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# Federation of Freight Forwarders' Associations in India

National Apex Body of CUSTOMS BROKERS' ASSOCIATIONS IN INDIA

FFFAI/LETTER/035 /2021

21.04.2021

Mr. M. Ajit Kumar  
Chairman  
Central Board of Indirect Taxes & Customs  
North Block,  
New Delhi – 110 001

Respected Sir,

The second wave of COVID 19 is spreading rapidly across the country and few States have introduced restrictions at various levels depending on the severity of the pandemic. Most of the major and metro cities are impacted by new surge and are struggling to control / protect the people.

Exemptions of restrictions have been considered for essential activities by different States at varying levels. However normal and routine life is hampered due to reliance of transport / movement facilities which are limited to contain the spread. Though we and our staff are risking our safety to ensure unhindered supply chain activity – including medical and essential services and cargo, our industry needs support from the Government authorities.

The new amendment to Section 46 is yet to settle down and there are challenges with compliance with disruption of normal life due to the new spread of the pandemic. Under the circumstances, till the second spell of COVID 19 settles down, Government - Central and State levels – withdraw the restrictions we request and suggest that the following may be considered:

- i. Waive any penal charge for delayed filing of Bill of Entry beyond the permissible limits – be it Air , Sea or ICD,
- ii. This be notified either by a Notification or Circular to avoid case to case approvals that lead to delays,
- iii. Alternatively each Customs Commissionerate may be allowed to issue suitable Public Notice or Facility Circular for waiver of penal charges for delayed filing of Bill of Entry,
- iv. Similarly time for computing interest on late payment of duty after assessment may be extended.

These are requests after considering various restrictions and filed level challenges presently our industry is facing with no clarity as to when the pandemic spread will be under control and uncertainty of the withdrawal of restrictions.

Thanking you,

Yours truly,  
For Federation of Freight Forwarders' Associations in India

A.V.Vijayakumar  
Chairman

