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मि.सं. /F.No.S-21/16/2005 CH

दिनांक / Date : 16.01.2006

Public Notice: सार्वजनिक सूचा

NO.02 /2006

Sub: Use of tamper proof bottle seals on containerized
Cargo for Export-Reg.

Attention is invited to the trade and all concerned to the CBEC, Circular No.01.-
/2006 Cus issued vide F.No.450/86/2005 Cus IV dated 1st January 2006 as per which it is
said that field formations have represented about the varying practices followed in sealing
of containers for export cargo. It is noticed that some Commissionerates use lead seals
while few also use lac/wax seals. Board has issued circular No.80/1995 dated 6.7.1995
prescribing the use of "One time Bottle Seals" in order to safe guard against tampering of
sealing. This was reiterated in Circular No.43/1997-Cus dated 22.9.97.

In this connection some of the Chief Commissioners have felt that the lead seals
are very small in size and the field staff face difficulties in verification of the number of
the seal as the number/identification/marks are not clearly imprinted. Further lead seals
can be easily substituted or tampered with. In case the seals are found to be defective or
to have been opened up during transit, this requires bottle sealing once again at the entry
point of the port of export before being allowed into the customs area and further
examination of the cargo as per prescribed norms. This results in delay at the point of
export.

Board has examined the issue. Cargo transported for exports through containers
or bonded closed trucks are sent to Gateway Port after sealing supervision the Central
Excise/Customs officer or self-sealing by manufacturer exporters, 100% EOU and EPZ
Units. Further containers aggregated with LCL cargo in the CFSs/ICDs are also sent to
the port after sealing in the presence of officers. In all these cases it is decided by the
Board that the tamper proof one time bottle sealing alone should be adopted as it ensures
safety and security of sealing process and avoid any resealing at the point of export.
Further it would reduce the need for examination at port except in case of specific
intelligence as these containers would not be subject to routine examination as already
provided in the Circular No.06/2002- customs dated 23.01.2002 and consequently delay.

In respect of one time bottle seals provided by the department, its cost shall be
recovered from exporters/manufacturers or their agents. However,
exporters/manufacturers need not be compelled to procure such bottle seals only from the
department, as this would defeat the very purpose of self-sealing facility and avoid delay.
It is also informed that in case of export of cargo by trucks/other means which cannot be
bottle sealed, same would be subject to normal examination norms at the gateway port.