was observed that there is manufacturer and the buyer but needs the service provider in between to connect them. It was informed that FFFAI members can be the service providers. There is correspondence going on and we need to submit the business plan for our members. The similar thing came up from Madhya Pradesh – Chindwada that they have manufacturing unit but whatever is getting manufactured are getting waste. In India 39% agri product is getting waste. Similarly during Varanasi we got offer for handicraft item. He said we are preparing paper for submitting to Special Secretary (Logistics) that FFFAI members are interested and will participate in logistics activities within the country also. He added that it is not credit business which is good for Customs Brokers. The Customs Brokers will act as service provider by picking up the cargo, complete paper work and deliver it. As regards to Pink Onion in the whole world they are grown only in Bangalore. Those people are looking out for Customs Brokers and freight forwarders as they do not know how to export though they have buyers overseas. He stated these are the new opportunities which Federation can think for its members and requested members to take this opportunity.

He further stated that recently Mr. S. Ramakrishna had visited Nepal and there are lots of opportunities for Customs Brokers to work on such type of cargo with Nepal also.





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Agenda no.13: **Vote of Thanks**

Mr Amit Kamat thanked Executive Committee Members for attending the Executive Committee Meeting and Mr. S. Ramakrishna for chairing the meeting. The meeting concluded with recital of National Anthem.

For Federation of Freight Forwarders' Associations in India

Sd/-

Amit Kamat

Honorary Secretary

To: All Executive Committee Members of FFFAI

To: All Presidents of Member Associations of FFFAI

To: All Board of Advisors of FFFAI

