



The Chittagong Port Authority

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Circular No.03/2025

Date : 26-02-2025.

OFFICIAL CIRCULAR

Subject: Withdrawal of Fixed Freight Rates on Chattogram-Pangaon-Chattogram Route & Alternative Container Transportation Arrangements.

For the information and necessary action of all concerned, it is hereby notified that the fixed freight rate circular issued by the Ministry of Shipping on October 16, 2022, for vessels operating on the Chattogram-Pangaon-Chattogram route has been withdrawn as of February 23, 2025. Consequently, freight rates on this route will now be determined based on bilateral agreements and relationships between vessel owners and mainline operators, with no further government intervention.

In various meetings, stakeholders have urged the liberalization of freight rates on the Chattogram-Pangaon-Chattogram route to facilitate the full-scale operation of Pangaon ICT. In response to this demand, the government has revoked the freight rate circular issued on October 16, 2022. We firmly believe this decision will enhance container transportation via vessels on this route.

In this regard a fixed schedule for vessels plying between Chattogram-Pangaon-Chattogram route has been promulgated by CPA. All importers, exporters, mainline operators, and vessel owners operating on the Chattogram-Pangaon-Chattogram route are instructed to comply with this directive.

Additionally, it is important to note that due to various constraints, Bangladesh Railway has been unable to provide the required number of locomotives for some time. As a result, the number of containers designated for the Dhaka ICD at the Chattogram port has increased to approximately 1,700 TEUs, exceeding the normal capacity. This has led to significant delays for Dhaka-based importers in receiving their imported goods.

To mitigate this issue, the National Board of Revenue (NBR) has issued a circular on February 19, 2025, allowing containers designated for the Dhaka ICD to be transported to Pangaon for clearance under certain conditions for next 2 (two) years. Importers whose containers have been awaiting rail transport to Dhaka ICD for an extended period may now opt to clear their cargo through Pangaon without delay. This alternative will save both time and costs for importers.

The Chittagong Port Authority remains committed to providing the highest level of service to all importers and exporters.

Please treat the circular most essential & urgent.

Director (Traffic)
Chittagong Port Authority.