



LOCAL TIME RELEASE STUDY 2022 (LTRS-2022)

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1. Summary for Local Time Release Study 2022 at BCC, Bengaluru

- 1.1 India ratified the Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA) of the World Trade Organization (WTO) in April 2016, aiming to expedite the movement, release and clearance of goods, including goods in transit. A key component of this agreement is the implementation of Article 7.6, relating to conducting and publishing of average release time for the import and export processes. In view of the above National Time Release Study (NTRS) is conducted at national level and Local Time release Study (LTRS) is conducted at Custom station Level.
- 1.2 National Time Release Study (NTRS) is conducted every year to identify the processing of import / export goods at specific stages. Such study contributes in easy understanding of the bottlenecks and specific recommendations for reform.
- 1.3 The objective is to assess the distance already covered towards targeted overall time release for cargo in imports and exports as per National Trade Facilitation Action Plan (NTFAP) 2020-23, target for ICD is 48 hours for imports and 24 hours for exports.
- 1.4 The study is to ensure uniform practice, increase the share of advance BE filing, promote the acceptance of Authorised Economic Operators (AEO) program, specifying timeline for Participating Government Agency (PGA) activity, automating or scheduling of customs examinations and introducing category of self-amendment of already filed Bills of entry which can further speed up release time in imports.
- 1.5 In exports, after Customs clearance, logistics operation is most time consuming. It is dependent on number of factors such as operational delay, mixed cargos, rake/vessel schedules etc. Increased coordination among the stakeholders with an objective to reduce the dwell time is the need of the hour.
- 1.6 TRS-2022 was conducted on Bills of entry (BE) and Shipping Bills (SB) filed between 1st to 7th January 2022 for imports and exports at

ICD, Whitefield(INWFD6), Bengaluru City Customs of Bengaluru Customs Zone. The methodology and scope is as per the NTRS 2022.

2. Objective of TRS 2022

- 2.1 Main objective of the TRS is to bring down the overall cargo release time for Imports and exports. For ICD, the target is as follows:

Target for Imports and exports - Table 1

Target	
Imports	Overall 72 to 48 Hours
Exports	Overall 48 to 24 Hours

- 2.2 The World Customs Organization (WCO) refers to Time Release Study (TRS) as –

“tool to measure the actual time required for the release and /or clearance of goods, from the time of arrival until the physical release of cargo, with a view to finding bottlenecks in the trade flow process and taking the corresponding necessary measures to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of border procedures.”

- 2.3 The TRS data can be used to analyze the distance covered towards desirable targets. It is desired that the study should aim at identifying areas of movements which could be improved. For this-

- The dwell time for cargo release is measured on sample basis, from the time of arrival of goods till the physical release of cargo by the custodian. In export, the dwell time is measured from arrival of cargo to custodian facility till departure of the goods by train/truck.
- The overall or Average Release Time (ART) is calculated for import and export.

2.4 The sample study is undertaken for BE / SB filed from 1st to 7th of January 2022 for which Out of Charge (OOC)/ Let Export Order (LEO) is granted on or before 7th February 2022, in respect of all custodians viz. CONCOR ICD, Marigold CFS, HAL CFS, CWC CFS. in Jurisdiction of Bengaluru Customs Commissionerate, Bengaluru.

3. About ICD Whitefield, Bengaluru

- 3.1 ICD, Whitefield is one of the biggest dry ports in India. It includes CONCOR ICD, Marigold CFS, HAL CFS, CWC CFS catering to EXIM cargo to and from 4 major ports viz, Chennai, JNPT, Ennore and Katupalli. CONCOR handles the major cargo with installed capacity of 2,40,000 TEU expanding over 125.06 acres with 1,93,000 sq.mts of paved area. Other CFS have installed capacity of approximately 1,37,000 TEUs. Though CONCOR started its operations in 1981 , full-fledged ICD started in 1993 vide Notification dated: 18/03/1993 issued by Collector of Customs , Karnataka Region.
- 3.2 CONCOR has 13 warehouses covering area of 40525 sq. mtrs. Cold storage facility is available for perishables. Separate warehousing facility is there for dangerous goods. Customs clearance facility is extended till 10 pm including all holidays.

4. Import – Methodology, Procedure and Scope

Methodology and Procedure

- 4.1 The import cargo release time is taken as arithmetic mean of time taken between arrival of cargo and its release into the economy. The definition of release time remains the same for advance/prior/normal BE. Average Release Time (ART) is calculated from Cargo Arrival time to OOC by Customs. Time taken from Cargo arrival time to gate out by Custodian is analyzed separately.
- 4.2 IT driven Risk Management System (RMS) determines the level of facilitation for goods associated with the BE/SB filed. Facilitation may be categorized either as 'no examination and no assessment' or 'no examination'. There may be interdiction such as First Check assessment - in which the goods are examined prior to assessment, or Second Check assessment - in which the BE is first assessed and then a specified level of examination of the cargo carried out.
- 4.3 Where Customs OOC has been granted without payment of duty, and goods can actually be taken from customs area after payment of duty, the release time would be calculated with reference to the time of payment of duty.
- 4.4 Primarily, the Customs IT System is the data source for import study. Wherever necessary, data has been obtained from Custodians.
- 4.5 Study covers measurement of ART and CRT for different kinds of importers and impact of RMS and participation of other Government Agencies (PGA).

Scope

- 4.6 Scope includes BE filed during the sample period from 1st to 7th January 2022 for which OOC is granted on or before 7th February 2022. Resultant data obtained was analyzed. **The study is based on 1135 (out of the 1197) BE filed during the sample period. A total of 62 BE (5.17 percent) are excluded from the study as per**

the exclusion criteria.

4.7 Exclusions in the study are as below which are in line with NTRS 2022:

- BE where OOC was not granted on or before 7th February 2022. (Number of such BE: 1)
- BE filed during the study period but relate to vessel granted entry inwards before 1st December 2021. (Number of such BE:1)
- Insufficient data-(No. of Such BE-60)
- Ex-bond BE. (Number of such BE: 0)

Excluded BE - Table 2

Reason for Exclusion	No of BE
OOB granted after 7th Feb 2022	1
Arrival before 1st Dec 2021	1
Insufficient data	60
Ex-bond	0
Total BE	62
% of total BE Excluded	5.17%

5. Import Data Analysis

5.1 BE tracked along with categorization of Advance/prior, facilitated, AEO, PGA etc., are as below:

Comparison by type of BE (Percentage) - Table 3

Year	No. of BE Tracked	Advance BE (%age)	Facilitated BE (%age)	AEO BE (%age)	Advance facilitated AEO BE (%age)	PGA BE (%age)	BE involving examination (%age)
NTRS2021	219	0.5%	75%	17%	-	5.5%	11%
LTRS 2022	1197	36%	81%	27%	7%	1.5%	14.5%
No. Of BE		314	973	314		14	162

- **Observation:** The advance BOE filing has increased to 36% as compared to 0.5% last year attributable to the changes in Section 46 of Customs Act, 1962 by issue of Notification No.34/2021-Customs (N.T.), dated 29.03.2021 to encourage filing the BOE well in advance. Percentage of facilitated BOE increased from 75% to 81%. AEO BE percentage increased from 17% to 27%. BEs selected for examination increased from 11% to 14.54%

5.2 Average release time (ART) is the arithmetic mean of release time for each BE taken separately.

Comparison of ART with NTRS 2021 - Table 4 (time in hrs.)

Year	ART for all BE
NTRS 2021	89:0
LTRS 2022	94:05

- **Observation:** Compared to previous year, the ART has increased by 5 hours and 05 minutes. Less Number of BE were selected in NTRS-2021 for Study. This time 94.83% BOE filed during the NTRS study time are taken for LTRS. The ART is still higher than the NTFAP target.

5.3 Distance covered to NTFAP target as defined in point 2.1 is as below:

Table 5

Category of BE	Total BE	Bills cleared in less than 48 Hrs.	Bills cleared in 48 Hrs. to 72 Hrs.	Bills cleared after 72 Hrs.	Distance covered to NTFAP
ALL BE	1135	510	147	478	58%
RMS	973	472	132	369	62%
Non-RMS	162	38	15	109	33%
AEO	314	166	48	100	68%
Non-AEO	821	344	99	378	54%
Advance BE	426	208	67	151	65%
AEO+RMS	303	159	48	96	68%
PGA	14	3	2	9	38%

Distance covered to NTFAP target for Imports - Table 5A

Year	All BE	Advance BE	AEO BE	Facilitated BE	Non-Facilitated BE	AEO+RMS
NTRS 2021	79%		86%	89%		
LTRS 2022	58%	65%	68%	62%	33%	68%

Observations:

- a) Out of 1135 BE, around 58% of the BE cleared in less than 72 hours which is NTFAP target.
- b) Distance covered is highest in AEO BE with 68% and lowest in non-facilitated BE where Examination of goods prescribed.
- c) Distance covered is less in BE where PGA involved.
- d) Distance covered in comparison with NTRS-2021 has decreased. This may be due to huge difference in the number and % of BE taken for study of time release during last year and current year.

5.4 ART for 10% (113 BE) fastest (ART arranged in ascending order) and slowest (ART arranged in descending order) BE is as below:

Fastest vs Slowest BE - Table 6 (time in hrs.)

	Number of BE	ART
Fastest 10% BE	113	10:41
Slowest 10% BE	113	341:06

- a) **Observation:** On analyzing types of BE(113), it is found that among fastest 10% BE, 93% are RMS facilitated BE , 39% of importers are AEO clients and 39% of BE are Advance/prior BE.
- b) The slowest 10% BE witnessed most of the stages of - assessment, amendment, examination, clearance from PGAs and payment of duty.

6. Import – Stage wise Analysis

6.1 Stage wise analysis of Total BE-1135

Stage wise analysis is done between time taken for each of the stages during clearance of the goods from Arrival of goods to OOC. The time taken during these stages is as per present data analysis, are reflected as under:(For all BE- 1135)

Stage wise Average Time taken - Table 7 (time in hrs.)

Stage	Average Time (in hrs)
Arrival of goods to Submission of BE	13:00
Submission of BE to Assessment of BE	11:53
Assessment of BE to Payment of Duty	76:36
Payment of Duty to Goods Registration	54:40
Registration of Goods to OOC	32:59
Cumulative time taken in above stages	189:13
ART	94:05

As a result of continuous efforts in trade facilitation measures, the above stages related to documentary and physical movement of goods overlap with each other.

6.2 Stage wise Time taken for RMS facilitated BE- 973 BE

Stage wise Average Time taken - Table 8

Stage	Average Time (in hrs)
Arrival of goods to Submission of BE	13:01
Submission of BE to Assessment of BE	6:13
Assessment of BE to Payment of Duty	77:17
Payment of Duty to Goods Registration	53:41
Registration of Goods to OOC	28:32
ART	85:43

6.3 Stage wise Time taken for Non-facilitated BE- 162 BE-Table 9

Stage	Average Time (in hrs)
Arrival of goods to Submission of BE	18:45
Submission of BE to Assessment of BE	45:51
Assessment of BE to Payment of Duty	72:35

Payment of Duty to Goods Registration	60:35
Registration of Goods to OOC	59:41
ART	144:20

6.4 Stage wise Time taken for AEO BE- 314 BE-Table 10

Stage	Average Time (in hrs)
Arrival of goods to Submission of BE	16:53
Submission of BE to Assessment of BE	6:33
Assessment of BE to Payment of Duty	79:16*
Payment of Duty to Goods Registration	36:55
Registration of Goods to OOC	23:58
ART	76:28

6.5 Stage wise time taken of Non- AEO BE- 821 BE-Table 11

Stage	Average Time (in hrs)
Arrival of goods to Submission of BE	12:40
Submission of BE to Assessment of BE	13:55
Assessment of BE to Payment of Duty	75:35
Payment of Duty to Goods Registration	61:27
Registration of Goods to OOC	36:25
ART	100:09

6.6 Stage wise Time taken for Advance BE- 426 BE-Table 12

Stage	Average Time (in hrs)
Arrival of goods to Submission of BE	NA
Submission of BE to Assessment of BE	5:55
Assessment of BE to Payment of Duty	100:43
Payment of Duty to Goods Registration	56:46
Registration of Goods to OOC	28:05
ART	84:25

6.7 Stage wise Time taken for Normal BE- 709 BE-Table 13

Stage	Average Time (in hrs)
Arrival of goods to Submission of BE	16:00
Submission of BE to Assessment of BE	15:27
Assessment of BE to Payment of Duty	62:07
Payment of Duty to Goods Registration	53:24
Registration of Goods to OOC	35:55
ART	99:30

6.8 Stage wise Time taken for PGA BE- 14 BE-B-Table 14

Stage	Average Time (in hrs)
Arrival of goods to Submission of BE	16:1
Submission of BE to Assessment of BE	46:35
Assessment of BE to Payment of Duty	111:05
Payment of Duty to Goods Registration	37:22
Registration of Goods to OOC	79:48
ART	193:41

6.9 Stage wise Time taken for Warehouse BE- 51 BE-Table 15

Stage	Average Time (in hrs)
Arrival of goods to Submission of BE	24:31
Submission of BE to Assessment of BE	4:11
Assessment of BE to Payment of Duty	NA
Payment of Duty to Goods Registration	NA
Registration of Goods to OOC	10:50
ART	90:31

6.10 Time taken for all BE from OOC to Gate-out by Custodian

Table -16

Average Time (in hrs)	
Time taken From OOC to Gate-out	65:49

6.11 Time taken for all BE from Arrival of Cargo to Gate-out by Custodian

Table -17

Average Time (in hrs)	
Time taken From Arrival of cargo to Gate-out by Custodian	157:47

6.12 Imports – ART Comparison

Comparison of ART in hrs for Advance/Prior Vs. Normal BE, Facilitated (RMS) vs Non-Facilitated (Examination), AEO vs Non-AEO and BE involving PGA is as below:

ART Comparison by type of BE - Table 18 (time in hrs.)

Category	No. of BE	%age	ART
ALL BE	1135	100%	94:05
RMS Facilitated	973	85	85:43
Non-RMS	162	14	144:20
Advance	426	37	84:25
Normal	709	62	99:50
AEO	314	27	76:28
Non AEO	821	72	100:09
PGA	14	1	193:41
Examination involved	162	14	144:20

6.12(a). BE involving PGAs

Overall, as seen from point 6.1, about 1% of the sample BE involved PGAs. The ART for BE involving PGAs was higher by 105% as

compared to the overall average for all BE, as depicted below:

ART for PGAs BE - Table 19 (time in hrs)

Year	ART for All BE	ART for BE involving PGAs	ART for PGAs BE higher by
NTRS 2021			
LTRS 2022	94:05	193:41	105.2%

Further, among PGAs the ART varied across as follows:

PGA wise ART-Table 20 (time in hrs)

PGA	No of BE	ART in hrs
Animal Quarantine (AQCS)	0	
Drug Controller (CDRUG)	7	151:15
FSSAI	2	203:4
Plant Quarantine (PQIS)	5	249:05
WCCB	0	

6.13 BE involving Examination

- a) As indicated in point 6.12 above, the goods under a BE which has been marked for examination may involve first check or second check.
- b) **ART comparison for Examination BE - Table -21(time in hrs)**

Year	All BE	BE involving examination
NTRS 2021		
LTRS 2022	94:05	144:20

Majority of BE are not subjected to examination by RMS. Breakup percentage of BE subjected to examination and facilitated by RMS is as below:

Breakup of tracked BE Facilitated vs Non-Facilitated - Table 22

Year	No. of BE Tracked	Facilitated BE (%age)	BE involving examination (%age)
NTRS 2021			
LTRS 2022	1135	85.72%	14.27%

First check BE involve examination after GR stage and based on examination report fed by examining officer, assessment takes place. While in second check BE, assessment has to be taken place prior to examination. Time taken by First Check and Second Check examination BE is as below:

ART breakup of Examination BE -Table 23 (time in hrs)

	No. of BE Tracked	ART in hrs
First Check	16	208:04
Second Check	146	137:21

It is noted that part of the time involved in examination of goods is related to scheduling the examination in the shed and coordinating with the custodians to place the goods in examination area. Scheduling of examination may be considered for automation.

6.14. IMPORT-Observations:

- a) In all categories of BE the time taken between Assessment and Duty payment is High. The reasons are delay in payment by importer and 66 BE of deferred payment BE are included in the calculation
- b) ART for RMS facilitated BE is less by 60 hours as compared to ART for non-facilitated BE. Reasons include Non facilitated BE involve Examination (1st and 2nd Check).
- c) ART for BE involving Examination is high by 50:40 Hrs as compared to ART of all BE.
- d) ART of BE where Advance BE filed is less by 15:05 hours than ART for normally filed BE.
- e) ART is highest for BE involved in PGA. ART is high by 99:36 hrs as compared to ART of all BE.
- f) Point no. 6.10 and 6.11 involve Custodians. The actual release time from arrival of goods to Gate out of goods is 157:47 hours which is very high as compared to target set to ICDs i.e reducing dwell time from 78 to 48 NTFAT.

7. IMPORT-Recommendations

- a.** As observed in the preceding paras, Advance filing of BE is to be encouraged by conducting outreach programmes. Also, Customs Facilitation Centres, Turant Suvidha Kendras may be effectively utilized to spread the information for filing advance BE.
- b.** The bottlenecks involved in NFAC BE movement have to be reduced.
- c.** More AEO outreach programs may be conducted to increase AEO share of BE.
- d.** The assessed duty to be directly communicated to the importer to hasten the process of duty payment, by allowing multiple e-mail addresses/mobile number for sending SMS in ICES.
- e.** Customs Clearance Verification (CCV) as per Circular No. 09/2019- Custom which appears to be available only to RMS facilitated BE, can also be made applicable to Non facilitated BE also.
- f.** Better co-ordination may be effected by the Freight forwarders/console agents, airlines and Custodians to fasten the process of customs clearance.
- g.** Custodians, Freight Forwarders, and Customs Brokers may be sensitized to fasten the process of goods registration
- h.** CHA/importers to be sensitized to reply to queries aptly and with relevant details in a timely manner. Further, direct communication channels with importers can be established by capturing their email id in the ICES system, to avoid delay in communication of queries, discrepancy noticed during examination, etc.
- i.** AEO-CRM may take proactive measures to facilitate AEO clients and guide them to reduce time taken in clearance of non-facilitated BE.
- j.** A mechanism can be evolved to get repetitive documents of Allied Acts such as BIS, WPC-ETA, LMPC, AEC.
- k.** Regular training on requirements of Allied Acts to officers at shed and CHAs/importers.
- l.** Importer educational Material can be placed in CBIC website such as tutorial video, requirements for imports, etc.

8 Exports - Methodology, Procedure and Scope

Methodology and Procedure

- 8.1. Export procedure requires filing of electronic self-declaration (Shipping Bill) by exporter before the goods move from exporter's premises. The RMS allows the lowest risk category to be cleared as facilitated without subjecting the cargo to assessment or examination.
- 8.2. Generally, the Shipping Bill (SB) processing by Customs is accomplished before arrival of goods at the Customs area, hence this domestic stage is not considered and time is measured from arrival of export goods at a custodian's premises.
- 8.3. Next, the process requires exporter to present the goods to Customs by undertaking goods registration on the customs Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) system. This is followed by customs clearance or permission to export through grant of LEO. In between, the customs officer also carries out examination or inspection, if the goods are selected for this purpose.
- 8.4. Once export goods have received customs LEO, they are ready for export. Hence, one measure of release time is from arrival of goods to LEO.
- 8.5. In NTRS, ART from filing of the SB till grant of LEO would also be reported. This measure is proposed to be phased out once the methodology at point 12.4 stabilizes.

Scope

- 8.6. Scope includes all SB filed between 1st to 7th January 2022, where rakes departed on or before 7th February 2022 are taken into consideration. Resultant data obtained was analysed. The study is based on 1501 SBs. 100% SBs have been selected for study. Hence no exclusion of SBs.

9. Export Data Analysis:

- 9.1. Average Release Time (ART) is the arithmetic mean of release time for each SB taken separately. In absence of non-availability of data w.r.t. arrival of goods for export and gate out of goods for export. ART is calculated based on the Submission of SB to Issue of LEO. No Prior SB filed during study period.

9.2. Distance covered to NTFAP target for Exports - Table 24

Category of SB	Total SBs	Bills cleared in less than 24 Hrs	Bills cleared in 24 Hrs to 48 Hrs	Bills cleared after 48Hrs	Distance covered to NTFAP
NTRS-2021	520				73%Dis
ALL SB	1501	822	118	561	63%
AEO	329	210	11	108	67%
Non-AEO	1172	612	107	453	61%

9.3. Comparison of Distance covered as compared to different category of SB- Table -25

Category of SB	No of SB	ART (in hrs)
NTRS-2021	520	50:2
All SBs	1501	46:27
AEO	481	44:20
Non AEO	1020	45:51
Factory Stuffed	457	40:38

9.4. Comparison of Distance covered as compared to NTRS-2021 Table -26

Category of SB	No of SB	ART (in hrs)
NTRS-2021	520	50:2
LTRS-2022	1501	46:27

9.5. Comparison of ART in Different ICD/ CFS- Table-26

Category of SB	No of SB	ART(in Hrs)
CONCOR	493	40:41
CWC	737	48:31
HAL	129	36:19
Marigold	142	67:07

9.6. Stage Wise Analysis of Export Consignment- Table 27

Stage	Time taken (in Hrs)
Submission to Registration of goods	42:27
Registration to LEO	45:27
Submission to LEO-ART	46:27

9.7. Observations

- 100% SBs have been taken for time release study filed during study period.
- ART has decreased as compared to NTRS-2021. ART for NTRS-2021 was 50:2 hrs whereas for LTRS-2022 it is decreased to 46:27 hrs
- ART for factory stuffed and AEO SB is comparatively less than the normal SB.
- CWC CFS handled largest SB during study period. ART is lowest in HAL CFS with 36:19 Hrs and it is highest in Marigold CFS with 67:07 Hrs
- Stage wise analysis of SB shows that it takes equal time from submission of SB to registration of goods and from registration of goods to LEO
- Distance covered to NTFAP decreased as compared to NTRS-2021. Variation may be due change in number and % of SBs taken for study.

9.8. Recommendation

- 24*7 clearance facility may be extended to ICD subject to availability of customs staff for RMS facilitated SBs. ICD, Whitefield is operational till 10 pm everyday including holidays

10. Tables Summary

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11. Acronyms

ICD	Inland Container Depot
CFS	Customs Freight Station
NTFAP	National Trade Facilitation Action Plan
AEO	Authorised Economic Operators
PGA	Participating Government Agency
TRS	Time Release Study
NTRS	National Time Release Study
LTRS	Local Time Release Study
BE/BOE	Bills of entry
SB	Shipping Bills
RMS	Risk Management System
OOC	Out of Charge
LEO	Let Export Order
ART	Average release time
CCV	Customs Clearance Verification
AQCS	Animal Quarantine and Certification Service
CDRUG	Controller of Drugs
FSSAI	Food Safety and Standard Authority of India
PQIS	Directorate of Plant Protection, Quarantine and Storage
EDI	Electronic Data Interchange
CHA	Customs House Agent

12. Bibliography

1. Data received from NIC team stationed at ICD, Whitefield, Bengaluru
2. Data provided by Custodians Viz CONCOR, CWC CFS, HAL CFS, MARIGOLD CFS, Bengaluru
3. LTRS team, BCC, Bengaluru.