

DGS issues advisory on non-charging during the period of effect of Covid-19 pandemic

As you may be aware, the Corona Virus outbreak has spread to over 170 countries and has led to a complete lockdown across countries and has stopped movement of people from one place to another leading to total disruption of international trade. EPCH has represented to the Government regarding the shipments stuck at the ports and incurring demurrages and penalties. The Government has considered our request and relevant clarification has been issued from Director General of Shipping, Mumbai, Government of India vide DGS Order No. 08 of 2020 dated 31.03.2020 regarding exemption of various charges on non-containerized cargo. The extracts from the notification follow :

Extracts from DGS Order No. 08 of 2020, dated 31.03.2020

Sub: Advisory on non-charging of any demurrage, ground rent beyond the allowed free period or any performance related penalty on non-containerized cargo during the period of effect of Covid-19 pandemic - reg.

"each Major Port shall ensure that no penalties, demurrage charges, fee, rentals are levied by the major ports on any port users (traders, Shipping lines, concessionaires' licensees etc.) for any delay in berthing, loading /unloading, operations or evacuation/arrival of cargo caused by the reasons attributable lockdown measures from 22nd March to 14th April 2020.

Therefore, each Major port shall exempt or remit demurrage, ground rent over and above the free period, penal anchorage / berth hire charges and any other performance related penalties that may be levied on port related activities including minimum performance guarantee, wherever applicable."

DGFT operationalises help desk to assist exporters, importers

EPCH has received an email dated 26th March 2020 from O/o Director General of Foreign Trade regarding a help desk.

The nation is grappling with the crisis on account of the Corona Virus outbreak which has led to the lockdown and disruption of the normal business activities.

EPCH has received an email dated 26th March 2020 from O/o Director General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) regarding a help desk. DGFT has operationalised a help desk to extend support on export and import related issues faced by businesses during the on-going lockdown in India and several other countries. Exporters and importers have been given a proforma spreadsheet and have been asked to list and forward the 'Covid-19 related Import/Export Issues'. Exporters/importers could also

directly flag the issues through the following channels :

Contact@DGFT Platform (http://rla.dgft.gov.in:8100/CRS_NEW/) : A ticket may be raised here with Concerned office : DGFT(HQ) and Subject: COVID-19

Email as per proforma to dgftedi@nic.in with a copy at policy@epch.com

Call at Toll free number 1800-111-550