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Oman Logistics Center

Trade Facilitation

NEWS- FLASH

Trade Facilitation Newsflash shares information with logistics practitioners on various important topics in the business environment. All information provided as part of this Newsflash is intended to be general in nature and should not alone be relied upon for making of any business decisions.

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Ministry calls shipping industry for international practices

Ministry of Transport issued another Circular No. 4/2020 dated 17 May 2020 that obliges shipping lines and shipping agents to apply more efficient processes and practices. It can be considered as continuation to the first Circular on Paperless Logistics earlier.

IT-integration to Customs required

According to the Circular, shipping lines and – agents must have IT integration with Customs for submission of cargo manifests. Majority of manifests are already submitted using electronic interface today, but some companies still prefer to key in the data manually. Shipping lines and agents were given a grace period of three months to comply with the requirement.

Pre-arrival submission of manifests

As of June 1st, cargo manifests will be required to be submitted to Bayan Customs system at least 48 hours prior to the vessel arrival. In the case of voyage duration being less than 48 hours, the manifest must be submitted immediately after ship departure from the loading port.

Mandatory pre-arrival submissions to customs is the practice in most countries and it helps authorities to conduct risk management before goods arrival. For traders it enables submission of declaration

and even release of shipments before arrival or at least shortly after arrival.

Speeding up the administrative process is also saving cost of trading. Academic research suggests that every day of delay in shipping costs 0.8% of the trade value on average.

Improved customer service

Shipping lines and agents are also required to provide the service 24/7, including holidays, and to inform their customers of incoming shipments by sending them an Arrival Notice with related charges at least two days before arrival of the vessel. The new requirement of service hours does not necessarily mean full staffing at office as long as the service is available for customers the way that it is conveniently arranged.

Finally, shipping lines and agents are required to inform Ministry of Transport by email about the list of their origin and destination charge types for Full container Load (FCL) and Less Container Load (LCL) services. Only charge types are required to be informed, not the prices.

Stay tuned

OLC will monitor the situation and inform the sector on further changes. Please share your comments and ideas with us at:

Oman.Logistics@asyad.om

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