

Mumbai News Network

Conference on ATA Carnet System by FICCI and World ATA Carnet Council (WATAC)

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Challenges for Customs and Business Community

Mumbai, November 27, 2015: Shri. Subhash Rajaram Desai, Hon'ble Minister for Industries, Government of Maharashtra, inaugurated the Conference on ATA Carnet System organised by FICCI (Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry) and World ATA Carnet Council(WATAC). **World ATA Carnet Secretariat, Mr Henk Wit, Head of ATA Carnet Department, The Netherlands Chamber of Commerce & Industry, Netherlands & Member, ICC-World ATA Carnet Council, Paris**, addressed the gathering and participated in the deliberations and sessions which discussed the challenges faced by the Customs as well as the business community.

The conference drew participation from senior customs officials, industry experts, extensive representation from export promotion councils, film associations, freight forwarding companies, customs house agents, fair and exhibition organizers. This event provided exporters and business experts with a unique opportunity to share their mutually beneficial knowledge and experiences. The industry discussed issues involved with respect to temporary imports of goods and drew benefit from the deliberations of the sessions.

The main objectives of the event were:

To expand India's participation in the ATA system to cover professional equipment and commercial samples for the benefit of all the national guaranteeing organizations affiliated to the international ATA Carnet guarantee chain

To enhance Customs-Business Partnership

To create awareness amongst Indian exporting fraternity about the benefits of ATA Carnet
ATA Carnet is a temporary admission document, which simplifies the customs procedures and clearances in a foreign country, without paying duty or a bank guarantee for temporary import into that country. Like a passport for goods, ATA Carnet allows for the goods for which it was issued to enter any of the participating countries for up to one year. An ATA Carnet holder can avoid customs declaration and can do away with security deposit or guarantees in the country of importation. In India, FICCI is the sole National Guarantor for ATA Carnets.

ATA Carnet covers several areas for use including trade fairs, shows, exhibitions, meetings etc. for temporary export into a country, which is a signatory to the conventions governing ATA Carnets. Goods must be re-exported out of every country and re-imported into India

within a year. At present 74 countries recognize ATA Carnet, including Australia, Canada, France, Germany, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Spain, UAE, UK and USA. To facilitate Carnet like mechanism for temporary movement of goods/exhibits between India and Taiwan, a protocol has also been signed between FICCI in India and TAITRA in Taiwan.

The Government is actively considering to expand the scope of ATA Carnet convention. At present, India is a signatory to convention on exhibitors and fairs only. It is proposed to expand the same to cover commercial samples, professional equipment, private exhibitions, film shootings, musical troupes, sports and media coverage etc. FICCI, which is the National Issuing and Guaranteeing Association (NIGA) for implementing ATA Carnets in India, is pursuing the matter with the Ministry of Finance for the expansion of scope of system to cover professional equipment and commercial samples.