

**WCCB revised Scheme for introduction of Accredited Clients Programme (ACP) under Risk Management System (RMS), for facilitation of flora & fauna trade at Customs ports.**

**1. Introduction:**

The international best accepted method of assessing various types of international cargo while being imported in and exported out of the country under the prescribed procedure of the government for efficient clearance is through Risk Management System (RMS) as a measure of trade facilitation. Special clearance procedure is provided for such authorized persons called as Accredited Clients, having good track record and who meet specified criteria identified by the authorities concerned. It however recommends for selective screening/checking of high risk cargo by the regulatory authorities. Under the premise of above international practices, in India, the Central Board of Excise and Customs has introduced Risk Management System (RMS) in Imports vide its Circular No.43/2005 and in Exports vide Circular No.23/2013, to meet similar objective. Wildlife Crime Control Board (WCCB), which is a statutory body constituted under the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, by the Government of India, and whose mandate includes assisting the Customs in the inspection of the flora & fauna consignments as per the provisions of the Wild Life Protection Act, CITES and EXIM Policy, also requires its own procedures for issuing No Objection Certificates to Customs before the international flora & fauna cargo is finally cleared by Customs authorities for importation or exportation. This will make NOC issuing process timely & efficient and also enable it spare its resources to focus on higher risk items.

**2. Objective:**

The objective of the Risk Management System, under Accredited Clients Programme is to grant assured facilitation by Wildlife Crime Control Bureau to importers & exporters who have demonstrated capacity and willingness to comply with the laws required to be implemented by the Bureau, while giving clearances to international cargo at the Customs ports.

**3. Eligibility and General Conditions:**

The following eligibility criteria and general conditions would be applicable for the implementation of Risk Management System (RMS) under Accredited Clients Programme (ACP):

(i). Wildlife Crime Control Bureau being one of the regulatory authorities of the Government of India, has to give clearances in the form of No Objection Certificate (NOC) to each flora & fauna product being imported or exported. The existing inspection process takes considerable time that results in international shipments getting held up at the gateway ports. Such delays at international airports may even make the products uncompetitive in the international markets. It is therefore proposed to introduce the Risk Management System (RMS) while issuing NOC with the "Accredited Client's Programme" (ACP) at all Customs ports in a phased manner. With the implementation of the Risk Management System, this programme will replace all existing *procedures* for facilitation in the sites where RMS is implemented.

(ii). The goal of the Risk Management System (RMS) is to enable Wildlife Crime Control Bureau to strike an appropriate balance between trade facilitation and enforcement of government policies. Under the RMS, Shipping Bills/ Bills of Entry filed by exporters/importers in the Indian Customs EDI System will be processed for risk and a larger number of consignments will be allowed clearance based on the exporter/ importer's self assessment without examination once checking of the marks and numbers on the packages or in the case of Full Container Load (FCL Cargo), the container numbers and seals, and taking over the relevant documents from the exporters/importers by Customs. Other consignments would be selected for examination depending on the evaluation of risk by the RMS.

(iii). Exporters/Importers registered by the department as "Accredited Clients" under the Accredited Clients Programme will form a separate category to which assured facilitation would be provided. Except for certain percentage of consignments selected on a random basis by the RMS; and cases where specific intelligence is available or where a specifically observed pattern of non-compliance is required to be addressed, the Accredited Clients will be allowed clearance on the basis of self assessment i.e. as a matter of course, clearance would be allowed on the basis of their declarations and without examination of goods. This benefit would be available to the registered Accredited Clients at all Customs ports in the country where EDI and the RMS are operational. It is expected that this measure will bring about drastic reduction in the dwell time of cargo and transaction costs for such importers and exporters.

(iv). WCCB shall approach Customs for earmarking separate storage space, handling facility for expeditious clearance and faster delivery for wild life shipments if imported/ exported in large volumes by the Accredited Clients.

(v). Surprise/ intelligence based inspections may be carried out by the officials of Wildlife Crime Control Bureau at any time and at any location including the premises declared for manufacturing / storing purpose.

(vi). The importers/exporters desirous of availing the facility as "Accredited Clients" are required to apply for registration under the scheme using the Application Form attached at Annex – 1. Importers/exporters meeting the following criteria shall be eligible under the Accredited Clients Program:

- a. They should be in the business of export/import for past three years or more through any Indian Customs stations.
- b. They should not have any case of violation of the provisions of Wild Life Protection Act, CITES and Foreign Trade (D&R) Act, 1992 relevant to flora & fauna, against them in the past.
- c. Products should have formulation / ingredients mentioned in details with the scientific name.
- d. Self- certification by the party (Exporter/Importer) that no CITES or/and Wild Life Protection Act listed species are used by them in their products/consignment. CITES and Wild Life Protection Act listed species will not be part of RMS System.

(vii). For qualifying for the ACP, the applicants will have to satisfy all the above mentioned criteria. Further, the accreditation would initially be valid for a period of one year and would be renewable thereafter upon a review of the compliance record of the Accredited Client.

(viii). Upon introduction of RMS, WCCB may recommend to Customs the provisional clearance of goods pending sampling and testing on the basis of legal undertaking by the applicant for all goods except for items listed in the Schedules of the Wild Life (Protection) Act 1972 and Appendices of CITES.

(ix). Certificates issued by Internationally Accredited Laboratories from the country of origin shall be acceptable and Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun; Zoological Survey of India, Kolkata; and Botanical Survey of India, Kolkata; Central Marine and Fisheries

Research Institute, Kochin, may be recognised as a nodal national laboratories to be integrated with Internationally Accredited Laboratories directly for arresting malpractices.

(x). Wildlife Crime Control Bureau may establish the 'Risk Management Division' at its Bureau Headquarters which will *inter alia* be administering the Accredited Clients Program. The list of Accredited Clients will be maintained centrally in the Risk Management System. The importers/exporters may apply to be registered as Accredited Clients to Risk Management Division at Wildlife Crime Control Bureau Headquarters, who after scrutiny of the applications, prepare a list of Exporters and Importers eligible to be registered as "Accredited Clients" under the Scheme, and get the approval of the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change. The list of the Accredited Clients will be sent to the Customs Risk Management Division, for integration with Customs RMS and take requisite action for its implementation by Customs authorities.

(xi). The exporters/ importers who have been granted the status of Accredited Clients will be required to maintain high levels of compliance. It will be closely monitored by the Wildlife Crime Control Bureau in co-ordination with the Chief Commissioners of Customs. Where compliance levels fall, the exporter/ importer will first be informed for improvement, and in case of persistent non compliance, the exporter/ importer may be deregistered under the Accredited Client's Program.

(xii). In order to ensure that there is no misuse of the program by imposters (persons who assume the Accredited Client's name and identity), the accredited clients will file shipping bills/ bills of entry using digital signatures.

(xiii). Initially, the Scheme will be launched for Exports and Imports at Air Cargo Terminal at IGIA, New Delhi, for trial & testing. This would be followed by the progressive roll out of the RMS at other locations where EDI is operational.

(xiv). Wide publicity may be given to this scheme through the recognized trade bodies and Chambers of Commerce.

#### **4. Review of the Scheme:**

Wildlife Crime Control Bureau will review the Scheme at the interval of three years or before, as deemed necessary.

## ANNEXURE-1

### Application Form for Accredited Clients Programme of Wildlife Crime Control Bureau

S.No		
1.	Name of the Exporter / Importer	
2.	PAN based BIN (Self Attested copy of PAN number to be attached with Application form).	
3.	IEC	
4.	Date of issue of IEC	
5.	State whether a Manufacturer or Trader with details of major items manufactured and/or exported/ imported.	
6.	State whether the product manufactured contains any extract/derivative/ ingredient obtained from any plant or animal.	
7.	If reply to the point no. 6 is in affirmative, give details of the plant or animal, indicating their scientific name and the source from which such plant/animal obtained.	
8.	State whether the exporter is involved in import of any plant/animal product and/or their value addition and re-export of the value added product. If yes, give complete details.	
9.	Constitution of business (Proprietorship Partnership Registered Co. Unregistered Co. Trust Society Others)	

10.	Bank Account Details with Account No. & Names of the Bank, Address and date since operated.	
11.	History of the exporter/ importer, Whether any business was owned by the exporter/importer in the past, if so previous PAN, IE Code, Central Excise Registration Number, with all details including address, telephone number, fax no, Email Address.	
12.	Do you possess any Quality Accreditations such as ISO? If yes, please specify the particulars.	
13.	Have you implemented any ERP solutions for your accounting, inventory control and logistics? If yes, please specify the package.	
14.	Mention your Joint Venture partners, if any with details i.e. Address, Telephone, Fax, E-Mail.	
15.	Corporate Address City State PIN Telephone FAX Number E-mail Address	
16.	If manufacturer, give complete address of the manufacturing facility and the distance of the facility from the nearest forest/wildlife areas.	
17.	Proprietor/ Managing Director/Chief Executive officer/ Managing trustee Name Address PAN No Telephone Fax E-mail Address	

18	Directors/Partners Name Address PAN No Telephone Fax E-mail Address	
19	Are the managing directors/directors/partners/ managing trustee of the applicant entity listed as partner/director/trustee of any other company/firm/trust? If yes furnish the full particulars.	
20	Whether, the Proprietor/Trustee/Managing Director /Partner/Director of the applicant entity has been involved in any violation of the provisions of Wild Life Protection Act, 1972, CITES and FTP relevant to flora & fauna.	
21	If manufacturer, whether the manufacturing facility is subject to any inspection by the authorities of state forest department/state wildlife department or other authority. If so, give complete details along with copies of the licenses/permissions granted by the state authorities, if any.	
22.	Whether the applicant is involved in captive breeding of any animal or involved in artificial propagation of any plant species. If so, give detailed particulars including copies of the permissions/licenses granted by any Government authority, if any, for such captive breeding/artificial propagation.	
23	Name of the person/ Department/representative handling the matters regarding obtaining NOC from Wildlife Crime Control Bureau: Name	

	Address Telephone Fax E-Mail Address (Port wise details to be furnished if applicable)	
24.	List of Custom House Agents employed at each port, with date (s) of appointment of the CHA. CHA-Name Port: CHA Address: Phone: Email Address:	
25.	Central Excise Registration No (s) Date of Issue Commissionerate	
26.	Service Tax Registration No Date of Issue Commissionerate Division Range	
27.	No. of Shipping Bills/ Bills of Entry filed at each port in the previous three financial years. Please furnish the details port-wise.	
28.	Name and designation of the Authorized Signatory PAN No of Authorized signatory Address: Telephone: Fax Number: E-Mail Address:	



**Declaration**

1. I/We hereby affirm that the particulars furnished above have been verified from my/our internal records and are true and complete disclosures. I/We accept that any discrepancy noticed by the department may debar us at the threshold or at any stage thereafter from obtaining/continuing with the Accredited Client Status. Any change in the said particulars will be intimated to Wildlife Crime Control Bureau through concerned WCCB Regional Deputy Director within a fortnight of such being occasioned.

2. I/We understand that the Accredited Client status which may be conferred on us is an expression of Wildlife Crime Control Bureau trust in my/our ability and willingness to comply with the Acts, Rules, Regulations and policies that the Bureau is required to implement.

3. I/We have understood the conditions listed in the Accredited Client Program document for continued enjoyment of the status and undertake to abide by them. We also understand that waiver of examination of our documents or goods cannot be claimed as a legal right by me/us in every instance.

4. I/We are willing to align our systems with the requirements of the Customs department/Wildlife Crime Control Bureau and incur reasonable expenditure on such initiatives.

5. I/We accept that the decision of Wildlife Crime Control Bureau in any matter concerning grant, revocation or curtailment of the Accredited Client status will be final and binding on me/us.

Date:

Place:

**Authorized Signatory**

**Name  
Designation**

**Format for Self-certification to be submitted by ACP Applicants.**

This is to certify that I/we have gone through the entire process of manufacturing / the products containing animal and plant material produced/ dealt by our company Messrs.\_\_\_\_\_ [Importer/Exporter] and do hereby certify that the products manufactured / traded by us/Messrs.\_\_\_\_\_ [Importer/Exporter] does not contain any species listed in the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 and/or CITES .

We also certify that the Messrs.\_\_\_\_\_ [Importer/Exporter] has/have not registered as captive animal breeder or cultivator of any species listed in the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 and/or CITES.

I / we hereby undertake that in the event of any thing found contrary to our declarations, I/we/ company shall be liable for penal action as per the law.

**Signature of Authorised signatory /Partner/Proprietor**

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