



வ.உ.சிதம்பரனார் துறைமுக ஆணையம்
वी.ओ.सी पत्तन प्राधिकरण
V.O.C Port Authority

வ.உ.சிதம்பரனார் துறைமுக ஆணையம்
व.उ.चिदम्बरनार पत्तन प्राधिकरण
V.O.CHIDAMBARANAR PORT AUTHORITY
(MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, GOVERNMENT OF INDIA)
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE, HARBOUR ESTATE, TUTICORIN 628 004, TAMIL NADU



SAGARMALA
PORT-LED PROSPERITY

File No.TRA-OFTMK-MIS-BUSIN-A1-18(44700) 10-775

Date:28.08.2025

TRADE NOTICE

Sub: Ship to Ship Lighterage (STS) Operations at anchorage, VOC Port, Tuticorin.

V.O.Chidambaranar Port Authority is pleased to inform that Customs Commissionerate, Tuticorin, vide Trade facility Circular No:01/2025 dated 21.07.2025, has published the procedure to be followed for Ship to Ship (STS) operations at anchorage within the jurisdiction of VOC Port.

This STS operation involves transfer of dry bulk, break bulk, liquid bulk and gas cargo from a mother vessel into various daughter vessels of smaller capacity through pipes, fenders, flexi hose, cranes etc to foreign and Indian Ports.

Trade fraternity is requested to utilize this service to enhance volume at VOC Port.


TRAFFIC MANAGER

Encl. Customs Trade Facility Circular

To:

- i. Tuticorin Ship Agents' Association (TSAA)
- ii. Tuticorin Customs Brokers' Association (TCBA)
- iii. Tuticorin Stevedores' Association (TSA)
- iv. AICCI/ICCI/CII/TCCI/All development partners/stakeholders of VOC Port, Tuticorin



वित्तमंत्रालय/ Ministry of Finance

राजस्वविभाग / Department of Revenue

सीमाशुल्कआयुक्तकार्यालय / Office of the Commissioner of Customs

कस्टमहाउसनयीहारबरएस्टेट / Custom House, New Harbour Estate

तूतुकुडी – 628 004 / Thoothukudi – 628004.

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e-Office F. No. CUS/5636/2023-POL

Date:21-07-2025

TRADE FACILITY No. 01/2025

Subject: - Customs Procedure to be Followed for Ship to Ship Lighterage (STSL) operations at anchorage within the jurisdiction of VOC Port - Reg.

The VOC Port Authority, has proposed Ship to Ship Lighterage (STSL) operations at anchorage within the notified jurisdiction of Port. This operation involves transfer of Dry bulk, Break bulk, Liquid bulk and gas cargo from a mother vessel into various daughter vessels of smaller capacity through pipes, fenders, flexi hose, cranes etc. The daughter vessels are destined to various Foreign Ports or sometime to Indian Ports. The following procedure related to Customs is being issued for compliance by all agencies and trade involved in the above operation.

2. i) The STSL operation shall be carried out only within the designated place at anchorage within the limits of VOC Port and co-ordinates of the designated place is mentioned below:

- (a) 8°50'0.88"N 78°21'1.19"E
- (b) 8°50'0"N 78°22'0"E
- (c) 8°48'59.80"N 78°20'0.04"E
- (d) 8°48'60.00"N 78°20'60.00"E

ii) The STSL operation shall entirely be under the supervision of proper officers of Customs posted on board who can give instructions for all concerned from time to time, ask to produce documents related to the operation or draw samples for the compliance of provisions of Customs Act 1962 and the rules and regulations made there under.

iii) The STSL operation is not allowed for the cargo having arms, ammunition, explosives and other cargo prohibited for import or export under Sec 11 of the Customs Act or under any Act for time being in force. The operations are also not allowed for any ports / destinations prohibited for import / export into / from India. The operations are strictly limited to Dry bulk, Break bulk, Liquid bulk cargo and gas cargo, through pipes, fenders, flexi hose, cranes etc., without involving any boat / ship in between.

iv) Customs procedures for incoming vessel like completion of boarding formalities under section 37 of the Customs Act, 1962 will be done by the Preventive Officer/ Customs Officer at VOC Port Anchorage. Other Customs Formalities for incoming vessel like granting of Entry inward under Section 31 of the Customs Act, 1962 will be done by the Officers of Custom House, Tuticorin in ICES. On completion of the aforesaid formalities, the cargo from mother vessel will be allowed for offloading to the daughter vessel under Preventive supervision.

v) The person in-charge of the mother vessel meant for discharge or any other person as authorized by the Master/Owner of the vessel in this regard, shall on arrival of the Vessel, file all documentation such as entry inwards, Import General Manifest (IGM)/ Sea Arrival Manifest (SAM) etc., with Tuticorin Customs in terms of the provisions of the Customs Act 1962. The goods should be distinctly manifested in the IGM /SAM as for Transshipment to foreign Ports / Indian Ports as the case may be, with separate line for each such foreign ports / Indian Port. Similar documentation, including Export General Manifest (EGM) / Sea Departure Manifest (SDM) shall be filed for all daughter vessels meant for receiving the cargo from mother vessel.

vi) The STSL operation will subject to the provisions of Section 54 of the Customs Act, 1962 and the Goods Imported (Conditions of Transshipment) Regulations 1995 as amended and other relevant provisions of the Acts/Rules for the time being in force as well as subject to all the prescribed procedure and conditions etc.

Transshipment to Foreign Ports:

3(i) The master of the vessel or his authorized agent or any other person duly authorized on his behalf by the foreign supplier of cargo (hereafter referred as 'declarant') has to execute a bond with Deputy / Assistant Commissioner, (Import General) at Custom House, Tuticorin stating that the vessel carrying the goods for which permission is taken for 'Transshipment to Foreign Ports' will in no case be allowed to touch any Indian Port. No further transshipment or lighterage will be allowed from the daughter vessels.

ii) The declarant shall file Bill of Transshipment (B/T) in the prescribed format. before the Deputy / Assistant Commissioner (Import General), Custom House, Tuticorin. The bill of transshipment will be filed in 4 copies. On presentation of the Bill of Transshipment the Import General section will verify the particulars as to whether,

- a) The details like name of the vessels, quantity of cargo etc. has been noted in the Import General Manifest (IGM)/Sea Arrival Manifest (SAM) and also on all copies of Bill of transshipment;
- b) The vessels into which the goods are to be transhipped out has been duly entered for Ports for which the goods are to be transhipped;
- c) The particulars of goods furnished in the Bill of transshipment correspond with those goods furnished in the IGM/SAM of the Mother Vessel;
- d) The goods specified in the Bill of Transshipment are such goods of which Transshipment is not prohibited;
- e) The Port of destination is not in the list of Ports to which transshipment is prohibited;

4. After this the details like name of the steamer by whom the goods are being transhipped, name of the vessel, quantity of cargo etc. will be noted in the Import General Manifest (IGM)/Sea Arrival Manifest (SAM) and also on all copies of the bill of transshipment and put up for the permission of the Deputy / Assistant Commissioner (Import General). The permission of the Deputy / Assistant Commissioner will be subject to the preventive supervision of transshipment operations. After giving permission, the original copy will be retained in Import General section and remaining copies will be sent to the Superintendent of Customs (Preventive) in charge of STS operations. The Superintendent of Customs (Preventive) will give "Let Transshipment" in all copies of Bill of Transshipment and depute officers for on board supervision of the SISL operation on MOT basis.

5. The officers posted for supervision of the transshipment shall ensure that appropriate ullage / sounding survey by an independent/approved surveyor/agency is taken, so as to ascertain the quantity of the goods transferred to each vessel and they should countersign each such survey reports. After the completion of ship to ship lighterage transfer of cargo the officers deputed for ship to ship lighterage and the master of the mother vessel will endorse the quantity of cargo transhipped on the copies of Bill of Transshipment. Similarly, the master of receiving vessel (daughter vessel) and the officer supervising ship to ship lighterage operation will endorse the receipt of the cargo in that vessel. Duplicate and Triplicate copy of Bill of Transshipment will be brought back to the Custom House by the officer posted on the board last, and handed over to the Superintendent (Prev.) in-charge of this operations. The fourth copy will be handed over to the applicant. The EGM / SDM will be filed for each daughter vessel as well as for the mother vessels in the prescribed format at the time of sailing off of each vessel.

Transshipment to Indian Ports:

6. Transshipment to Indian ports will be allowed only under execution of necessary Bond along with appropriate security by the master of the vessel or his authorized agent or any person duly authorized by the supplier/receiver/declarant as determined by the Commissioner of Customs, in terms of Goods Imported (Conditions of Transshipment) Regulations 1995 before the Deputy / Assistant Commissioner (Import General). In this case also the procedure for filing Bill of Transshipment and supervisions as described in para 4 and 5 above will be followed. The bond / security executed will be debited at the time of permitting the transshipment of the imported cargo and the same will be credited on receipt of proof of safe landing of the goods. If landing certificate is not received within the prescribed time, the Assistant Commissioner (Import General) will initiate appropriate action against the declarant as per the law. In case of import to VOC Port, the person in-charge of receiving vessel has to file necessary documents with Tuticorin Customs as prescribed under Customs Act and Rules.

7. The Superintendent (Prev), in-charge of STSL operations, will on receipt of documents from the officers who supervised the operation, reconcile the cargo manifested / discharged by the mother vessel with the cargo received by various daughter vessels /

declared in respective EGMs/ SDMs and forward all documents to Manifest Clearance Department (MCD), In case of any discrepancy in reconciliation the same will be immediately reported to DC / AC (Import General) for necessary action as per law.

8. The STSL operations will be under Preventive supervision. The declarant will be responsible for the safe transport and stay of officers on board deputed for the above work. The Entry Inward and Entry Outward for the vessels will be granted as per the existing practice being followed for other vessels. The STS operation is permitted be on 24*7 basis.

9. Appropriate fees for Bill of Transshipment, for the goods imported, shall be charged in terms of para (5) of Goods Imported (Conditions of Transshipment) Regulations, 1995.

10. The declarant should submit a monthly statement with respect to STS Lighterage Operation carried out with the Preventive Department.

11. Nothing contained in this Trade Facility shall adversely affect the rights of the proper officer of Customs at the Port of Import to detain, check and, if necessary, deny the request for transshipment of goods entered for transshipment and call for any information that is considered as necessary for passing order on the request for transshipment made by the applicant. The declarant will be responsible for obtaining clearances from all other statutory agencies like RBI, Pollution Control authorities, Port / Maritime authorities, Plant Quarantine, Immigration or any other Agency/Authority etc. as may be needed.

12. Any lapse in this regard will be dealt with as per provisions of Customs Act, 1962 and rules/regulations made thereunder.

**Digitally signed by
Vikas Nair
Date: 21-07-2025
17:49:11
(VIKAS NAIR)
COMMISSIONER OF CUSTOMS**

To

- i). Members/ Trade Associations as per mailing list
- ii). Notice Board, Custom House, Tuticorin
- iii). EDI Section, Customs House, Tuticorin for uploading in the website.

Copy submitted to:

The Chief Commissioner of Customs (Preventive), Trichy