CUS/PORT/GENC/125/2026-Docks/Prev-O/o Commr-Cus-Kandla

**OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER OF CUSTOMS,**

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File No. **CUS/PORT/GENC/125/2026-Docks/Prev** Date: 31-10-2026

**Public Notice No. 09/ 2026**

**Subject: Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for movement of International Transshipment-FCL containers between Port Terminal and designated CFS at Kandla– reg.**

Attention of all Importers, Exporters, Customs Brokers, Port Terminal Operators, Shipping Lines/Shipping Agents, CFS Custodians, Freight Forwarders and other members of the trade is invited to Circular No. 15/2026-Customs dated 27.03.2026 subsequently extended vide Circular No. 36/2026-Customs dated 20.08.2026 and relevant circulars/instructions issued by the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs regarding international transhipment of cargo in view of disruption in maritime routes and Public Notice No. 08/2026 issued by Kandla.

II. Consequent upon the issuance of above Public Notices, to facilitate trade the following Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for handling International Transshipment-FCL (ITP-FCL) containers is hereby prescribed.

**A . Procedure for movement of International Transshipment-FCL Containers from Port Terminal to designated CFS:-**

1. The Shipping lines must file the Import General Manifest (IGM) using the Transshipment Cargo (TC) code and notify the terminal operator regarding the transfer of such containers to the designated CFS.
2. The Shipping Line or its authorised agent shall approach the Superintendent of Docks Preventive, Kandla with a consolidated list of the International Transshipment-FCL Containers intended for movement from the Port Terminal to the designated CFS.
3. The Shipping lines shall obtain movement permission and share the authorization with terminals and designated CFS.
4. The designated CFS shall arrange for the movement of such International Transshipment-FCL Containers from Port to the CFS under Custodian-Cum-Carrier Bond filed with Customs.
5. It shall be the responsibility of the CFS to verify seal integrity upon receipt of the container from the terminal. In case of seal mismatch, the CFS shall notify the shipping line, Port Terminal and Superintendent of Docks Preventive, Kandla and shall not proceed from the Terminal with such container without written permission from the Customs.

6. The Gate-Officer (Preventive Officer) at the Port Terminal shall verify the container number and seal integrity before passing out of the container from the Port Terminal.
7. The Gate-Officer (Preventive Officer) at the CFS shall verify the container number and seal integrity before allowing entry of the container inside the CFS.
8. The CFS shall store all International Transshipment-FCL Containers in the designated and demarcated area only.

**B. Procedure for movement of International Transshipment-FCL Containers from designated CFS to Port Terminal:-**

1. The Shipping Line or its authorised agent shall approach the Superintendent of Docks Preventive, Kandla with a consolidated list of the International Transshipment-FCL Containers intended for transfer back to the Port Terminal.
2. The Shipping lines shall obtain movement permission and communicate to the Port Terminal and designated CFS.
3. The CFS shall arrange for the movement of such International Transshipment-FCL Containers from CFS to the Port Terminal under the existing Custodian-Cum-Carrier Bond.
4. The Gate-Officer (Preventive Officer) at the CFS shall verify the container number and seal integrity and tally from the inward documents of the same container number before authorising 'pass out' for transit from the CFS to the Port Terminal.
5. The Custodian shall ensure the integrity of the seal till the container enters the Port Terminal.
6. The Gate-Officer (Preventive Officer) at the Gate Terminal shall verify the container number and seal integrity of the container before 'pass in' of the container inside the Port Terminal.

**C. The designated CFS shall comply with the following conditions:**

1. The containers shall be received only in their original sealed condition and shall be stored exclusively in the designated and physically demarcated area approved by Customs.
2. The original seals of the containers shall remain intact throughout their custody at the CFS. No opening, de-stuffing, re-stuffing, cross-stuffing, re-containerisation, examination or any other reworking shall be undertaken under this procedure.
3. The CFS shall maintain a proper container-wise register/electronic record of all ITP-FCL containers received and stored, indicating the date of receipt, container number, seal number, shipping line, vessel/voyage details, Customs permission reference, storage location and subsequent movement particulars.
4. The CFS shall be responsible for the safe custody, secure storage, proper handling and accounting of the containers during the entire period they remain under its charge.

5. Any loss, damage, seal tampering, substitution, unauthorised removal or other discrepancy/irregularity noticed in respect of any container shall immediately be reported to the Dock Preventive Officer.
6. The Shipping Line/authorised agent shall ensure that the containers are onward transhipped/re-exported within 30 days of entry inward of importing vessel, in terms of Section 48 of the Act. Where this is not feasible for reasons beyond the shipping line's control, extension may be sought from the proper officer before expiry of the prescribed period with stated reasons.
7. The Shipping Line/authorised agent and the CFS shall immediately report any discrepancy, damage, seal mismatch, unauthorised movement or other irregularity to the jurisdictional Customs officer.

**III.** Upon the containers' entry into the Port Terminal for export, the shipping line or its authorized representative shall approach Docks Preventive, Kandla to complete the international transshipment formalities. The Shipping Line or applicant must present all relevant documentation to the Docks Preventive, Kandla to facilitate the final onward movement to the destination port.

**IV.** The Shipping line shall file the SDM/Export General Manifest (EGM) as per their regular process.

**V.** No transshipment permit fee shall be charged. In terms of the Goods Imported (Conditions of Transshipment) Regulations, 2025, no fee is payable in respect of transhipment applications at any Customs station.

**VI.** Transhipment shall not be permitted in respect of: (a) goods the transshipment of which is prohibited under Section 11 of the Act; (b) arms, ammunition, explosives or cargo posing a threat to national security; or (c) goods not manifested for transshipment, unless otherwise specifically permitted by the proper officer.

**VII.** Permission is strictly limited to cargo affected by maritime disruptions. The shipping line and the Custodian (CFS) shall remain jointly and severally responsible for the safety and security of the cargo until its final transshipment. Any litigation resulting in "stay orders" that leads to cargo dumping remains the liability of the Shipping line involved.

**VIII.** Difficulties, if any, encountered in implementation of this Public Notice may be brought to the notice of the undersigned.

This issues with the approval of the Competent Authority.

31/10/26

**Shweta Pachaury**
**(Additional Commissioner)**
**Custom House, Kandla**

**Copy to:**

1. The Chief Commissioner of Customs, Ahmedabad Zone.
2. The Assistant Commissioner (DP), Kandla Customs.
3. M/s. Arvind V. Joshi & Co. CFS, Gandhidham.

4. Kandla International Container Terminal Pvt. Ltd. (KICT).
5. All concerned CFSs, Shipping Lines/Agents and Customs Brokers.
6. The Deputy/Assistant Commissioner, EDI Section for uploading on the departmental website.
7. Notice Board.