



**OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER OF CUSTOMS
CUSTOMS PREVENTIVE COMMISSIONERATE
M G ROAD: VIJAYAWADA**

STANDING ORDER NO:: /2015

**STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES FOR RUMMAGING AND BOARDING
OFFICERS AT KAKINADA SEA PORT AND KRISHNAPATNAM SEA PORT
UNDER THE JURISIDICION OF CUSTOMS (PREVENTIVE)
COMMISSIONERATE, VIJAYAWADA.**

Consequent to the formation of Customs (Preventive) Commisisonerate, Vijayawada the following Standard Operating Procedures including the duties and functions of Boarding and Rummaging formalities at Kakinada Sea Port and Krishnapatnam Sea Port are hereby laid down for information and strict compliance.

(1) Standard Operating Procedure for Boarding formalities::

- (i) The shipping line shall have to inform the Boarding Officer about the arrival of the vessel at least 48 hrs. in advance where the voyage from the last port of call exceeds 4 (four) days and at least 10 hrs. in any other cases.
- (ii) On arrival of the vessel, the shipping line will approach the Boarding Officer of Customs, for granting entry inwards to unload imported goods at approved places as envisaged under Section 31 and entry outwards to load export of Cargo under Section 39 of the Customs Act, 1962.
- (iii) A Vessels Register shall be maintained at Preventive Unit to record/monitor arrival and Departure of the vessels. The shipping line should make entry in the Registers maintained with regard to details of the vessel, ETA, ETD, Berth No etc
- (iv) Unloading and loading of cargo shall be subject to the provisions of Section 34 of the Customs Act, 1962.
- (v) As per the provision of Section 37 of the Customs Act, 1962, the vessels berthed at the approved places will remain under the Preventive control of the Officers posted at concerned Customs Preventive Units.
- (vi) The Boarding officer is the first government official to deal with the foreign vessel on its first arrival to Indian ports and he has various responsibilities on his shoulders. Simultaneously, he has to act as an ambassador of the country and has to initiate customs formalities and procedure without causing any inconvenience to the trade.

- (vii) He shall board all the vessels on their first arrival in India and collect the Arrival report consisting of General declaration, Vessel's stores list, Crew list, private property list of the members of the crew, a detailed list of embarking / disembarking of the passengers/crew, list of same bottom cargo, Vessel Cargo, vessel's currency declaration, list of arms, ammunition and satellite phones, list of permissible dangerous drugs for the use of vessel or its crew, if any, etc.,
- (viii) He shall verify Bond stores and the consumable stores of the vessel with the declaration and shall put the items like liquor, cigarettes, tobacco, arms & ammunition and other sensible items of the vessel and its crew, under customs seal.
- (ix) He shall carry checks of minimum 5% of the property in possession of the crew with their declaration and shall put the excess quantity, if any, under seal.
- (x) He shall physically check the "Deck and load line" of the vessel to the effect that are clearly marked and well preserved and shall make an endorsement accordingly on the Arrival report.
- (xi) He shall verify the declaration of gift/ favour parcels, if any, check the nature of contents, port of delivery, consignee/consigner, direct the master of the vessel to get them cleared through Customs at Divisional Office.
- (xii) He shall check the shops or the 'slopchest' in accordance with the list provided by the master of the vessel, in a selective manner and put them under paper seals.
- (xiii) He shall verify and ascertain that there are no undeclared / prohibited goods on board the vessel by taking casual stroll around the deck crew cabins etc.,
- (xiv) He shall regularly intimate the Rummaging section about the arrival / departure of the vessels into/ from the port/harbor.
- (xv) Any discrepancies in the quality or quantity of the stores of the vessel or the property of the crew should be reported to the Assistant Commissioner (Preventive) through the Superintendent
- (xvi) He shall forward the Arrival report and other documents to the import department/ Manifest clearance Department without any delay.
- (xvii) While carrying out the above duties, the Boarding Officer should be courteous, take utmost care while entering the cabins and checking the private belongings of the crew, not to disturb the crew sleeping after night duties, as far as possible.
- (xviii) He shall keep an updated record of arrival/ departure programme of all the vessels in the Port and shall maintain a register for all the vessels arrived / anchored in the stream or taken berth in the docks, indicating all the details therein.
- (xix) The Boarding Officer should not be negligent or lenient or compromise in attending the duties entrusted to him.

(2) Standard Operating Procedure for Rummaging Activity::

- (i) Customs Preventive staff are empowered to board any conveyance carrying imported / export goods, inspect/ search or required the person in-charge to produce any documents and answer any questions in respect of such documents, under the provisions of Sections 37,38,106 and 141 of Customs Act,1962.
- (ii) Rummaging is an extension of Preventive activity into the sea by way of patrolling coastal areas, boarding ships anchored at the outer anchorage for purpose of rummaging the ship and detect any contraband items concealed in cavities of the ship. The rummaging of the vessels will be carries out inside the Port / Harbour areas also.
- (iii) The trend in smuggling activities slowly shifting towards Narcotics and weapons from Gold and Electronic items etc., and in the interest of safety and security of the country, such activities should be checked and prevented at the entry stage, itself.
- (iv) To verify and monitor the interdiction of contraband, prohibited/restricted goods, the goods carried by the crew in commercial quantities, secreted/concealed in the vessels or personal belongings of the crew etc.,
- (v) The Officers of Customs Preventive Unit (CPU) shall board and thoroughly rummage the vessels arriving from sensitive area/ports/ countries, carrying sensitive goods, having past history/ involvement in illegal activities or with specific intelligence gathered.
- (vi) Once after arrival of Vessel with cargo at a customs location, the necessary details of arrival of goods / Import General Manifest has to be filed with customs.
- (vii) Any variation in such quantities of IGM and physical availability of goods on board the vessels found to be a willful mis-declaration and amounts to be a 'smuggling activity'. In such situations the customs preventive officials shall take necessary steps to cross check declarations, crew property list etc., to confirm that no items have been left out to declare in IGM.
- (viii) While rummaging the vessels the Preventive Officers should be polite and courteous and take utmost care in dealing with the crew and officers of the vessel.
- (ix) The vessel agents shall have to make necessary conveyance/ transportation arrangements of the Boarding and Rummaging Officers to reach the vessel, safely.

The above procedures can be amended based on functional requirements by the Commissioner, Customs Preventive Commissionerate, Vijayawada.

(S K RAHMAN)
COMMISSIONER