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Public Notice No. 20/2016-17

Subject:-Review of entity based facilitation programmes viz. Accredited Client Programme (ACP) and Authorized Economic Operator (AEO) Programme-Revised Guidelines.

Attention of all the trade and industries is invited to the CBEC Circular No. 33/2016 dated 22.07.2016 regarding Review of entity based facilitation programmes viz. Accredited Client Programme (ACP) and Authorized Economic Operator (AEO) Programme.

2. The Board has decided to merge the two facilitation schemes namely ACP and AEO into a combined three-tier AEO programme, and also to enhance the scope of these programmes so as to provide further benefits to the entities who have demonstrated strong internal control system and willingness to comply with the laws administered by the Central Board of Excise and Customs. The prominent features of the new programme are:

- i. Inclusion of Direct Port Delivery of imports to ensure just-in-time inventory management by manufacturers – clearance from wharf to warehouse.
- ii. Inclusion of Direct Port Entry for factory stuffed containers meant for export by AEOs.
- iii. Special focus on small and medium scale entities – any entity handling 25 import or export documents annually can become part of this programme.
- iv. Provision of Deferred Payment of duties – delinking duty payment and Customs clearance.
- v. Mutual Recognition Agreements with other Customs Administrations.
- vi. Faster disbursement of drawback amount.
- vii. Fast tracking of refunds and adjudications.
- viii. Extension of facilitation to exports in addition to imports.
- ix. Self-certified copies of FTA / PTA origin related or any other certificates required for clearance would be accepted.
- x. Request based on-site inspection /examination.
- xi. Paperless declarations with no supporting documents.
- xii. Recognition by Partner Government Agencies and other Stakeholders as part of this programme

3. The revised AEO Programme as per Circular No. 33/2016 dated 22.07.2016 is appended to this Public Notice.

4. Board Circulars No. 42/2005 dated 24.11.2005 as amended regarding the ACP scheme and No. 28/2012-Customs dated 16.11.2012 regarding AEO programme stand superseded with issue of this circular.

5. All the entities already certified under AEO Programme pursuant to Circular No 37/2011- Cus., dated 23.08.2011 and No. 28/2012-Customs dated 16.11.2012 would now be accorded the status of AEO-T2 or AEO-LO, as the case may be, and shall be entitled to benefits as per this circular subject to their adherence to prescribed standards and guidelines issued in this regard.

6. The entities already accorded the ACP status pursuant to Circular No. 42/2005 dated 24.11.2005 as amended are being granted one time opportunity for transition to the AEO status in terms of this circular. They are required to submit their applications in terms of this circular within 90 days. In the meantime, they are being provisionally granted the status of AEO-T1 till a decision is taken on their application.

7. Difficulties if any may be brought to the notice of the Board to the notice of undersigned immediately.

Encl. -As above.

पी. वी. आर. रेड्डी
(पी. वी. आर. रेड्डी)

प्रधान आयुक्त
कस्टम हाउस कांडला

F.No. /20--230/AG/2016 -17

Date- 9th August 2016

Copy to

- 1) The Chief Commissioner of Customs, Gujarat Zone, Ahmedabad.
- 2) The Additional Commissioner, Custom House, Kandla.
- 3) All DCs/ACs, Custom House Kandla/Bhuj.
- 4) Kandla Port Trust, All CFS.
- 5) CB Association, Kandla Customs Commissionerate.
- 6) Kandla Port Steamship Agents Association.
- 7) Kandla CFS Association, Kandla.
- 8) President, Gandhidham Chamber of Commerce, Gandhidham.
- 9) Notice Board.
- 10) EDI Section for uploading in Kandla Customs Commissionerate's website.