

JAWAHARLAL NEHRU PORT AUTHORITY

Minutes of Meeting held at JNPA on 28/10/2024 regarding Trade Advisory on Standard Operating Procedure of payment to Empty Container Depots.

Participants: List attached

The meeting was convened with all Stakeholders associated with Empty Container Depot (ECD) business. It was explained to all stakeholders that SOP of payment to ECD, which was issued on 24/10/2024 was an advisory and the stakeholders were requested to inform if there is any concern.

1. The representatives of Empty Container Depot Association (NSDCA) explained that their Association is not agreeing to SOP to the extent that the collection of payment to the Depot shall be done by the Depot Operator only. They informed that all ECDs are now collecting charges in digital form and is issuing GST Invoices. Depots has got various activities to be taken care and hence point of collection charges shall be the Depot Operator itself. They do not agree to the provision in the SOP for Shipping Line to pay charges to ECD.
2. Representatives of Shipping Lines explained the main issues like digital payment, difficulty to drivers at ECD etc has been sorted out now. Therefore, the issue of collection of payment at Empty Container Depot as per the existing system shall continue. If Shipping Line is to collect and make the payment to Depot, it is extra overhead to them and Lines may face difficulty in doing so. Therefore, they do not want to be party to the payment to ECD.
3. BCBA has pointed out the Shipping Lines are specifying the Empty Yard in the DO itself where the empty container is to be deposited. Therefore, Shipping Line is having direct contract with the ECDs. Hence, Shipping Lines should only make necessary payment to ECDs. The Transporters Association also clarified that they also agree to the Advisory on SOP.
4. Representatives of CFS Association informed that their opinion is also similar to that Empty Container Depots Association.
5. FFAAI opined that the Advisory is in line with the direction of the Honourable Minister of Commerce & Industry and it should have made applicable all over India. They also agreed that the payment should be made by Shipping Lines, as it done in the case of payment of THC to the Terminals.
6. Chairman JNPA, informed following:
 1. The point raised by Empty Container Depot in their letter that the SOP was issued without proper meeting is not correct. Several round of meetings were conducted by JNPA and all stakeholders were present in one or other meeting. Honourable Minister of Commerce & Industry had taken a

meeting on 19.9.2024 and the SOP has been prepared in line with directions issued and is binding to all. NSDCA informed that they were not part of the Minister's meeting.

2. Chairman JNPA, replied that the point has been noted and will be communicated to the concerned.
3. Chairman reiterated that the issue has been deliberated at highest level. Even the matter was discussed in the PMG Meeting and in general the matter is being viewed very seriously. Implementation of the SOP will be the best way to bring transparency and better working environment in the ECD business. The SOP is issued as an Advisory and compliance of the same will bring great confidence the trade and the higher authorities in the Government of India. However, JNPA do not have jurisdiction to give direction to the ECDs outside JNPA to comply the SOP. Regarding, the charges to be collected, JNPA do not have any say and same is to be decided by the ECD operators as per the prevailing market condition. JNPA do not intend to make any suggestion on the commercial matters of ECD business. However, it is to reiterate that the SOP was issued in the larger interest of having a healthy and transparent functioning of the Empty Container Depots.
4. Chairman further stated that, JNPA will implement the SOP in its own empty container yard which is operated by M/s Hind Terminals. Other Empty Containers Yards can decide on their own. JNPA is also planning to construct larger empty container yard by itself within a period on one year so as to facilitate the trade in the larger interest of the trade.

Meeting ended with an advice from Chairman, JNPA that all stakeholders shall cooperate and create a conducive atmosphere so that the trade is not affected at JNPA.

List of Participants

Sub.: Standard Operating Procedure for Empty Container Depot Operations

Date: 28th October 2024 at 1600 Hrs.

| Sr. No. | Name of the Participant | Designation | Organization |
|---------|-------------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| 01 | Shri Sunil Vaswani | Executive Director | CSLA |
| 02 | Shri Umesh Grovar | Secretary General | CFSAI |
| 03 | Shri Jaikant Naicker | Sr. GM | Hind Terminal |
| 04 | Shri Bakshi Md Hanif | GM/OPS | SAMSARA MANSA |
| 05 | Shri Pravin Paithankar | President | MHVIA |
| 06 | Shri Ashok Goyal | Sr. vice President | AITWA |
| 07 | Shri Prakash Bhanushali | Vice President | MHVICOA |
| 08 | Shri M. Puri | C.M. | NSDCA |
| 09 | Shri Sanjeev Harale | President | BCBA |
| 10 | Shri Dushyant Mulani | Chairman | FFFAI |
| 11 | Shri Paresh K. Thakkar | Sr. VP | BCBA |
| 12 | Shri Vasu Menon | VP. Logistics | MSC/CSLA |
| 13 | Shri Sandeep Naik | Secretary | NSDCA |
| 14 | Shri Sanjay Shingote | MCM | BCBA |
| 15 | Shri Ganesh D. Shinde | VC | MVA |
| 16 | Shri Bharat Pokharkar | Chairman | MRMMS |
| 17 | Shri Subhash Dongare | Branch Head | ONE Line |
| 18 | Shri Amit B. Mhatre | Dy. Manager | Seahorse Shipping |
| 19 | Shri Javed M. Sayyed | Co-member | MHVOCA |
| 20 | Shri Govardhan Nimse | Director | Transport |
| 21 | Shri Amit Kamat | Chairman Elect | FFFAI |
| 22 | Vinayak Aparaj | VP | BCBA |