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C.No. I(Gen)19-102/Cus/T/19-20

Indore, dated 04.04.2020

Trade Facilitation Advisory

Sub: Advisory for non-charging of containers detention charges and Ground rent charges for the period 24.03.2020 to 14.04.2020 -Reg

In the context of the national effort to battle COVID-19, the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India has issued Order No.40-3/2020 DM-I(A) dated 24.03.2020 to impose a complete lockdown in India for a period of 21 days.

2. Whereas Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India vide Order No.40-3/2020 DM-I(A) dated 25.03.2020 issued an addendum and included Customs clearance at ports/ airports/ land border in the exemption to Clause 1. Further, Operations of Railways and sea ports and their related organizations for cargo movement were also added in the exemption list.
3. This complete lockdown in the country has put the trade, particularly importers/ exporters, under a very difficult situation, as considering the prohibitory orders, transport of goods along with movement of Importers/ Exporters / Customs Brokers and their staff, is not feasible to secure the release of imported goods. Moreover, due to ongoing lockdowns and prohibitory orders loading and transportation of goods to the importers premises is also very difficult.
4. Apprehending that delay in securing release of goods from the ICD/CFS may result into containers detention charges levied by shipping lines along with container ground charges levied by CFS/ ICDs. Importers and Customs broker associations have requested the undersigned to look in to the matter.
5. In view of extra ordinary current scenario and nation's effort to contain the spread of COVID-19, Shipping lines and Custodians of ICDs are hereby advised to adopt a sympathetic and humanitarian approach while levying the container detention charges/ ground rent and may not impose any container detention charges/ ground rent charges on import cargo for the period 24.03.2020 to 14.04.2020, over and above the free time arrangement.

6. This is purely an advisory issued in public interest meant for combating the present Covid-19 pandemic.

7. Any difficulty faced by the trade may be brought to the notice of the Jurisdictional Deputy/ Assistant Commissioner of Customs, in-charge of the Customs port/station.

sd/-

(Neerav Kumar Mallick)
Commissioner

To,
As per mailing list.

M. Vastava
04/04/2020

Superintendent (Technical)
Customs Indore