



EICI/MEMO/39
February 5, 2008

Dr.T.M.Thomas Issac,
Hon'ble Minister for Finance,
Finance Department,
Government Secretariat,
Government of Kerala,
Thiruvananthapuram,
Kerala

Sir,

Sub: Submission to improve movement of express shipments at Walayar State Border Check Post

Thank you for having consented to meet a delegation of the Express Industry Council of India.

Express Industry Council of India (EICI) is an All India body of leading express companies in India. EICI represents both the domestic and international express companies in India. Many leading express companies like AFL, Blue Dart, DHL, FedEx, First Flight, TNT and UPS are members of EICI.

Express companies are committed to provide speedy delivery of all shipments. Express companies mainly carry small, door to door, time sensitive and urgent items like documents, life saving drugs, engineering goods like spares, mobile phones and accessories, computers and accessories, garments, healthcare products, lifestyle products, gifts and samples etc. These shipments are largely carried using jeeps, autos, and LCVs.

However for delivery of all express shipments into Kerala, there is a delay of over one day for delivery anywhere in Kerala due to delays at Walayar state check post. For your kind information express vehicles take nearly 5-6 hours to cover the distance from the state border to verification check post. You would appreciate that this lead to higher transaction costs for businesses in Kerala and delayed delivery of urgent time sensitive shipments to consumers.

Sir, we humbly submit that a fast track lane be created for movement of vehicles carrying express shipments. We also request that pre clearance of documents be accepted through e-clearance so as to avoid delays at check points.

EICI would be glad to work with the concerned authorities in structuring a process to facilitate this. This measure would go a long way in mitigating the critical issues faced by consumers in Kerala for delivery and carriage of all their urgent express shipments.

Express Industry Council Of India

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Express Services are now integral to business operations around the world, helping to reduce firms' operating and inventory costs, and facilitating the use of latest production techniques. Without them, companies' competitiveness- and hence investment- would be significantly undermined.

Sir, in case you need further clarifications, we would only be glad to provide you the same.

Thanking you,

Yours sincerely,
For Express Industry Council of India

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Vijay Kumar", with a horizontal line drawn through the middle of the signature.

Vijay Kumar
Chief Operating Officer



Express Industry
Council of India

Express Clearance Facility at Walayar Check Post

“In the 21st Century, an unquestionable law will determine competitive success –the survival of the fastest.”

“Speed and agility will take center stage... accelerated production cycles, international sales and distribution, flexibility, individualized products and express delivery...”

Alvin Toffler

(Futurist, 1990)



Express Industry Council of India

- Represent domestic and international express companies
- Represent Express Industry on policy matters with various Public & Govt. agencies
- Manage the International Air Express Terminals at Mumbai & Delhi
- EICI and Indian Customs jointly developing EDI for Express Clearances

Express Service

'Express Service' is defined by Universal Postal Union as a service for speedy delivery of shipments (document/ non document as well as freight shipments) to a particular destination within a designated timeframe

The term 'Express Industry' refers to time bound value added service for speedy delivery of shipments to a desired destination. They are referred to as 'Trade Enablers' since enables time bound delivery of shipments along with several value added services. It enables users reduce operating costs which they would otherwise have incurred for manpower, freight, logistics etc. It also relieves them from the need to incur capital expenditure for fleet of commercial vehicles, aircrafts, warehouse, etc and enables them to focus on their core operations



Express Industry- Facilitator to other parts of Economy

- Express services are used to transport growing share of world trade as companies increasingly demand rapid, guaranteed delivery
- Ensure continued competitiveness of companies
- Good access to markets is the most important factor influencing location decisions
- Enables small companies to utilize high quality, rapid delivery services which they could not provide themselves

Why express shipments need preferential treatment?



- Express companies are important for many countries where the domestic transport infrastructure is poor, typically this includes many developing economies

For instance express industry is widely seen as helping overcome two main problems of distribution in China, which are slow and unreliable delivery- problems common in developing economies

- Countries are increasingly dependent on efficient and competitive means of both delivering exports to their destinations and bringing imports from other countries

Why express shipments need preferential treatment?



- Recognising express industry as a crucial trade enabler, World Customs Organisation (WCO) advised Customs in member countries to facilitate speedy clearance of express shipments and have circulated Immediate Release Guidelines for express shipments
- Government of India facilitates express shipment movements by enacting Courier Regulations for import and export of express shipments and by creating dedicated Customs clearance facilities at Mumbai, Delhi and Chennai for express shipments
- International express shipments are pre cleared at the dedicated express facilities by submitting documents well in advance of flight arrival

Walayar Check Post a Major Barrier to Express Services



- Express companies mainly carry small door to door time sensitive items like documents, life saving drugs, engineering goods like spares, mobile phones, computers and accessories, garments, health care products, gifts and samples
- Delay of over 1 day for delivery of all urgent, time sensitive shipments into Kerala due to delays at Walayar check post
- Leading to higher transaction costs for businesses in Kerala and delayed delivery of urgent time sensitive shipments to consumers

EICI Suggest....



- A fast track lane for movement of vehicles carrying express shipments
At present express vehicles have to wait in Q for nearly 5-7 hours along with large trucks and trailers
- Prior clearance of documents through e- clearance so as to avoid delays at check points