



OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER OF CUSTOMS, BENGALURU CITY:
C.R. BUILDING, P.B. No. 5400, QUEEN'S ROAD, BENGALURU- 560 001

C.No.VIII/48/24/2014 City.Cus.Tech. /1942

Date:13.05.2014

STANDING ORDER No. 10/2015 DATED 13.05.2015

**Subject: Usage of Digital Signature Certificate in Remote EDI filing (RES) of
Customs Documents - reg.**

Attention is invited to Board's Circular No.10/2015-Cus dated 31.03.2015 on the above subject.

2. Vide the above circular, electronic submission of *digitally signed* Customs process documents viz. Bills of Entry, Shipping Bills, Import General Manifest (IGM), Export General Manifest (EGM) and Consol General Manifest (CGM) have been allowed to ensure necessary assurance regarding the integrity and non-repudiation of these documents and also to enhance the acceptability of such documents by other agencies.

3. Accordingly, the Board has decided that with effect from 01.04.2015 importers, exporters, customs brokers, shipping lines, airlines or their agents shall be given the facility to use Digital Signature Certificate for filing Customs process documents viz. Bills of Entry, Shipping Bills, IGM (General Declaration and Cargo Declaration), EGM (General Declaration), CGM through Remote EDI System (RES). For the present, the facility of using digital signatures is optional for all users.

4. In this context, it may be noted that the Board's Circular No.42/2005-Cus., dated 24.11.2005 mandates that the importers, who are recognized under the Accredited Client Programme (ACP), shall file Bills of Entry using digital signatures. However, this requirement has not been enforced so far. With the introduction of the general facility of electronic filing of digitally signed Customs process documents, the ACP importers shall be required to mandatorily file Bills of Entry with digital signature w.e.f. 01.05.2015. They would obtain the Digital Signature Certificate, as indicated in the following paragraph.

5. To operationalize the facility to use Digital Signature Certificate for filing the aforementioned Customs process documents, the following process would be followed:

(i) A web-based Common Signer utility is provided free of cost through the ICEGATE website (<https://www.icegate.gov.in>) for digitally signing the said Customs process documents.

(ii) Importers, exporters, customs brokers, shipping lines, airlines and their agents are expected to use a Class III Digital Signature Certificate obtained from any of the Certifying Authorities, as notified by Controller of Certifying Authorities (<http://www.cca.gov.in>), following the due process.

(iii) Importers, exporters, customs brokers, shipping lines, airlines and their agents shall use the Digital Signature Certificate and the web based Common Signer utility to digitally sign the electronic documents generated by remote EDI package and then subsequently send the digitally signed documents for processing via email/web upload, as is being done currently.

(iv) On receiving the digitally signed documents the ICEGATE server side verifier shall verify the user's credentials, validity of certificate, Certifying Authorities credentials, Public Key, Certificate Revocation List (CRL) status and the result of authentication and integrate the data into ICES database. The data so integrated will also have a flag to indicate that the submitted document was digitally signed.

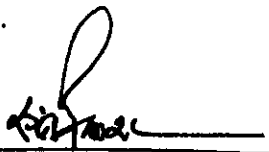
(v) The Customs officers will be able to identify on the system whether a particular electronic document has been filed after signing with Digital Signature Certificate or not.

6. The Board has also decided that whenever the said Customs process documents are digitally signed, the Customs will not insist on the user physically signing the said documents as well. The reliance on digitally signed Customs process documents shall also result in the reduction of hard copies of these documents.

7. In case of any technical difficulty in digitally signing the said documents, the users may contact (i) icegate.helpdesk@icegate.gov.in (phone no. 1800 301 1000) and (ii) dscsupport@ncode.in from 10 a.m.to 6 p.m. on working days (phone no. 1800 233 1010).

8. Officers posted in EDI Administration are suitably trained in consultation with NIC staff in implementation of Digital Signature Certificate. Further, field staff may also sensitise the trade and CBs to move to make use of the Digital Signatures.

9. Difficulty faced, if any, may be brought to the notice immediately.



(Sandeep Prakash)
Commissioner

Copy to:

1.The Additional Commissioner of Customs, ICD, Bengaluru.

2.Notice Board.

3.Bengaluru Customs Website.

Copy submitted to:

4.The Chief Commissioner of Customs, Bengaluru Zone, for information please.