

No. K-43022/39/2024-SEZ
Government of India
Ministry of Commerce and Industry
Department of Commerce
(SEZ Section)

Vanijya Bhawan, New Delhi
Dated the 12 January, 2026

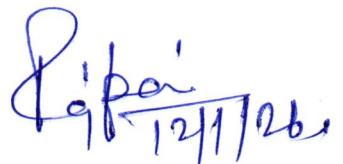
OFFICE MEMORANDUM

Subject: Minutes of the meeting held under the Chairmanship of Shri Ajay Bhadoo, Additional Secretary, Department of Commerce on 05.01.2026 at 04:00 PM to discuss key issues of FTWZs. - reg.

Please find enclosed herewith a copy of Minutes of the meeting held under the Chairmanship of Shri Ajay Bhadoo, Additional Secretary, Department of Commerce on 05.01.2026 at 4:00 PM to discuss key issues of FTWZs.

2. This issues with the approval of competent authority.

Encl. As above


(Prateek Bajpai)
Under Secretary to the Govt. of India
Tel. 011-23039939
Email: prateekbajpai.moca@nic.in

To

1. Joint Secretary (Customs), CBIC
2. Additional Director, ICES, CBIC
3. Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)/ Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI).

Copy to:

1. Sr. PPS to AS (SEZ)
2. PS to JS (SEZ)
3. Sr. PPS to Dir (SEZ)

Minutes of the meeting held under the Chairmanship of Shri Ajay Bhadoo, Additional Secretary, Department of Commerce on 05.01.2026 at 04:00 PM to discuss key issues of FTWZs.

A meeting was held under the Chairmanship of Shri Ajay Bhadoo, Additional Secretary, Department of Commerce on 05.01.2026 at 4:00 PM to discuss key issues of FTWZs. The list of participants may be seen at Annexure.

2. The Chair welcomed all participants. Thereafter, a presentation highlighting key issues of FTWZs was made. The brief of the issues along with the discussion held is as under:-

Sr. No.	Brief of the issue	Discussion/ Action points
1.	Filing of Bill of Export (without export incentives): This is required for transactions where export incentives do not apply. Without this functionality, businesses find it difficult to file Bill of Export in which no export incentives are being availed.	ICES, DG Systems has confirmed that both the functionalities are working fine. However, in case of any specific issue, the industry may highlight the same for its resolution. [Action: Industry, ICES]
2.	Filing of advance Bill of Entry (sea mode): Importers need the ability to submit their Bill of Entry in advance to facilitate faster clearances upon goods' arrival. Absence of this option increases the lead time for importers, thereby increasing costs.	
3.	Filing of Zone-to-Zone Bill of Entry: Transfers of goods from one Free Trade Zone to another require a specialized Bill of Entry, which is currently unavailable on ICEGATE portal.	Industry highlighted that only V-Type Bill of Entry is available for Zone-to-Zone transfers (i.e. FTWZ-to-FTWZ). It was pointed out that the same is only available for manufacturing units and therefore, FTWZs are not able to file such Bill of Entry on ICEGATE. In this regard, it was highlighted that in the interregnum, SEZonline functionality may be utilised for such transactions till the time necessary amendments are made on ICEGATE portal. ICES has been requested to expedite the development of module for such transactions. [Action: ICES]
4.	Filing for movement of goods between Bonded Warehouse and FTWZ: Businesses frequently move goods from bonded storage to Free Trade Zones; this functionality is crucial for	ICES has informed that the module is under development and it would take approximately six (06) months to develop the module. NDML has informed that modules are available on SEZ Online for such transactions (Inter SEZ/Intra SEZ).

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	operational flexibility.	However, industry highlighted that bond debit/credit for such transfers is now being done on ICEGATE and therefore, filing on SEZ Online for such transfers may have limitations. Therefore, ICES has been requested to make some temporary measures on ICEGATE system to accept such transactions from SEZ Online till module on ICEGATE is developed.
		[Action: ICES]
5.	Filing of Inter-unit Transfers, especially in case of Foreign Clients: For companies serving multinationals, the ability to transfer goods between different FTWZ units is essential for their inventory management and absence of this functionality limits the flexible business solutions that FTWZ are envisioned to offer.	Industry highlighted that ICEGATE does not allow transactions if goods are being transacted between two foreign clients (i.e. two entities without IEC) and the documentation filing is being done by FTWZ on behalf of both the parties. In such cases, ICEGATE throws error that the buyer and seller cannot be same. ICEGATE team needs more details on this specific issue. Therefore, Industry was suggested to explain the issue to ICEGATE team.
		[Action: Industry, ICEGATE]
6.	Automatic Transshipment Permit (TP) Generation: At present, TP for movement of container from Port to FTWZ is being generated manually after Bill of Entry is assessed. Automated issuance of transshipment permits reduces manual intervention and speeds up the process of forwarding goods and reduces dwell time and costs for the trade.	ICES has informed that the module is already under development and some clarification has been sought DGEP from their side.
		[Action: ICES]
7.	S-type Bill of Entry details not reflecting on IDPMS Portal of RBI: S-type BoE is filed when the inbound transaction did not happen on ICEGATE (because of absence of functionalities like intra/inter unit transfer). After conducting a transaction on ICEGATE through S-type BoE, the BoE details are not getting reflected on the IDPMS portal of RBI which is required by the banks to release payment to the seller of the goods in the transaction. Many traders are facing challenges in securing their payments in time due to this lack of integration between ICEGATE and IDPMS for S-type BoEs.	Industry has confirmed that this issue has been resolved. Therefore, no action is required at this stage.

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	<p>8. Port Code of NSBP FTWZ (INPJN6) not yet registered on ICEGATE for Plant Quarantine Clearance:</p> <p>Due to non-registration of this port code, plant and agricultural products routed through NSBP FTWZ face procedural delays as the traders are forced to undergo the PQ clearance process manually, causing unnecessary delays and costs.</p>	<p>ICES informed that the functionality is available on the portal and the issue is specific to a particular port and the same has been resolved from Customs side and is awaiting implementation by Plant Quarantine. Accordingly, Industry was requested to coordinate with JDC, SEEPZ for full implementation of functionality.</p>
	<p>9. Access to Trade Data (Filed/Assessed BoEs, Shipping Bills, Bill of Export, etc.):</p> <p>Nhava Sheva Business Park Pvt. Ltd., As a Co-Developer of JNPA SEZ, need this data for reconciliation, compliance, and financial oversight; its absence adds to administrative inefficiencies and delays in submission of reports.</p>	<p>NDML has highlighted that entity identifier is not available in the ICEGATE data being received through Advait. Therefore, they are not able to share the entity level data now.</p> <p>JDC, SEEPZ SEZ highlighted that due to this issue, the Annual Performance Reports (APR) are getting delayed.</p> <p>ICES highlighted that a specific role may be assigned by System Manager to specific officers. However, such role assignment would be only for officials.</p> <p>NDML also stated that they had made some suggestions to ICEGATE to uniquely identify the entity level data. Both ICEGATE and NSDL have been requested to identify a way forward.</p>
	<p>10. For Foreign Client, FTWZ Unit IEC and Address details are getting captured as Importer:</p> <p>Instead of reflecting the actual importer's details, the FTWZ's own IEC and address are currently being captured in the importer field. This may cause future complications during customs scrutiny and financial reconciliation especially in case of non-compliance.</p>	<p>Industry has requested for capturing the details of the overseas buyer/seller in separate field to avoid any future compliance/reporting issue.</p> <p>ICES has requested for a separate meeting on the issue. Accordingly the Chair advised the Industry to have a meeting with ICES.</p>
	<p>11. For Zone-to-Zone Transactions, Clients of Selling and Buying Unit are Showing as Buyer and Seller:</p> <p>Instead of reflecting the selling and buying units' details, the system is populating their respective clients' details. This results in confusion over ownership and responsibilities during transactions and may affect compliance and audits.</p>	
	<p>12. Provision for submission of Statutory reports (MPR, QPR, HPR,</p>	<p>Industry has highlighted that submission of statutory report is not available on</p>

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	<p>APR, SERF etc.): FTWZs are required to submit periodic reports to regulators; the absence of this submission functionality hampers compliance. As on date, these reports are still being filed on SEZ Online (NSDL) portal.</p>	<p>ICEGATE.</p> <p>Industry was advised to use SEZ Online functionality for this purpose till the time SEZ transactions are fully migrated to ICEGATE.</p> <p>ICES confirmed that the module for this purpose would be available on ICEGATE going forward.</p>
		[Action: Industry, ICES]
13.	<p>Export Transshipment Permits (ETP) Submitted via ICEGATE not Appearing on Officer's Role consistently: This prevents officers from accessing and approving ETPs in a timely manner, causing delivery bottlenecks for exporters. Further, the officer currently needs to search for the ETP reference number from a pool of reference numbers, which is time consuming. Instead, if the ETP reference number is replaced by the SB No., the same would be easily identifiable for approval.</p>	Industry has confirmed that this issue has been resolved. Therefore, no action is required at this stage.
14.	<p>Direct release of Shipping Bill by Authorized Officer without additional review by Specified Officer: Enabling direct release of SB by AO without review by SO streamlines clearances; without it, businesses face needless administrative reviews and process delays.</p>	
15.	<p>The current policy (Under Notification No. 19/2015-2020-DGFT dated 17.08.2021) excludes Domestic Tariff Area (DTA)-to-FTWZ supplies from RoDTEP benefits which disincentivizes exporters from utilizing FTWZs for outbound shipments.</p> <p>Please note that this exclusion likely results in underutilization of FTWZ infrastructure and a missed opportunity to integrate more export flows through this efficient channel therefore a precise quantification requires deeper analysis.</p> <p>The matter merits policy-level consideration.</p>	Industry was informed that the matter regarding extension of RoDTEP benefits to FTWZs is under consideration in DGFT.

3. The meeting ended with vote of thanks to the Chair.

8/12/2020

Annexure

List of Participants:

1. Shri Ajay Bhadoo, Additional Secretary (SEZ), DoC (Chairman)
2. Shri Vimal Anand, Joint Secretary (SEZ), DoC
3. Shri Gaurav Pundir, Director (SEZ), DoC
4. Shri Sagar Kadu, Director (Logistics), DPIIT
5. Shri Prateek Bajpai, US, SEZ, DoC
6. Shri Rohit Singh, SO, SEZ, DoC
7. Shri Shubhransh Srivastav, Senior Vice President
8. Shri Chandrashekhar Pitre, Vice President
9. Shri Nikhil Muddangula, Deputy General Manager
10. Ms. Nistha Gupta, Senior Manager

Online Participants:

9. Shri Deepak Bangar, Additional Director, ICES, DG Systems, CBIC
10. Shri Mayur Mankar, JDC, SEEPZ
11. Shri Anshuman, OSD, Customs, CBIC
12. Shri Rachit, ICEGATE
13. Shri Vijay Gupta, NDML
14. Shri Abhishek Apte, NDML