



Federation of Freight Forwarders' Associations in India

NATIONAL APEX BODY OF CUSTOMS BROKERS ASSOCIATIONS & LOGISTICS SERVICE PROVIDERS IN INDIA

FFFAI/REP/159/2023

Date : 11-April-2023

Shri Vivek Johri
Chairman
Central Board of Indirect Taxes & Customs
North Block,
New Delhi

Respected Sir,

Re. Streamlining of Custom Duty Payment module - ECL

We appreciate the CBIC initiatives in trade facilitation with digitalisation and initiatives towards ease of doing business and faster clearances

Electronic Cash Ledger (ECL) has been implemented from 1st April 2023 and we appreciate the support of the team of Officers in DG Systems to address the initial teething issues to have given their best efforts to mitigate the technical issues.

FFFAI supports the initiatives of CBIC and committed to work together in addressing the issues along with its 30 member locations across country taking feedback through Google form to provide real time inputs from its members to have it timely addressed and are pleased to share the same for your kind perusal.

We would like to highlight the issues being faced for clearance of import consignments on timely basis feedback from members are as follows:

- There has been considerable difficulty in display of challans for duty payment. However, with efforts of DG Systems team, to a great extent this has been resolved but still there are some cases where challans are not visible.
- Integration of duty paid Bill of Entry issues are still noticed irrespective of mode of duty payments opted i.e ECL/ NEFT /RTGS/E-payments module.
- The ECL account module often have to be reactivated due to maintenance and reconciliation of accounts which was presently closed for two days on 10th and 11th April with balances in ECL account payments could not be effected and importers had to procure additional alternate funds for duty payments due to the funds blocked in system operations.

We would like to highlight that above has led to delay in clearance and mounting of demurrage and detention charges for the trade.

We request that suitable technical improvements may kindly be carried out to the ECL module for seamless functioning and only be implemented after pilot run test in phase wise manner and till such time the earlier e-payment module of ICEGATE be once again made functional.

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The ECL module may kindly be deferred till 1st May 2023 or at a suitable date as per satisfaction of DG Systems subject to testing on every mode of payments in coordination with trade test results.

Considering the difficulties being faced by the trade for timely clearance, we kindly request the following :

- The earlier existing e-payment module be operationalized till the ECL is not tested to avoid challenges in clearances of live consignments.
- Suitable instructions for waiver of detention and demurrage charges may kindly be given to stakeholders and custodians across the country to provide relief to mitigate losses due to issues beyond control.

We fully support CBIC and DG Systems team for their endeavor's and improvements being sought to expedite exim clearances and hence we request that above observation may kindly be considered to facilitate the trade.

Thanking you,

Yours truly,

For Federation of Freight Forwarders' Associations in India

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Chairman

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