



THE PLASTICS EXPORT  
PROMOTION COUNCIL

## दि प्लास्टिक एक्सपोर्ट प्रमोशन कौन्सिल

( भारत सरकार, वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्रालय, वाणिज्य विभाग द्वारा प्रायोजित )

## THE PLASTICS EXPORT PROMOTION COUNCIL

(Sponsored By The Ministry Of Commerce & Industry, Deptt. Of Commerce, Government Of India)

Ref No: PLEXHO/Cir/947

13.03.2026

To,

All Members of Plexconcil/ COA Members

Dear Sir/Madam,

### Subject: Facilitation Measures for Exporters Amid Middle East Shipping Disruptions

In view of the ongoing geopolitical developments in the Middle East and the reported closure of the **Strait of Hormuz**, disruptions have occurred in international shipping routes and cargo movement affecting India's EXIM trade. To mitigate the impact on exporters, several Government authorities including the **Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC)**, **Directorate General of Shipping**, the **Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways**, and the **Jawaharlal Nehru Port Authority** have announced facilitation measures to support exporters.

#### 1. Waiver of Fees for Amendment or Cancellation of Export Documents

CBIC has clarified that where amendment or cancellation of export documents becomes necessary due to force majeure circumstances such as cancellation or rescheduling of vessels, suspension of cargo services or disruption of shipping routes, the proper officer may allow such amendment or cancellation without payment of the prescribed fees under the Levy of Fees (Customs Documents) Regulations, 1970.

CBIC Circular No. 10/2026-Customs dated 10 March 2026

Please find the Link:

[https://membership.plasticsepc.org/mails\\_images/20260312064534.pdf](https://membership.plasticsepc.org/mails_images/20260312064534.pdf)

#### 2. Relief Measures by Jawaharlal Nehru Port Authority (JNPA)

JNPA has announced relief measures for exporters whose cargo is stranded due to the ongoing disruptions. Key measures include: 100% waiver of ground rent / dwell time charges for Middle East-bound containers for 15 days (28 Feb – 14 March 2026). 80% waiver of reefer plug-in charges for stranded reefer containers carrying perishable cargo. Provision of additional storage space for affected containers. Temporary storage of cargo from other ports as transshipment cargo at JNPA terminals. Shipping lines, NVOCCs and freight forwarders have been advised to ensure that these benefits are passed on to exporters.

(JNPA Trade Notice No. JNP/GMT/Middle East Issue/TN-01 dated 10 March 2026)

The Trade Notice can be accessed here:

[https://membership.plasticsepc.org/mails\\_images/20260312053724.pdf](https://membership.plasticsepc.org/mails_images/20260312053724.pdf)

#### 3. Advisory on Transparency in Shipping Charges

DG Shipping has advised shipping lines, carriers and their agents to avoid predatory or non transparent pricing practices and ensure transparency in charges levied on EXIM cargo during the ongoing disruptions. Shipping lines have been advised to clearly communicate all applicable charges and follow fair trade practices.

(DG Shipping Circular No. 14 of 2026 dated 09 March 2026)

The Circular can be accessed here:

#### 4. Simplified Procedure for Return of Export Cargo

CBIC has prescribed a simplified procedure for handling export cargo returning to Indian ports due to disruption in maritime routes following the closure of the Strait of Hormuz. Key provisions include:

Vessels returning without calling any foreign port may be allowed to berth without filing Sea Arrival Manifest (SAM).

Containers may be offloaded without filing a Bill of Entry, subject to verification of shipping documents.

Shipping Bills and Let Export Orders (LEO) may be cancelled by Customs.

Exporters may request Back-to-Town (BTT) facility for returned cargo.

A system facility will be introduced in ICES to enable cancellation of Shipping Bills after EGM filing to ensure export incentives are not disbursed in such cases.

(CBIC Circular No. 09/2026-Customs dated 08 March 2026)

The circular can be accessed here:

[https://membership.plasticsepc.org/mails\\_images/20260312054139.pdf](https://membership.plasticsepc.org/mails_images/20260312054139.pdf)

#### 5. SOP for Major Ports to Handle Disruptions

The Ministry has issued a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for Major Ports to mitigate the impact of geopolitical disturbances in the Middle East.

Ports have been advised to:

Appoint a Single Point of Contact (SPOC) for trade issues.

Allow temporary storage of Middle East-bound cargo as transshipment cargo.

Provide additional storage areas where required.

Facilitate Back-to-Town (BTT) movement of export cargo.

Provide priority handling for perishable cargo.

(Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways – SOP dated 06 March 2026)

**The SOP can be accessed here:**

[https://membership.plasticsepc.org/mails\\_images/20260312054304.pdf](https://membership.plasticsepc.org/mails_images/20260312054304.pdf)

These coordinated measures aim to minimize disruptions to India's EXIM trade, provide relief to exporters, and ensure continuity of cargo movement during the ongoing geopolitical situation affecting shipping routes.

**All members are advised to take a note of the above developments and share specific issues with Plexconcil at [bharti@plexconcil.org](mailto:bharti@plexconcil.org); [shilpa@plexconcil.org](mailto:shilpa@plexconcil.org), so that the matter may be taken up with the concerned authorities**

With Regards

Bharti Parave

Dy. Director (Trade and Policy)

**Plexconcil**