**PUBLIC NOTICE NO.48**

**DTD.07.03.2016**

It has been observed that there is no uniformity regarding Customs procedure adopted at some ports/ Customs stations which increases transaction cost and time of clearance. This also results in major constraints in making India ports International Transhipment hubs.

A committee was setup by Ministry of Shipping for simplification of Shipping Customs procedure. The Board has examined the recommendations of Committee in consultation with identified Chief Commissioners of Customs. The following decision has been taken to streamline the extent procedure for Port Clearance at various Ports.

The port clearance requires submission of numerous documents on behalf of other agencies –Lighthouse Dues Certificate, NOC for Immigration, Port Health Certificate, etc. At present, the port clearance is given on execution of a bond/ guarantee by the Steamer agents each time a vessel enters.

As a measure of simplification, the Board has decided to give an option to the steamer agent to give a continuity bond/ guarantee for a period of one year for the said purpose. This would reduce the number of documents submitted each time the vessel enters.

Attention of the Steamer agents is invited to the above decision of the Board and accordingly it is instructed that they may avail the said facility by submitting one time continuity bond (Advance Port Clearance/ EDI Port Clearance) to the Dy./Asst. Commissioner of Customs, Preventive General, as per the format annexed herewith (Annexure-I). The continuity bond shall be executed on stamp paper of Rs. 500/-being stamp duty.

Except for the modification mentioned above, all the provisions of earlier Public Notices inter alia pertaining to port clearance shall remain unchanged.

Difficulties, if any, in implementation of these instructions may be immediately brought to the notice of undersigned.--

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(RAJEEV TANDON)