



E-Serve No.: 115 of 2026 | Date: March 30, 2026

Sub: Facilitation of International Transshipment of FCL/LCL Cargo due to Strait of Hormuz Disruption

Dear Madam / Sir,

CBIC has issued a Circular No.15/2026-Customs dated 27th March 2026 ([copy enclosed](#)) regarding the ongoing disruption in maritime routes due to the closure of the Strait of Hormuz, the authorities have issued important facilitative measures to ease logistics constraints and support exporters.

Key highlights of the circular are as under:

-- International Transshipment Facility Expanded: International transshipment of both Full Container Load (FCL) and Less than Container Load (LCL) cargo is now permitted from all seaports and international airports, including cases involving movement through multiple Customs stations, subject to compliance with applicable provisions.

-- Designation of Nodal Officers: Each Customs Zone will designate a Nodal Officer (not below the rank of Additional/Joint Commissioner) to ensure expeditious processing and approval of transshipment requests. Details will be made available via Public Notices.

-- Simplified Approval Process: Permissions for international transshipment will be granted on a priority basis by the jurisdictional Customs authorities after due verification, ensuring faster clearances.

-- Transshipment via Multiple Customs Stations

i) Prior consent to be obtained by the originating Nodal Officer from the transit/destination Nodal Officer via official email.

ii) Consent to be granted by the transit/destination Nodal Officer after verifying infrastructure, storage, and operational readiness.

iii) On receipt of consent, transshipment permission to be issued by the originating Customs authority on priority basis.

iv) Cargo movement to take place under Customs control, including sealing of

containers wherever required.

-- Responsibility of Custodians : The Custodian at originating, transit, and destination stations shall be responsible for safe custody, secure storage, proper handling and accounting of transshipment cargo. They must comply with Customs instructions, maintain records, facilitate supervision and promptly report any discrepancies or irregularities.

-- Facilitation for Bangladesh-Origin Cargo at JNPT: It has been represented that certain Bangladesh cargo via Kolkata/Mumbai, currently lying at JNPT, requires temporary facilitation for onward transshipment through Mumbai Airport. The matter is under examination.

-- Export cargo cleared at ICDs but lying at gateway ports due to disruption:

i) On exporter's request, LEO/Shipping Bill may be cancelled by the originating ICD. Cargo may be returned or re-routed from the gateway port without sending containers back to the ICD, subject to compliance. Custodian to ensure proper accounting.

ii) Requests to be processed expeditiously in coordination with ICD and gateway port. Communication to be done electronically to minimize delays and avoid physical documentation.

-- Implementation of SCMTR, 2018 for electronic processing of cargo and transshipment should be expedited by all stakeholders.

-- The above facilitation measures shall remain in force till 15.04.2026.

Any implementation issues may be brought to the notice of CBIC immediately.

Regards,

Dr. Siddhartha Rajagopal
Executive Director

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Engineering Centre, 5th Floor, Shrimad Rajchandraji Marg,
Mumbai, Maharashtra 400004, India

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