



Federation of Freight Forwarders' Associations in India

National Apex Body of CUSTOMS BROKERS' ASSOCIATIONS IN INDIA

FFFAI/CIR/091/2021

26.04.2021

To: All Trade Bodies/ Associations
(CII/FICCI/ASSOCHAM/FIEO/All Chamber of Commerce/ All Export Council/importer-Exporter)

Dear All,

Sub: Break the Chain

Many of the States are witnessing the second wave of COVID 19 which is spreading rapidly across the country and the States are struggling to control it. States to curb the impact and break the chain are introducing restrictions at various levels depending on the severity of the pandemic. Most of the major and metro cities are impacted by new surge and it has become a challenge to control / protect the people but at the same time ensure minimum impact on economic slowdown. With a view to balance both 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 Industry, Trade partners, Chambers of Commerce and National Associations and Federations.

With all the restrictions, limitation of facilities available, there are bound to be challenges / delays in handling of the Export/ Import cargo and just to illustrate –

- a) Receiving of documents by / from importers, preparation and uploading to Customs system,
- b) Difficulties and possible interruptions due to FAG / PAG allotments,
- c) Limited staff availability at Custodian areas – Port / Airport/ CFS /ICD, etc.,
- d) Work from Home approach by Carriers – disruptions in issue of invoices, delivery orders, Bills of Lading, container allocation, plot approvals,
- e) Uncertainty of transport / movements, placement of vehicles, availability of workforce / drivers,
- f) Night restrictions and limitation of travel and many more,.....

We are seeking your support, understanding and cooperation during the challenging time to bear with any delay as the situation is beyond our control as much as yours. We cannot and should not be made accountable for any disruption and the resultant cost till the pandemic settles down, all restrictions are withdrawn and normalcy of life restored.

We also seek your intervention to approach various Government Ministries for waiver of any / all penal charges payable to Customs, Custodians and Carriers for all delays and for their timely operations instead of time bound limitations.

Warm Regards,

A.V.Vijayakumar
Chairman

