



'VCT has natural Depth of 16.5 m alongside - The deepest amongst Indian Container Terminals'

Extension of Vessel Related Charges

As per the current situation & understanding the customer need and fulfillment by Visakhapatnam Port Trust (VPT) has extended the rebates on Vessel Related Charges for another 3 months until 01.07.2020 as an interim measure. Once the resolution is passed by VPT board upon their meeting further extension may be considered. It is indeed a great sigh of relief to the vessel operators as the expenses are going high day by and day, economy is dropping due to the impact of deadly virus followed by slowed down in EXIM traffic.

With the outbreak of COVID 19 there is countrywide lockdown to prevent the spread of this deadly virus. This extension of VRC rebates is taken as a marketing measure with the view to secure the container traffic. Foreseeing the drop in the container volumes and to benefit the vessel operators it is a great decision to extend VRCs amidst prevailing uncertainties pertaining to the aftermath of COVID 19. The rebate in VRC is as under: -

VISAKHAPATNAM PORT TRUST TRAFFIC DEPARTMENT	
No. ITRA/SBS/CONT	Dt. 11.04.2020
TRADE CIRCULAR No. 1250	
Sub: Interim Extension of promotional measures pertaining to Rebate in Vessel Related Charges (VRC) for container vessels.	
Shipping & Container Lines, Customs House Agents and other Stakeholders associated with container operation at VPT may be aware that the VPT Board had earlier approved the following container promotional measures, which were valid upto 31.03.2020 after which the same was to be reviewed.	
GRT Based Concession:	
(a) 50% rebate on Port Dues and Pilotage for vessels having less than 50,000 GRT.	
(b) 70% rebate on Port Dues and Pilotage for vessels having more than 50,000 GRT.	
Concession on Transshipment Containers:	
(a) Concession of 70% in Port Dues and Pilotage for container vessels with GRT less than 50,000 MT carrying minimum inward 250 TEUs for Transshipment.	
(b) Concession of 80% in Port Dues and Pilotage for container vessels with GRT more than 50,000 MT carrying minimum inward 250 TEUs for Transshipment.	
The GRT based discounts will however NOT be applicable for the vessels where the above (a) & (b) concessions are extended.	
In this regard, it may be informed to the Trade that proposal for further extension of the concessional measures was proposed to be placed before the VPT Board during its meeting earlier scheduled on 27-03-2020. However, due to the countrywide lockdown to prevent the spread of COVID-19 virus, the Board Meeting of VPT stands postponed.	
Now, with a view to secure the container traffic and as a marketing measure, the Competent Authority of VPT have approved extension of the above promotional measure for an interim period of three months from 01.04.2020 to 01.07.2020, subject to further extension & ratification by the VPT Board.	
TRAFFIC MANAGER	

GRT Based Concession:

- 50% rebate on Port Dues and Pilotage for vessels having less than 50,000 GRT.
- 70% rebate on Port Dues and Pilotage for vessels having more than 50,000 GRT.

Concession on Transshipment Containers:

- Concession of 70% in Port Duties and Pilotage for container vessels with GRT less than 50,000 MT carrying minimum inward of 250 TEUs for Transshipment.
- Concession of 80% in Port Duties and Pilotage for container vessels with GRT more than 50,000 MT carrying minimum inward of 250 TEUs for Transshipment.

VCT Never Stops...Operational



Visakha Container Terminal an ideal gateway on the east coast of India has left its footprints as an ideal one for others in responding to COVID-19. The pandemic has disrupted almost all global sectors but none more so than logistics. When COVID-19 hit India, VCTPL's initial initiative was to safeguard its employees by following guidelines set by World Health Organisation, Central Govt. and State Govt. VCT took all measures, providing hand sanitizers, fumigating office spaces, maintaining social distancing between staff members, operators and wearing suitable protective equipment.

In terms of terminal operations, VCT is currently working strategically considering the safety of the employees. Methods of social distancing is followed and at the same time, rosters were prepared for the staff to attend their respective duties. The rosters are strategized in such a way that the operations are running 24x7 without any delay in service meeting the customers' requirement. Finance, BDC, Procurement and HR teams are encouraged to work from home. Sanitizers / Liquid wash etc. were placed at various areas of each department for the safety of the employees. Seating arrangement in the canteen is made ensuring social distancing.

VCT employees and contract staff are provided with the required Personal Protective Equipment (PPEs), Sanitizers, nose masks, hand gloves etc. PPE gowns are also arranged in the terminal. Terminal premise and the offices are quarantined on a periodic basis. Personnel (employees, visitors etc.) arriving in the terminal are thermally screened at the entry as a precautionary measure. We have deactivated the biometric attendance system to avoid contact of persons that are now carried with RFID identity card swiping. To fight against the deadly virus, we have taken all the precautionary measures required to battle and handle the situation effectively against the virus. Various periodic sessions were also taken by Specialized Doctors at Visakhapatnam at the terminal premises to keep the employees well aware about do's & don'ts of this pandemic and how to be safe.

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VCT Never Stops...Operational 24x7

To keep a continuous tab on the situation a special team has been formed who is monitoring the status of the employees & contract staff's wellbeing, health condition with a 24x7 hotline for assistance. Daily reports are also sent to the terminal head on the implementation of the planned events and further discussions are done for better efficiency and effectiveness.

In order to ensure business as usual, VCT has a Business Continuity Plan to avoid any disruptions. At the same time, we are in close contact with the local health authorities, other related government authorities to understand the latest advisories where the same are being followed without any compromise. Similar, methods are also followed at VCT CFS as well to ensure the safety of the employees.

Together with all the partners support from the trade, VCT has come forward to serve the trade so that there should be no delay in export / import of essential commodities to hospitals and health care units. Together we can and we will tide over these tough times and again stand still as rock solid.

Relief to Cashew Exporters

The ideal situation of Cashew is supposedly to be in full swing during these months; however, the operations not being cooperative with the impact of COVID 19, the mobility of the cargo got temporarily stalled. The shutdown of several ports across the globe has also played a vital role in the overall drop of cashew EXIM movement. India currently meets over 60 percent of its cashew-processing requirement through imports of raw cashew, mostly from African countries. Most of the processed cashew exports are done into Europe and Mediterranean regions. At present, the cashew processing units across the country are holding around 1,50,000 tons of cashew kernels worth INR 9,000 crore in different stages of processing. These partly processed kernels are prone to damage by infestation, color change etc. The processing units, exporters and various other parties involved in cashew business were worried and did not know what to do at this juncture.



A great relief now to cashew EXIM players when the government gave permission to cashew processing units to resume operations with 50% manpower. Exporters who are holding huge volumes of unprocessed stock have now started reopening their factories to complete the pending processing to cater to the demand. VCT has been the ideal gateway for both EXIM traffic of cashew via Visakhapatnam and will continue to be. More exports of Cashew through VCT is envisaged in the next few months as the season is round the corner where Visakhapatnam hinterland is the consumption center.

India Welcomes New Manufacturing Units



COVID 19 has left the world economy to degrade to dreadful levels. Economies of most of the countries are already at brink. Amidst these tough times, there is an opportunity for India to welcome foreign direct investment with open arms. Countries having their manufacturing hubs in China are now looking forward to shift their units to countries like India, which has huge manpower and skilled labour.

Some of the South Korean companies are in talks to move their manufacturing units from China into India as they have identified the country to be more positive for the betterment of such units than any other country. More and more companies are looking for favorable nations like India to set up their companies. As per Consulate General of The Republic of Korea, the Koreans have already made requests for two iron and steel companies regarding start-ups and one from the hospitality sector, to transfer these units from China to India. Suzuki a Japanese company in early 1980's had set up its first car manufacturing plant near New Delhi, while Korea on the other hand invested in China.

The Indian Govt. previously showed interest in setting up Posco and Hyundai Steel factories in Andhra Pradesh. Besides the two giants, there are several companies, which intend to come to Andhra Pradesh considering the huge potential available in the region. With more and more companies coming in the vicinity of Visakhapatnam, VCT

More orders to Meat and Cotton Yarn suppliers

India exports about 10-12 lakh tons of buffalo meat valued at INR 20,000 crore per year; however there has been a huge drop during March to the tune of 48%. With the Ramadan season started in April that continues until May, more orders are flowing into the kitty of Indian Exporters from the Middle East countries. The meat processors are taking the required precautions like sanitizing the premises, following health guidelines for workers, logistics and supply chain to address imports' concerns ahead of opening the units in April. The meat exporters are confident that the industry will recover faster than any other industry with many more orders coming into their way for fulfillment.



Likewise, Cotton Yarn manufacturers and suppliers too who have witnessed sharp drop in the product exports are now convinced that the market is reviving with more orders being floated from China, Vietnam and Taiwan markets. Majority of the Garment & Fabric industries that were shut down for some time due to the impact of COVID 19 are now opening up slowly with 50% production and utilization. The prices that were down by 10%-12% over the past couple of months are slowly increasing too. As per the industry sources, 45% of Cotton Yarn produced in India is exported into China as the country has a competitive edge over other countries like Pakistan, Vietnam and Indonesia.

Both Meat and Cotton yarn suppliers have started getting export orders in recent weeks, more exporters are also in the process of signing the contract while others have signed. Indonesia, Malaysia, Egypt and Saudi Arabia have a huge demand for buffalo meat who have started floating orders.

VCT being one of the top terminals in the country handling both Buffalo meat and Cotton Yarn exports is in a very good position to handle the incremental exports traffic with direct services into China and Middle East regions on weekly frequency.

Vizag a Growth Area for the Future



The COVID-19 pandemic has set foot across the globe and shattered major countries from the roots. It has weakened the position of so called advanced economies in a real sense. Amidst this tough and adverse situation India stands tall as an emerging trusted partner for further investments. India stands to benefit from the potential shift in global value chain after COVID 19. Recently Mr. Suresh Prabhu, Member of Rajya Sabha had also stated that India would become the global manufacturing hub for medical devices, engineering, electronics and other manufacturing sectors. India will also be a major hub for medical tourism. The micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) are going to be the backbone of future

industrial development of India. MSMEs play an important role in India's exports, employment and GDP growth. Large companies depend on MSMEs for sourcing components and services.

India is now positioned to be the next best choice for multinational companies to set up their manufacturing units wherein the city of destiny Visakhapatnam is gearing up for the upcoming development as one among the six districts identified by the government for accelerating their economic and industrial growth by 2%-3%. New policies and procedures will be laid down in order to attract the upcoming opportunities. Now it's time to evaluate this situation from an economic and enterprise-risk standpoint. Whilst the MSMEs plays the critical part for the FDIs into the country with Visakhapatnam being in the radar for investment, the EXIM traffic movement would naturally go through Visakha Container Terminal that has all the capabilities and necessary infrastructure to handle this incremental business.