

Customs allows importers to claim concessions on duty & taxes

Customs department has now allowed importers to claim concessions on duty and taxes through certificates in advance before filing the Goods Declaration (GDs). According to the notice issued by Model Customs Collectorate (MCC), Appraisement West, the department in order to facilitate the trade & Industry eliminate the unnecessary steps causing delay in clearance of goods and putting heavy rush on Weboc system.

Furthermore, it said that importers/customs agents shall mention the bill of lading & date on front of certificate with black pointer and they should affix the seal of company and signature of authorized person at the front of certificate.

It said that FTA cell shall process the verification on existing procedure and issue a certified copy to the importers/custom agents by endorsing the verification status with seal & signature of authorized person not below the name of principal appraiser. The importers/exporters have now been allowed to submit the certified copy through their user IDs at the time of filing of GDs along with all required documents and mention the words FTA/SAPTA (or otherwise) on column of description of goods for intimation purpose to assessing officer.

The assessing officer should entertain the said verified scanned copy of concessionary certificate without calling further verification and all importers/customs agents listed in Green Chanel should follow the procedure to file concessionary certificate in advance instead of after clearance of goods.

Meanwhile, Senior Vice Chairman of All Pakistan Customs Agents Association (APCAA) Arshad Jamal said that the APCAA firstly brought the issue into the notice of authorities concerned that led the said decision. He also appreciated the MCC Appraisement West for taking said decision in the light of APCAA's recommendations in order to facilitate the trade and importers at maximum level. He hoped that the APCAA would continue providing assistance to all departments concerned with the aim to make clearance system more advance, easy to handle and corruption-free.

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