

pharmexcil

PHARMACEUTICALS EXPORT PROMOTION COUNCIL

(Setup by Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Govt. of India)

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FOR KIND AND IMMEDIATE ATTENTION

Ref: Pharmexcil/09-10/Cus/ED/442

20th April 2010

2710

Shri B K Sinha
Commissioner of Customs (Exports)
Nava Sheva Port
Navi Mumbai.

Dear Sir

Sub: Problems faced by Drugs & Pharmaceutical Exporters at JNPT , Navi Mumbai.

As you may be kindly aware, Pharmaceuticals Export Promotion Council (Pharmexcil) is setup by Ministry of Commerce and Industry for promotion of exports of pharmaceuticals and Pharmexcil has been functioning since May, 2004. Almost all (about 3000) pharma exporters in India, are our active members. In this context, we would like to bring to your kind attention regarding the delays caused in export of Drugs & Pharmaceuticals from JNPT Port, Mumbai. Some of the difficulties /problems faced by our member exporters are enumerated here below:

1. Export consignments of our member-exporters are held up despite clearance given by the Asst. Drugs Controller (ADC) on the Shipping Bills at JNPT, Navi Mumbai.
2. Exporters have been orally informed that clearance is required in writing from the Office of the Commissioner, FDA, Bandra-Kurla Complex, Mumbai before permitting the shipments of some select drugs . We understand that a list of around 40 drugs with their chemical names have been provided by Office of the Commissioner, FDA, Maharashtra for thorough scrutiny.

In this regard, our exporter-members have brought to our notice that the delay is caused on account of the communication received from the Office of the Commissioner, FDA, Mumbai.

As per our understanding, the communication pertains to Pharma APIs and does not apply to formulations since the list from FDA indicates Bulk Drugs and their chemical names.

Due to the delay in clearance of the export consignments, many of the exporters have not been able to catch up with the scheduled vessels for shipment. Thereby they are under pressure from the buyers either to dispatch the material or to face cancellation of the order. You will surely agree that delivery of the medical consignments are time-bound and delay could cause losing of export orders, blacklisting of Indian companies & losing out to Chinese Companies competitors, claims damage from foreign buyers for non-supply on time etc.

Regional Office - Mumbai : T.V. Industrial Estate, Unit No. 211, 2nd Floor, 248-A, S.K. Ahire Marg, Worli, Mumbai - 400 030.

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Many Exporters have necessarily to ship their consignments on time to enable them to negotiate their documents before the expiry of the LCs

In some of the cases the LCs are likely to expire within a period of 2/3 days and exporters are likely loose heavily on account of this delay.

Sir, you are aware of the fact that the Indian Pharma Companies have been faced with declining exports mainly due to the strengthening of the Indian Rupee vis-à-vis the USD and also because of the global recession. Department of Commerce and Department of Pharmaceuticals, Government of India is worried about the declining exports and have initiated steps to arrest the downtrend in the Pharma Exports. For your ready reference, we are enclosing herewith 2(two) press notes that appeared in leading newspapers regarding the downtrend in Pharma exports.

In view of the above, we would appreciate if you could kindly bestow your personal attention in this matter and assist the exporters urgently.

Thanking you

Yours faithfully



Dr. P V Appaji
Executive Director

Copy to:

1. Dr. Surrinder Singh, Drugs Controller General (India), New Delhi.
2. Commissioner, Food & Drugs Administration, Bandra-Kurla Complex, Mumbai – 400 051.
3. Shri Rajeev Kher, Joint Secretary, Department of Commerce, Govt. of India, New Delhi.
4. Shri Arun Jha, Joint Secretary, Department of Pharmaceuticals, Govt. of India, New Delhi.
5. Ms Anupama Wagh, Asst. Drugs Controller, JNPT, Nava Sheva, Navi Mumbai.

encl: afa.

(email confirmatory copy by post)