



:: OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER OF CUSTOMS ::
CUSTOM HOUSE : KANDLA
NEW CUSTOMS BLDG, NR. BALAJI TEMPLE
KANDLA, KUTCH, GUJARAT
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PUBLIC NOTICE NO. 27/2015
DATE : 29th December, 2015

Subject: Use of digital signature for submission of documents -reg

Attention of all the Trade Association including Steamer Agents/ Importers/ Exporters/ Customs Brokers/ Consol Agents is invited to the Board's Circular No.10/2015-Customs dated 31.03.2015, Circular No.26/2015-Customs dated 23.10.2015 and this office Public Notice No.6/2015 dated 23.04.2015.

2. The Government has prioritized trade facilitation and creating an environment for ease of doing business. In this direction several initiatives have been taken in the recent past to simplify Customs procedures and enhance the use of automation in business processes with resultant reduction in transaction costs and dwell time associated with the Customs clearance of imported and export goods. In continuation of this approach it has now been decided to allow the electronic submission of *digitally signed* Customs process documents viz. Bills of Entry, Shipping Bills, Import General Manifest (IGM), Export General Manifest (EGM) and Consol General Manifest (CGM).

3. In this regard Board notes that the electronic submission of the aforementioned Customs process documents is already being allowed. However, it is imperative to ensure the integrity of the said documents. Implementation of digital signature provides a solution. The facility of digitally signing the documents that are filed electronically would provide the necessary assurance regarding the integrity and non-repudiation of these documents. This shall also enhance the acceptability of such documents by other agencies.

4. Accordingly, the Board has decided that with effect from **01.04.2015** importers, exporters, customs brokers, shipping lines, airlines or their agents shall be given the facility to use Digital Signature Certificate for filing Customs process documents viz. Bills of Entry, Shipping Bills, IGM (General Declaration and Cargo Declaration), EGM (General Declaration), CGM through Remote EDI System (RES). For the present, the facility of using digital signatures is optional for all users.

5. In terms of Board Circular No.10/2015-Customs dated 31.03.2015, importers registered under Accredited Client Programme (ACP) are mandatorily required to file Bills of Entry with digital signature with effect from 01.05.2015. Wherever the customs process documents are digitally signed, the Customs will not insist on the user to physically sign the said documents.

6. In order to increase coverage of digitally signed documents and subsequent phasing out of physical/ manual submission of documents, Board has decided that all importers, exporters using services of Customs Brokers for formalities under Customs Act, 1962, shipping lines shall file customs documents under digital signature certificates mandatorily with effect from **01.01.2016**. The importers / exporters desirous of filing Bill of Entry or Shipping Bill individually may however have the option of filing declarations/ documents without using digital signature. Further, wherever the customs process documents are digitally signed, the Customs will not insist on the user to physically sign the said documents.

7. To operationalize the facility to use Digital Signature Certificate for filing the aforementioned Customs process documents, the following process would be followed:

(i) A web-based Common Signer utility is provided free of cost through the ICEGATE website (<https://www.icegate.gov.in>) for digitally signing the said Customs process documents.

(ii) Importers, exporters, customs brokers, shipping lines, airlines **and their agents** are expected to use a Class III Digital Signature Certificate obtained from any of the Certifying Authorities, as notified by Controller of Certifying Authorities (<http://www.cca.gov.in>), following the due process.

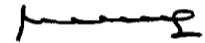
(iii) Importers, exporters, customs brokers, shipping lines, airlines **and their agents** shall use the Digital Signature Certificate and the web based Common Signer utility to digitally sign the electronic documents generated by remote EDI package and then subsequently send the digitally signed documents for processing via email/web upload, as is being done currently.

(iv) On receiving the digitally signed documents the ICEGATE server side verifier shall verify the user's credentials, validity of certificate, Certifying Authorities credentials, Public Key, Certificate Revocation List

(CRL) status and the result of authentication and integrate the data into ICES database. The data so integrated will also have a flag to indicate that the submitted document was digitally signed.

(v) The Customs officers will be able to identify on the system whether a particular electronic document has been filed after signing with Digital Signature Certificate or not.

8. In case of any technical difficulty in digitally signing the said documents, the users may contact (i) icegate.helpdesk@icegate.gov.in (phone no. 1800 301 1000) and (ii) dscsupport@ncode.in from 10 a.m.to 6 p.m. on working days (phone no. 1800 233 1010).



(P V R REDDY)
PRINCIPAL COMMISSIONER
CUSTOM HOUSE, ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~
KANDLA

F.No.:- S/12-12/PN/EDI/2015-16

Date, 29th December, 2015

Copy:

01. The Chief Commissioner of Customs, Gujarat Zone, Ahmedabad.
02. PA to the Commissioner, Custom House, Kandla.
03. All Additional Commissioners of Customs, CH Kandla/Mundra.
04. All the Deputy/ Assistant Commissioner of Customs, CH Kandla/ Mundra.
05. The Assistant Commissioner of Customs, Customs Division, Bhuj.
06. All Groups/ Sections, Customs, Kandla.
07. The Gujarat Chamber of Commerce & Industries, Ahmedabad.
08. The Gandhidham Chamber of Commerce & Industries, Gandhidham.
09. The Kandla Custom Broker' Association, Gandhidham.
10. The Mundra Custom Broker ' Association, Mundra.
11. The Kandla Port Steamship Agents' Association, Gandhidham.
12. The Mundra Port Steamship Agents' Association, Mundra.
13. The Container Freight Station Association of Mundra, Bharat CFS Zone, Mundra.
14. The KASEZ Industries Associations', KASEZ, Gandhidham.
14. The Chairman, Kandla Port Trust, Gandhidham.
15. The State Bank of India & Axis Bank, Kandla / Mundra.
16. Notice Board/ Guard File.