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Sub: JNCH establishes "FTA Cell" at NS-III Commissionerate to streamline the entire process of verifying CoO under the Free Trade Agreements (FTAs)

Dear Member,

Reference is drawn to the previous CBIC's Notification No.81/2020-Cus (NT) dated 21st August, 2020 on Customs (Administration of Rules of Origin under Trade Agreements) Rules, 2020 (CAROTAR 2020) which provides for verification of the Certificate of Origin issued under the Trade Agreement in certain situations.

It has been noticed that the current process of verification of the CoO issued under the Trade Agreement is resulting in delays in completion of the verification process and action thereafter. These delays lead to additional financial burden for importers thereby causing delay in bank guarantees when the outcome of FTA-CoO verification is positive. Also, the action for recovery of duty in cases is delayed when the outcome of FTA-CoO verification is negative.

To streamline the entire process of verification of FTA-CoO issued under various Trade Agreements, a centralised "FTA Cell" has been set up in NS-III Commissionerate at JNCH, as the single point of contact (Email ID: coo.vrfn-jnch@gov.in) for all FTA related work/correspondence/inquiry.

Detailed information on the functions of the FTA Cell is given in JNCH Public Notice No. 70/2024 dated 21st August, 2024 (enclosed).

Members may kindly make a note of the above.

Regards,

Dr. Siddhartha Rajagopal
Executive Director

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