

**Trade Notice No: 5/2020**

**Dated: 03-04-2020**

Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India has issued order No.40-3/2020-DM-I(A) dated 24.03.2020 to impose lockdown for a period of 21 days to contain COVID-19 pandemic in the Country.

Further, Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India had vide its order No.40-3/2020-DM-I(A) dated 25.03.2020 issued an addendum specifically **giving exemptions to the operations of seaports for cargo movement and interstate movement of goods / cargo for inland and exports** to ensure regular supply of goods in the Country. Through the above, the Central Government has made it clear that the smooth functioning of the Ports remain vital for the country as Ports are the main source for import and exports of goods.

However, given the nation -wide lockdown, there is an inevitable impact in the form of delays in evacuation of cargo and inability to fulfil obligations by various parties/stakeholders due to the effect on the downstream services.

In view of the situation arising out of the lockdown and after considering the representations received from various stakeholders, Ministry of Shipping has directed Major Ports vide guidelines dated 31.03.2020, that:-

- (1) In the light of the MHA order No.40-3/2020-DM-I(A) dated 25.03.2020 each Major Port shall ensure that no penalties, demurrage, charges, fee, rentals are leviable by KPL on any Port user (traders, shipping lines, concessionaires, licensees, etc.) for any delay in berthing or loading / unloading operations or evacuation of cargo caused by the reasons attributable to lockdown measures from 22<sup>nd</sup> March to 14<sup>th</sup> April, 2020.
- (2) Therefore, each Major Port shall exempt or remit demurrage, ground rent over and above the free period, penal anchorage / berth hire charges and any other performance related penalties that may be levied on port related activities including minimum performance guarantee, wherever applicable.

In view of the above, the following waiver/ remission will be granted from 22.03.2020 to 14.04.2020 (both days inclusive):

- (i) No penalties, demurrage, charges, fee, rentals are leviable on any Port user (traders, shipping lines, concessionaires, licensees, etc.) for any delay in berthing or loading / unloading operations or evacuation of cargo caused by the reasons attributable to lockdown measures.
- (ii) No demurrage, ground rent over and above the free period, penal anchorage/ berth hire charges and any other performance related penalties be levied on port related activities including minimum performance guarantee, wherever applicable.

The aforesaid orders do not impact or dilute the fact that each Major Port needs to remain operational during the COVID-19 pandemic and continue cargo operations in all respects.

  
3/4/2020  
GM (Operations)  
Kamarajar Port Limited