

Date: November 19, 2013

Shri. P Chidambaram
The Finance Minister
Ministry of Finance
North Block
New Delhi

Dear Sir,

Sub: Mumbai Courier Customs curtailing clearance of heavy weight shipments from
Courier terminal despite CBEC circular

Ref: CBEC Circular No. 85/98-Customs dated 13/11/1998 point 4
Public Notice No. 02/2013 dated 11.11.2013 issued by Commissioner of Customs

Retailers Association of India (RAI) is the unified voice of Indian retailers. RAI works with all the stakeholders for creating the right environment for the growth of the modern retail industry in India. It encourages, develops and supports retailers to become modern and adopt best practices that will delight customers.

RAI is the representative body of Retailers in India having over 900 member establishments including large and small retailers in the country and represents over 98000 stores in India. RAI has a three charter aim of Retail Development, Facilitation and Propagation.

We refer to the public notice No. 02/2013 dated 11.11.2013 issued by Commissioner of Customs Chatrapati Shivaji International Airport, Mumbai. Public notice informs that “all the parcels weighing more than 70 kgs. and arriving in Courier mode shall be transferred to Air Cargo Complex Sahar, Mumbai. Such parcels will be accessed and cleared as normal-air cargo at ACC Sahar, Mumbai”.

We are informed by our members that Mumbai Courier Customs till recently was the benchmark for transparency, efficiency and trade facilitation. By referring to CBEC Circular No. 85/98-Customs dated 13/11/1998 point 4, all shipments other than DGFT Chapter 3 licenses were being cleared in courier terminal by filing of formal bill of entry as per Bill of Entry (Forms) Regulations, 1976.

This assisted the trade by way of faster clearance apart from reducing transaction cost. The trade had the option to choose the mode of transport from Sea Cargo, Air Cargo or Express Cargo. Based on the speed and cost they would use the mode of transport.

Commissioner of Customs, CSI Airport, Mumbai has suddenly issued a public notice putting weight restrictions for clearance from the courier mode despite the infrastructure existing in

Mumbai and the fact that there is no such restriction from the Import Export policy or any threat to revenue leakage to the government or any security threat to the country due to such shipment. Such unilateral decisions and restrictive policies being taken at individual locations / Commissionerate will act as a deterrent to trade apart from setting incorrect examples / precedence to other locations, which can have direct negative bearing in the trade sentiments.

We seek your kind intervene immediately to reverse this trade defeating public notice so that **goods where the weight of individual package exceeds 70 kilograms get cleared from the courier mode itself**. We also would seek your support in removing trade defeating restrictions in the courier regulation, so that all shipments which moves on the courier (Express) mode get cleared from courier terminal itself and there should not be any transport mode related additional restriction other that what is mentioned in the Import Export policy.

We hope and believe that you will receive our representation favorably and look forward to your kind action in this regard.

Looking forward to an early reply,

Yours sincerely,

For Retailers Association of India



Gautam Jain
Head – Advocacy & Finance