

LIVE LAUNCHED TO CHECK UNDER-INVOICING

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Customs has launched an indigenously developed Linking International Value (LIVE) automated system to control the perennial problem of under-invoicing as part of reforms to facilitate trade and businesses. Developed by the Directorate of Reforms & Automation team, LIVE has been integrated with the Web-Based One Customs (WeBOC) system. Overhauling the existing system for improving the assessment of imported goods is one of the main objectives of the current reform efforts. The automated system has been made part of the prime minister's strategic roadmap for plugging revenue leakages and reducing the tax gap.

The Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) and the Karachi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI) have responded positively to operationalisation of LIVE from Jan 1, a senior customs official told Dawn. The system is both automated and trade-friendly as it has been digitally made available International Values to all the assessing officers in Pakistan on their screens.

Values of other important items — such as chemicals, edible oils, coated & amp, uncoated paper, polyester filament yarn & amp, fibre — will be integrated into the system by June 30, 2023, the official said. Launched by the Directorate General Valuation (Customs), Karachi, the electronic solution is believed to address the perennial problem of under-invoicing.

Dawn 13-1-2023

PAKISTAN CUSTOMS LAUNCHES 'LINKING INTERNATIONAL VALUES' SYSTEM

ISLAMABAD: Directorate General Valuation (Customs), Karachi has launched LIVE (Linking International Values) system across Pakistan to digitally integrate price data of commodities/goods of International Publications with the WeBOC system. Sources told *Business Recorder* here on Thursday that in order to address the perennial problem of mis-invoicing (generally known as "Under-Invoicing"), the Pakistan Customs has developed an electronic solution which has recently been launched by the Directorate General Valuation (Customs), Karachi.

This system, called LIVE (Linking International Values), has been developed by Directorate of Reforms & Automation team and it has been digitally integrated with the WeBOC system. The system works by providing current price data of different commodities and goods from reputed international publications, which enables Assessing Officers to cross check declared values and to re-assess in case of variations. Overhauling the existing system for improving the assessment of imported goods is one of main objectives of the current reform efforts. A number of interventions have been designed and made part of the PM's strategic roadmap for plugging revenue leakages and reducing the tax gap.

The LIVE system was proposed by a team of the Pakistan Customs, including current Member Customs – Operations, in a Study Report on Customs Valuation which was issued in May 2019. Other interventions recommended in Study Report included a robust Risk Management System, an effective Post Clearance Audit Department and a cutting edge ICT solution to deliver the complete eco-system at par with any developed economy. A few months ago, the fast track implementation of all these recommendations has been initiated by the Pakistan Customs.

The New System not only makes the published value digitally visible to the Assessing Officers (AOs), but it also confirms its utilisation by that Assessing Officer for assessment of an item. Furthermore, such assessment becomes part of the 90days data which would help in strengthening/improving quality of the transactional value data. In the first phase of launching the LIVE system, the integrated International Publications include London Metal Bulletin (LMB); Public Ledger; Emerging Textile, Platts, Reuters, ICIS and Asian Pulp & Paper (Risi Info). Import value of the said items (during the financial year 2021-22) is Rs 821 billion. In line with the PM's strategic roadmap, values of other important items (such as chemicals, Edible Oils, Coated & Uncoated paper, Polyester Filament Yarn & Fibre, and other items) shall be integrated in the System by 30th June, 2023, officials added.

BULK CARGOES IMPORTED BY GOVT BEGIN ARRIVING AT GWADAR PORT

ISLAMABAD: The Gwadar port has started receiving government imports of bulk cargos as three consecutive vessels carrying 90,000 MT urea have already arrived at the port and clocked the fastest discharge rate. This represents the efforts of the Ministry of Maritime Affairs, China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) Authority, Gwadar Port Authority (GPA), Trading Corporation of Pakistan (TCP) and Pakistan Customs, according to a press release issued here on Thursday.

These bulk cargos were discharged and after bagging at the port are transported from Gwadar to other destinations in Pakistan. Next month Gwadar Port will start handling 450,000 MT of TCP wheat.

TCP on behalf of the government decided to handle the import of urea and wheat through Gwadar Port. This movement will ease the huge congestion at other ports of Pakistan due to the high traffic of vessels carrying bulk cargoes, which results in delaying the operation and transportation of shipments; thus, disturbing the entire supply chain mechanism.

Import of these government cargoes offers substantial benefits to locals and will generate various economic activities and employment opportunities for locals in terms of 100% shipping agencies services by locals, a top priority for local transporters etc.—APP

R 13-1-2023

FBR NOTIFIES PROMOTION OF 20 IRS OFFICERS TO BS-20

ISLAMABAD: Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) on Thursday notified promotion of 20 officers of Inland Revenue Service (IRS) from BS-19 to BS-20 on regular basis with immediate effect. The FBR announced the promotion of following IRS officers:

1. Ms. Yasmin Yusuf Khan

2. Ms. Sumria Mahmood Qazi

3. Fazli Malik

4. Ms. Maryam Habib

5. Ms. Farzana Gohar Ali

6. Ashfaq Masood

7. Basit Saleem Shah

8. Muhammad Zaheer Qureshi

9. Muhammad Akbar Mahar

10. Pervez Ahmad Shar

11. Syed Khalid Shah

12. Sanaullah Nawazani

13. Amjad Hussain Memon

14. Faisal Asghar

15. Azmat Hayat Ranjha

16. Mazhar Iqbal

17. Mian Muhammad Majid Hayat

18. Ms. Bushra Fatima

19. Tauqeer Ahmad

20. Sardar Temur Khan Durrani

The FBR said that the officers already posted/working against BS-20 posts on OPS basis will actualize their promotions against their present places of posting. For actualization of promotion of the remaining officers, the transfer / posting order will be issued separately. The officers if drawing special allowance prior to this notification shall continue to draw this allowance on their promotion. The FBR congratulated the officers on their promotion.

PR 12-1-2023