

HIGHLIGHTS OF APSA ACTIVITIES IN 2021-22

a. Letters and Meetings on Various Issues:

1. Letter dated 22.11.2021 sent to Secretary Law and Division- FBR for raising objections on Draft Amended Rules for Shipping Agents
2. Meeting with Assistant Collector Customs dated 23.11.2021 regarding high freight charges and non-availability of containers
3. Meeting with FPCCI Delegation on 26.11.2021 to explain the role of the Association during Covid-19 situation and recording of grievances for lack of support from FPCCI during the past.
4. Letter issued to Collector and Additional Collector Customs dated 04.12.2021 to highlight issues faced by members due to entry of empty containers in to terminals electronically.
5. Detailed proposal sent to Customs along with comments and rationale for amending Shipping Agents Rules in line with SRO 1220(I)/2015 dated 04.12.2015.
6. Letter sent to Assistant Collector (Licensing) dated 04.12.2021 and explaining the position of Members in lieu of Freight Charges while reiterating that commercial matters may not be dictated by Customs Authority in line of the guidelines from Competition Commission of Pakistan.
7. Meeting with ADC Customs and officials dated 29.11.2021 to address the concerns of shipping lines due to fine/penalty on containers which are delayed due to auction/destruction of cargo.
8. Meeting with Collector Preventive Customs and officials dated 07.12.2021 to stress that the inventories should not be struck in any process and smooth running to be maintained and to grant extension for entry for empty containers in terminal electronically.
9. Letter issued to Senior Vice Chairman, Rice Exporters Association of Pakistan dated 17.01.2022 to refute the claims and proposals sent by them in order to support the exporters and matching the situation with our neighboring countries.
10. Letter issued to Assistant Chief, Ministry of Commerce dated 01.02.2022 to clarify the position on shortage of containers and the support provided by its Members to the industry at large.
11. Meeting held by Members with SBP in the month of February 2022 regarding the progress and transactions of Electronic Bill of Lading which was due to be completed in the coming months.
12. Various meetings held by Members with Customs official regarding stuck-up containers of shipping lines at the terminals and support from lines in order to facilitate and assist release of containers.

13. Meeting with DG Transit Trade and members of Commercial Attaché' dated 14.03.2022 to promote trade between Pakistan and Afghanistan and to resolve the issues with traders.
14. Letter and invitation received from Pakistan Single Window dated 15.03.2022 for APSA attending a Workshop on bridging legal gaps in the development of Port Community System.
15. Notification issued by APSA to FPCCI dated 28.04.2022 for forming FPCCI Central Standing Committee on Shipping Affairs and nomination of Members of the Standing Committee which included current Chairman to be nominated as the Convener for current year.
16. Meeting with Chief Collector MCC Appraisal & Facilitation dated 25.05.2022 under the auspices of FPCCI to discuss matters of mutual interest.
17. Disposal of Constitutional Petition pending before Sindh High Court pertaining to Shipping Agents Rules after resolving issues with FBR.
18. Various meetings held and letters issued to Customs during May and June 2022 pertaining to Entry of Empty Containers in to Terminals Electronically, thereby concluding the deadline for any further extension after 15.06.2022 respectively.
19. Invitation received from President FPCCI dated 07.07.2022 for an interactive meeting to discuss Improvement of Pakistan's Economy at FPCCI Head Office.
20. Meeting with Chief Collector Enforcement and Deputy Collector Customs dated 25.07.2022 to ease clearance of cargo pending at all Ports due to applicability of SRO 598(I)/2022 dated 19.05.2022, and discuss complete waiver of delay and detention charges for cargo landed between 19.05.2022 and 30.06.2022.
21. Letter dated 21.07.2022 sent to Acting Governor and Deputy Governor State Bank of Pakistan regarding delay in approval for Freight and Detention Remittances of APSA members, while further requesting appropriate measures to be taken to avoid blocking of foreign funds.
22. Meeting conducted on request of Competition Commission of Pakistan (CCP) to understand the role of APSA and the market practices followed for freight determination which was chaired by Chairman APSA.