

Self-clearance of 45 imported items suspended

Customs Appraisal South has ordered suspension of self-clearance of 45 imported items with effect from October 20, 2017 (today). According to sources, the commercial importers, who cleared consolidated or multiple consumer product consignments against a single index, used to clear the consignments on self-clearance process. Sources, however, said that self-clearance facility for miscellaneous consignments was being misused in connivance with customs officers, leading to serious financial shock to the kitty.

Therefore, it has been decided to suspend self-clearance of miscellaneous consignments with the aim to protect revenue leakages, sources maintained.

The importers shall now require filing goods declaration for clearance of such goods only through custom agents, licensed under section 207 of the Customs Act 1969.

Some 45 items including milk products, natural honey, prepared vegetables, fruits, nuts and other food products, coffee/tea, cereals products, meat, fish, sausages, sugar confectionary, chocolate and other food preparation containing coca, aerated waters, pet foods, tobaccos, cigarettes, cigars, essential oil, perfumes, cosmetics and toilet preparation, soap, washing preparations, lubricating preparations and polishing or scouring preparation, self-adhesive film, foil and tapes of plastics, bathroom articles, window blinds and other articles of plastics, tableware, kitchenware of plastic, glass, porcelain and ceramics, shoes, glass beads, artificial jewelry, watches, furniture, musical instruments, lights, toys, miscellaneous consumer articles, diapers all sorts, works of art, collectors pieces and antiques and others are now barred for self-clearance.

The notification further stated that the goods declaration filed in violation of the order shall be liable to cancellation, besides other punitive action under the relevant provisions of the Customs Act 1969. When contacted, Chief Collector Abdur Rasheed Sheikh said that the decision was made in the light of the reports, which revealed that some customs officers were involved in the imports of miscellaneous consignments and cleared the same on self-assessment basis. Therefore, the self-assessment on miscellaneous consignments has now been barred from today and the clearance of the miscellaneous consignments will now be done through clearing agents.

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