



The Cocanada Chamber of Commerce

(ESTD. 1868)

Date - 29.05.2021

Advisory to Kakinada Anchorage & Deep Water Port Trade Members

Further to the Trade Advisory dated 22.05.2021 issued by The Cocanada Chamber of Commerce, another urgent joint meeting of the trade members represented by the office bearers of the Cocanada Chamber of Commerce, the Custom Brokers Association, The Steamer Agents Association and The Stevedore Association was held via ZOOM application on 28.05.2021 to discuss and fix loading turn for rice vessels at Kakinada Anchorage port.

The Meeting discussed the efforts of the trade towards the continued working at Kakinada Anchorage and Deep-Water Ports, in spite of raging COVID second wave. The meeting reiterated the following circumstances that continue to exist at Kakinada Ports.

1. Curfew, which has been imposed by the Government of Andhra Pradesh in the state of Andhra Pradesh from 12 Noon to 6 AM everyday with effect from 05.05.2021 up to 19.05.2021, is now extended up to 31.05.2021.
2. Section 144 of IPC, which has been invoked from 6 AM to 12 Noon every day in the state of Andhra Pradesh with effect from 05.05.2021 up to 19.05.2021, is now extended up to 31.05.2021. This is to prevent assembly of more than 5 people at any place.
3. Due to the raging second wave of COVID-19 pandemic, all sections of the people including and not limited to the work force employed for operations at Port, Railway sidings, Warehouses, on-board ships, staff of agents etc., have been adversely affected.
4. Due to some operations being highly labour intensive, following COVID protocol during operations is becoming increasingly difficult. There is a demand from various workers unions to stall work for some period in time to break the chain and prevent further infections.
5. Consequent to the above restrictions and circumstances and in spite of the port activity being declared an essential service by GoAP/GOI, the attendance of work force for continuing the port activity, clearance of railway rakes, loading / unloading of cargo and stevedoring has been dropping day by day.

The attending members of the meeting have decided to once again bring the following to the notice of trade members at Kakinada Ports.

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1. The circumstances obtained in the ports continue to be extra-ordinary in nature beyond human control to avert. In other words, Force Majeure Conditions continue to exist in the Kakinada Ports, which is having an adverse effect on the faithful performance of certain contractual terms. Trade is advised to suitably notify their contracting parties about the existence of these circumstances and get protected against claims for non-performance or under performance.
2. There is a drastic reduction in workforce attending to work at the Ports and also there is a likelihood of some of the workers unions calling for stoppage of work for the safety of their workers. This Chamber is in continuous touch with various workers union leaders and trying to impress upon the unions that the work at the ports should continue within the limited available and attending work force. Pray God that the efforts will give the desired results.
3. In these circumstances, the Handling agents are advised to suitably inform their respective principals to regulate loading of further cargo from up country either by railway rakes or by road or other means to connect to working vessels at Port. By connecting cargo receipt directly to vessels working at Ports, the workforce requirement can be reduced and deployed to clearance of cargo from railway rakes directly to barges.
4. In view of the emerging situations at Kakinada Ports, the handling agents, shippers, buyers, vessel agents and all other stake holders are hereby informed that the situation obtained in the ports with respect to availability of workforce is very fluid and beyond prediction.
5. In the immediate instance, it has been decided by members that SIX normal size rice vessels and one rice vessel with a loadable quantity of 10,000 MT or below should be allotted loading turn at Kakinada anchorage port. The daily barge allotment and other terms shall be as per previously applicable circular in this regard. It has been decided to review the situation from time to time and make appropriate changes in the advisory depending on the circumstances

This is purely an advisory to help the stake holders to plan their operations in the emerging circumstances with least inconvenience and reduced cost overruns.

This Trade advisory is being circulated to members, Custom Brokers Association, Steamer Agents Association, Stevedores Association and The Rice Exporters Association with a request to circulate among all stake holders for guidance.

Thanking you,
Yours faithfully,
For THE COCANADA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE


(V.V. Raghayulu)
CHAIRMAN