

ATA Carnet: The convenience of duty-free trade

The Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (Ficci), under the aegis of the Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India, with support from FIEO (ER) organized a half-day workshop on ATA Carnet in Kolkata on November 26, 2010.

The objective of the workshop was to familiarize the industry representatives with the operational aspects of using an ATA Carnet and its benefits. The ATA Carnet permits temporary duty free admission of goods into a member country without the need to raise a customs bond, payment of duty or fulfillment of other customs formalities in one or a number of countries. The workshop brought together over 70 representatives from different export promotion councils, export houses, chambers and industries.

The keynote address was delivered by Mr P.S. Pruthi, Commissioner (Customs and Export Promotion), Central Board of Excise and Customs. He said that with strongly expanding and diversifying international trade and increasing international exchange of people in the professional, scientific and cultural realms, the need of instruments like ATA Carnet for encouraging temporary admission is necessary.

Mr N.K. Upadhyay, Additional Commissioner of Customs, Kolkata, in his address shared the experience of Kolkata Customs regarding ATA Carnet. He assured that the local customs would come forward if any ATA Carnet user faces delay or harassment.

Mr Nirankar Saxena, Director, Bisnet, ATA Carnet & Commercialization of Innovation, mentioned that ATA Carnet is an international



Mrs Debdatta Nandwani, Dy. Director General, FIEO(ER) addressing the participants. On the dais, from left, Ms S Vijayalakshmi, Sr. Asst. Director, FICCI; Mr Nirankar Saxena Bisnet, ATA Carnet & Commercialization of Innovation, FICCI; Mr P S Pruthi (Customs & Export Promotion), CBEC, Ministry of Finance, New Delhi; and Mr N K Upadhyay, Addl. Commissioner of Customs, Kolkata.

customs document created to facilitate duty free and tax free temporary imports of goods in countries. He also pointed out that it was a joint initiative of the World Customs Organization (WCO) and the ICC World Chambers Federation (WCF).

Mrs Debdatta Nandwani, Deputy Director General, FIEO, discussed the role of FIEO in promoting exports.

She mentioned that as a speedy customs document, ATA Carnet can save both time and money and urged all exporters to comprehend the advantages of this instrument.

There was also a technical session on the application and practical usages of ATA Carnet followed by an interactive question / answer session. ■

What is ATA Carnet?

ATA Carnet is a global customs document, which simplifies customs procedures at different customs stations to facilitate temporary importation of goods. It is issued in 67 countries, including India, which are party to the Customs Convention on ATA Carnet. The ATA Carnet permits duty free temporary admission of goods into a member country without the need to raise customs bond, payment of duty and fulfillment of other customs formalities in one or a number of foreign countries. The initials "ATA" are an acronym of the French and English word "Admission Temporaire/ Temporary Admission".

The ATA convention has been signed by 67 countries around the world. Each country in the system has a single guaranteeing body approved

by the national customs authorities and the ICC World Chambers Federation. The national guaranteeing association is entitled to issue Carnets and to authorize local chambers on the national territory to deliver them on its behalf. In major trading nations, dozens of local chambers have that authority. In India, FICCI is functioning as the sole National Issuing and Guaranteeing Association (NIGA) for ATA Carnets.

The ATA Carnet service is available to business and sales executives, exhibitors at trade fairs, demonstration samples, film and TV crews, architects, artists, entertainers, theatrical troupes, musical groups, sports teams, technicians, jewellery diamond and precious stone exporters and many more.