



प्रधान आयुक्त का कार्यालय, सीमाशुल्क, अहमदाबाद

"सीमाशुल्कभवन", "पहलीमंजिल", पुरानेहाईकोर्टकेसामने, नवरंगपुरा, अहमदाबाद 009 380-  
दूरभाष 4630 2754 (079) : फैक्स 2343 2754 (079) : ई-मेल: [technical-customs@gov.in](mailto:technical-customs@gov.in)

Date: 12-08-2022

STANDING ORDER NO. 03/2022

**Subject: - Jacket with camera for use by the Vessel Boarding Officer-  
pilot at Customs Commissionerate, Ahmedabad- procedure -reg.**

Internationally, uniform jackets with equipment such as walkie-talkie, night binoculars, body worn cameras (BWCs), searchlight caps, etc. have found an increasing use by the law enforcement agencies for specific areas of work, as per requirement.

2. The use of similar uniform jacket with equipment for Customs has been examined. It is felt that, to begin with, this should be prescribed for use by the Boarding Officers at the ports under Customs Commissionerate, Ahmedabad on a pilot basis.
3. At the seaport, the Boarding officer is the first government official to deal with the foreign vessel on its first arrival at Indian Ports and they have various responsibilities on their shoulders. The Boarding Officers are the face of Indian Customs at the ports. Crisp in their white uniforms, the first to set foot on any vessel entering the Indian frontiers, they are the cutting-edge functionaries of the service whose visibility extends to the shipping lines, terminal operators, logistic partners, custom brokers, businessmen and most importantly, the common man. Thus, the Boarding Officer has to act as an ambassador of the country and has to initiate customs formalities and procedure without causing any inconvenience to the trade.
4. As per their duties, the Boarding Officer shall board all the vessels on their first arrival in India and collect the Arrival Report consisting of General declaration, Vessel's stores list, Crew list, Private Property list of the members of the crew, a detailed list of embarking / disembarking of the passengers/crew, list of same bottom cargo, vessel cargo, vessel's currency declaration, list of arms, ammunition and satellite phones, list of permissible dangerous drugs for the use of vessel or its crew, if any, etc., The Customs Officer shall verify Bond Stores and the Consumable Stores of the vessel with the declaration and shall put the items like liquor, cigarettes, tobacco, arms & ammunition and other sensitive items of the vessel and its crew, under the Customs seal. They shall carry checks of minimum 5% of the property in possession of the crew with their declaration and shall put the excess quantity, if any, under seal.
5. The performance of the above duties and the interactions during the course of

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their duties require maintaining of absolute transparency, legitimacy and accountability. In order to highlight the importance of Customs and accord it the fitting tag of guardians of the frontiers of the economic borders of the country, the visibility of Customs Officers at ports should be enhanced.

6. Keeping the above objective in mind, it has been decided to prescribe the use of jacket with body worn camera for the Boarding Officers at ports. This will provide transparency, while carrying out physical checks on board and also provide evidence in case of an offence or suspected offence. It will not only add to the visibility of the officer but also has the benefit of increased transparency, legitimacy and accountability for both citizens and Customs, especially in light of enhanced scrutiny of such public interactions.

7. In this regard, following procedures shall be followed by Boarding Officers-

- i. The Boarding Officer shall wear the jacket with their name and badges before boarding the vessel. The body worn camera shall be placed on the right side at a space specifically designed to hold the body camera. The camera shall be placed upright to capture the image of interaction with vessel's crew and verification process clearly.
- ii. The recording camera would be positioned in such a manner so that those watching the footage see the situation from the officer's perspective.
- iii. Officer shall activate his/her camera at the start of his/her boarding duty on approaching the gangway and make people aware that they are being recorded. The recording shall be continued uninterrupted until the officer de-boards the vessel, and reaches back at the end of the gangway.
- iv. At the end of the officer's shift, the officer shall transfer the recorded data in an internal drive secured with password protection. At the end of every day, a backup copy in hard disk shall be sent and kept in safe custody of AC/DC concerned. The recordings shall be retained for a minimum of 30 days. All the officers shall ensure safe storage of data and access to the same shall be restricted to internal use only.
- v. The body camera after transferring all the data shall be handed to next batch officer safely. It needs to be recorded in the register immediately during handover.
- vi. Aastt/Deputy Commissioner (in-charge) shall oversee these recordings on random basis every week and send the details of video reviewed and observations made to Joint/Additional Commissioner (in-charge).
- vii. Joint/Additional Commissioner (in-charge) shall review these recording and the observations made by the Aastt/Deputy Commissioner (in-charge) every month and submit a monthly report to the Commissioner.

8. This Standing Order comes into force with effect from 15.08.2022 (10.30 am). Any difficulty faced in implementation of these instructions shall be brought to the notice of the undersigned.

This issues with the approval of the Competent Authority.

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Signed by Mohit Agrawal  
Date: 12-08-2022 18:17:16  
Reason: Approved  
MOHIT AGRAWAL  
Additional Commissioner (Technical)  
Ahmedabad Customs