

	केंद्रीय कर आयुक्त (अपील)	
सत्यमेव जयते	O/O THE COMMISSIONER (APPEALS), CENTRAL TAX, केंद्रीय कर भवन, सातवीं मंजिल, पॉलिटेक्निक के पास, आम्बावाडी, अहमदाबाद-380015	7 th Floor, GST Building, Near Polytechnic, Ambavadi, Ahmedabad-380015
 : 079-26305065		टेलिफैक्स : 079 - 26305136

रजिस्टर्ड डाक ए.डी. द्वारा

क फाइल संख्या : File No : V2(85)/147/Ahd-I/2017-18 / 1752-1756
Stay Appl.No. NA/2017-18

ख अपील आदेश संख्या Order-In-Appeal Nos. AHM-EXCUS-001-APP-377-2017-18
दिनांक Date : 27-02-2018 जारी करने की तारीख Date of Issue 22-03-18,

श्री उमा शंकर आयुक्त (अपील) द्वारा पारित

Passed by Shri. Uma Shanker, Commissioner (Appeals)

ग Arising out of Order-in-Original No. 32/CX-I Ahmd/JC/KP/2017 दिनांक: 31/10/2017 issued by Assistant Commissioner, Central Tax, Ahmedabad-South

घ अपीलकर्ता का नाम एवं पता Name & Address of the Appellant / Respondent
**ADCO Controls
Ahmedabad**

कोई व्यक्ति इस अपील आदेश से असंतोष अनुभव करता है तो वह इस आदेश के प्रति यथास्थिति नीचे बताए गए सक्षम अधिकारी को अपील या पुनरीक्षण आवेदन प्रस्तुत कर सकता है।

Any person aggrieved by this Order-In-Appeal may file an appeal or revision application, as the one may be against such order, to the appropriate authority in the following way :

भारत सरकार का पुनरीक्षण आवेदन :

Revision application to Government of India :

(1) केन्द्रीय उत्पादन शुल्क अधिनियम, 1994 की धारा अतत नीचे बताए गए मामलों के बारे में पूर्वोक्त धारा को उप-धारा के प्रथम परन्तुक के अंतर्गत पुनरीक्षण आवेदन अधीन सचिव, भारत सरकार, वित्त मंत्रालय, राजस्व विभाग, चौथी मंजिल, जीवन दीप भवन, संसद मार्ग, नई दिल्ली : 110001 को की जानी चाहिए।

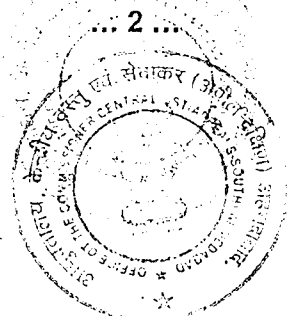
(i) A revision application lies to the Under Secretary, to the Govt. of India, Revision Application Unit Ministry of Finance, Department of Revenue, 4th Floor, Jeevan Deep Building, Parliament Street, New Delhi - 110 001 under Section 35EE of the CEA 1944 in respect of the following case, governed by first proviso to sub-section (1) of Section-35 ibid :

(ii) यदि माल की हानि के मामले में जब ऐसी हानि कारखाने से किसी भण्डागार या अन्य कारखाने में या किसी भण्डागार से दूसरे भण्डागार में माल ले जाते हुए मार्ग में, या किसी भण्डागार या भण्डार में चाहे वह किसी कारखाने में या किसी भण्डागार में हो माल की प्रक्रिया के दौरान हुई हो।

(ii) In case of any loss of goods where the loss occur in transit from a factory to a warehouse or to another factory or from one warehouse to another during the course of processing of the goods in a warehouse or in storage whether in a factory or in a warehouse.

(b) In case of rebate of duty of excise on goods exported to any country or territory outside India of on excisable material used in the manufacture of the goods which are exported to any country or territory outside India.

(ग) यदि शुल्क का भुगतान किए बिना भारत के बाहर (नेपाल या भूटान को) निर्यात किया गया माल हो।



(ख) भारत के बाहर किसी राष्ट्र या प्रदेश में निर्यातित माल पर या माल के विनिर्माण में उपयोग शुल्क कच्चे माल पर उत्पादन शुल्क के रिबेट के मामलों में जो भारत के बाहर किसी राष्ट्र या प्रदेश में निर्यातित है।

(b) In case of rebate of duty of excise on goods exported to any country or territory outside India of on excisable material used in the manufacture of the goods which are exported to any country or territory outside India.

(ग) यदि शुल्क का भुगतान किए बिना भारत के बाहर (नेपाल या भूटान को) निर्यात किया गया माल हो।

(c) In case of goods exported outside India export to Nepal or Bhutan, without payment of duty.

अंतिम उत्पादन की उत्पादन शुल्क के भुगतान के लिए जो ड्यूटी क्रेडिट मान्य की गई है और ऐसे आदेश जो इस धारा एवं नियम के मुताबिक आयुक्त, अपील के द्वारा पारित वो समय पर या बाद में वित्त अधिनियम (नं.2) 1998 धारा 109 द्वारा नियुक्त किए गए हो।

(d) Credit of any duty allowed to be utilized towards payment of excise duty on final products under the provisions of this Act or the Rules made there under and such order is passed by the Commissioner (Appeals) on or after, the date appointed under Sec.109 of the Finance (No.2) Act, 1998.

(1) केन्द्रीय उत्पादन शुल्क (अपील) नियमावली, 2001 के नियम 9 के अंतर्गत विनिर्दिष्ट प्रपत्र संख्या इए-8 में दो प्रतियों में, प्रेषित आदेश के प्रति आदेश प्रेषित दिनांक से तीन मास के भीतर मूल-आदेश एवं अपील आदेश की दो-दो प्रतियों के साथ उचित आवेदन किया जाना चाहिए। उसके साथ खाता इ. का मुख्यशीर्ष के अंतर्गत धारा 35-इ में निर्धारित फी के भुगतान के सबूत के साथ टीआर-6 चालान की प्रति भी होनी चाहिए।

The above application shall be made in duplicate in Form No. EA-8 as specified under Rule, 9 of Central Excise (Appeals) Rules, 2001 within 3 months from the date on which the order sought to be appealed against is communicated and shall be accompanied by two copies each of the OIO and Order-In-Appeal. It should also be accompanied by a copy of TR-6 Challan evidencing payment of prescribed fee as prescribed under Section 35-EE of CEA, 1944, under Major Head of Account.

(2) रिविजन आवेदन के साथ जहाँ संलग्न रकम एक लाख रुपये या उससे कम हो तो रुपये 200/- फीस भुगतान की जाए और जहाँ संलग्न रकम एक लाख से ज्यादा हो तो 1000/- की फीस भुगतान की जाए।

The revision application shall be accompanied by a fee of Rs.200/- where the amount involved is Rupees One Lac or less and Rs.1,000/- where the amount involved is more than Rupees One Lac.

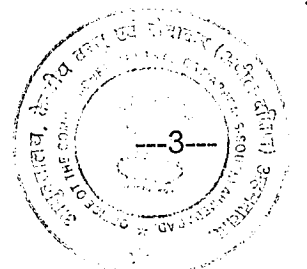
सीमा शुल्क, केन्द्रीय उत्पादन शुल्क एवं सेवाकर अपीलीय न्यायाधिकरण के प्रति अपील:-
Appeal to Custom, Excise, & Service Tax Appellate Tribunal.

(1) केन्द्रीय उत्पादन शुल्क अधिनियम, 1944 की धारा 35-बी/35-इ के अंतर्गत:-

Under Section 35B/ 35E of CEA, 1944 an appeal lies to :-

(क) उक्तलिखित परिच्छेद 2 (1) क में बताए अनुसार के अलावा की अपील, अपील के मामले में सीमा शुल्क, केन्द्रीय उत्पादन शुल्क एवं सेवाकर अपीलीय न्यायाधिकरण (सिस्टेट) की पश्चिम क्षेत्रीय पीठिका, अहमदाबाद में ओ-20, न्यू मैन्टल हॉस्पिटल कम्पाउण्ड, मेघानी नगर, अहमदाबाद-380016

(a) To the west regional bench of Customs, Excise & Service Tax Appellate Tribunal (CESTAT) at O-20, New Metal Hospital Compound, Meghani Nagar, Ahmedabad : 380 016. in case of appeals other than as mentioned in para-2(i) (a) above.



The appeal to the Appellate Tribunal shall be filed in quadruplicate in form EA-3 as prescribed under Rule 6 of Central Excise(Appeal) Rules, 2001 and shall be accompanied against (one which at least should be accompanied by a fee of Rs.1,000/-, Rs.5,000/- and Rs.10,000/- where amount of duty / penalty / demand / refund is upto 5 Lac, 5 Lac to 50 Lac and above 50 Lac respectively in the form of crossed bank draft in favour of Asstt. Registrar of a branch of any nominate public sector bank of the place where the bench of any nominate public sector bank of the place where the bench of the Tribunal is situated.

- (3) यदि इस आदेश में कई मूल आदेशों का समावेश होता है तो प्रत्येक मूल आदेश के लिए फीस का भुगतान उपर्युक्त ढंग से किया जाना चाहिए इस तथ्य के होते हुए भी कि लिखा पढी कार्य से बचने के लिए यथास्थिति अपीलीय न्यायाधिकरण को एक अपील या केन्द्रीय सरकार को एक आवेदन किया जाता है।

In case of the order covers a number of order-in-Original, fee for each O.I.O. should be paid in the aforesaid manner notwithstanding the fact that the one appeal to the Appellate Tribunal or the one application to the Central Govt. As the case may be, is filled to avoid scriptoria work if excising Rs. 1 lacs fee of Rs.100/- for each.

- (4) न्यायालय शुल्क अधिनियम 1970 यथा संशोधित की अनुसूची-1 के अंतर्गत निर्धारित किए अनुसार उक्त आवेदन या मूल आदेश यथास्थिति निर्णयन प्राधिकारी के आदेश में से प्रत्येक की एक प्रति पर रु.6.50 पैसे का न्यायालय शुल्क टिकट लगा होना चाहिए।

One copy of application or O.I.O. as the case may be, and the order of the adjournment authority shall a court fee stamp of Rs.6.50 paise as prescribed under scheduled-I item of the court fee Act, 1975 as amended.

- (5) इन ओर संबंधित मामलों को नियंत्रण करने वाले नियमों की ओर भी ध्यान आकर्षित किया जाता है जो सीमा शुल्क, केन्द्रीय उत्पादन शुल्क एवं सेवाकर अपीलीय न्यायाधिकरण (कार्याविधि) नियम, 1982 में निहित है।

Attention is invited to the rules covering these and other related matter contended in the Customs, Excise & Service Tax Appellate Tribunal (Procedure) Rules, 1982.

- (6) सीमा शुल्क, केन्द्रीय उत्पादन शुल्क एवं सेवाकर अपीलीय न्यायाधिकरण (सिस्टेट), के प्रति अपील के मामले में कर्तव्य मांग (Demand) एवं दंड (Penalty) का 10% पूर्व जमा करना अनिवार्य है। हालांकि, अधिकतम पूर्व जमा 10 करोड़ रुपए है। (Section 35 F of the Central Excise Act, 1944, Section 83 & Section 86 of the Finance Act, 1994)

केन्द्रीय उत्पाद शुल्क और सेवा कर के अंतर्गत, शामिल होगा "कर्तव्य की मांग"(Duty Demanded) -

- (i) (Section) खंड 11D के तहत निर्धारित राशि;
- (ii) लिया गलत सेनवैट क्रेडिट की राशि;
- (iii) सेनवैट क्रेडिट नियमों के नियम 6 के तहत देय राशि.

⇒ यह पूर्व जमा 'लंबित अपील' में पहले पूर्व जमा की तुलना में, अपील दाखिल करने के लिए पूर्व शर्त बना दिया गया है।

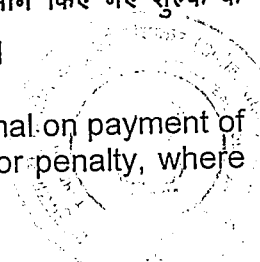
For an appeal to be filed before the CESTAT, 10% of the Duty & Penalty confirmed by the Appellate Commissioner would have to be pre-deposited, provided that the pre-deposit amount shall not exceed Rs.10 Crores. It may be noted that the pre-deposit is a mandatory condition for filing appeal before CESTAT. (Section 35 C (2A) and 35 F of the Central Excise Act, 1944, Section 83 & Section 86 of the Finance Act, 1994)

Under Central Excise and Service Tax, "Duty demanded" shall include:

- (i) amount determined under Section 11 D;
- (ii) amount of erroneous Cenvat Credit taken;
- (iii) amount payable under Rule 6 of the Cenvat Credit Rules.

इस आदेश के प्रति अपील प्राधिकरण के समक्ष जहाँ शुल्क अथवा शुल्क या दण्ड विवादित हो तो माँग किए गए शुल्क के 10% भुगतान पर और जहाँ केवल दण्ड विवादित हो तब दण्ड के 10% भुगतान पर की जा सकती है।

In view of above, an appeal against this order shall lie before the Tribunal on payment of 10% of the duty demanded where duty or duty and penalty are in dispute, or penalty, where penalty alone is in dispute."



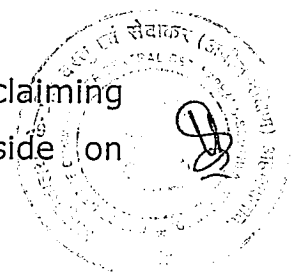
ORDER IN APPEAL

M/s ADCO Controls, Plot No. 5318, phase -IV, GIDC, Vatva, Ahmedabad- 382 445 (C, Ex. Registration No. AAZPD 3916 D EM 001 dated 25.02.2011) (*hereinafter referred to as 'appellants'*) have filed the present appeals against the Order-in-Original number 32/CX-I Ahmd/JC/KP/2017 -dated 31.10.2017(*hereinafter referred to as 'impugned orders'*) passed by the Joint Commissioner, HQ, CGST, Ahmedabad South Commissionerate, Ahmedabad (*hereinafter referred to as 'adjudicating authority'*).

2. The facts of the case, in brief are that appellant`s premises was searched by C.Ex. officer on 19.12.2013 and it was found that various quantities of goods were found to be removed without payment of duty and there was short payment of duty by appellant. It was further noted that certain quantity of inputs on which cenvat was taken was removed without reversing the cenvat. Relying upon various statements SCN dated 31.03.2015 came to be issued for demand of duty, interest, and imposition of penalties. Appellant on receipt of SCN requested for opportunity of cross examining persons whose statements were being relied upon against appellant but said request was turned down by the adjudicating authority. Appellant vide letter dated 1306.2017 submitted reply pointing out the legally admissible deductions from demand amount on account of fact that demand has been raised on goods, which were not manufactured by them but had merely removed on account of testing, repairing etc. under challans for which CA certificate recalculating duty to Rs. 50,71,336/- was attached along with reply. Vide impugned OIO dated 31.10.2017, adjudicating authority without affording opportunity of cross examination and without considering recalculation amount supported by CA certificate confirmed the all demand with interest liability demanded in SCN along with imposition of various penalties and redemption fine.

3. Being aggrieved with the impugned order, the appellants preferred an appeal on 29.12.2017 before the Commissioner (Appeals-II), Ahmadabad wherein it is contended that-

- a. Impugned order suffers from gross violation of principal of natural justice as adjudicating authority has wrongly rejected request for affording opportunity of cross examining various persons whose statements have been relied upon.
- b. CA certificate submitted along with sample invoices claiming deduction of central excise duty has been brushed aside on



inconsequential and irrelevant ground. Adjudicating authority has not disputed the genuineness of the sample documents but the authority has gone further to reject such claim on ground that the documents submitted was only for small amount and that sufficient evidence has not been brought on record.

- c. Adjudicating authority has further committed a grave error in rejecting CA certificate holding that said certificate was not agreeable as no evidence has been given said CA is statutory auditor or otherwise.

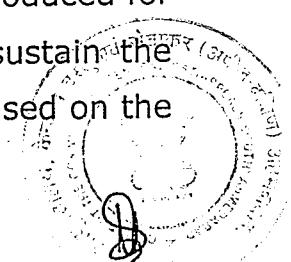
4. Personal hearing in the case was granted on 31.01.2018. Smt. Shilpa P. Dave, Advocate appeared before me and reiterated the grounds of appeal. She submits that cross examination was not allowed and that she will submit to original authority, why cross examination are vital and produce all relevant documents.

DISUSSION AND FINDINGS

5. I have carefully gone through the facts of the case on records, grounds of appeal in the Appeal Memorandum and oral/written submissions made by the appellants, evidences produced at the time of personal hearing.

6. Main question to be decided is whether adjudicating authority is correct in rejecting the appellant request for affording opportunity of cross examining various persons whose statements have been relied upon.

7. I find from para 32.12 of impugned OIO that request for cross examination was made for some 13 persons, including all transporters whose statements are relied and all buyers who are referred in SCN. In the present case, I find that despite a specific request made by the Appellant for cross examination of the witnesses whose statements were recorded and were being relied upon by the Department, opportunity for cross examination was not afforded. The Tribunal in a host of decisions has held that the statements of witnesses who have not been produced for cross examination cannot be relied upon by Department to sustain the allegations made on the assessee or to confirm the demands raised on the assessee.

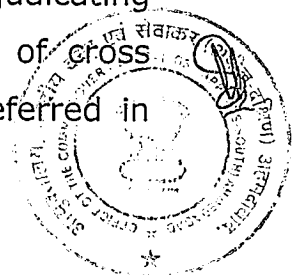


8. I am of considered view that the statement of such a person can be treated as relevant only when the specified ground is established, it is obvious that there has to be objective formation of opinion based on sufficient material on record to come to the conclusion that such a ground exists. The quasi-judicial authority can rely upon the statement of such a person only when the stated ground is proved.

9. It is settled law that the denial of an opportunity of cross examination of a witness whose statements have been relied upon in the adjudication order would vitiate the order of adjudication. In *Basudev Garg v. Commissioner of Customs* [2014] 43 GST 566 (Delhi) Court referred to Section 9D of the CE Act and noted that even while upholding its constitutional validity in *J & K Cigarettes Ltd. v. Collector of Central Excise* [WP(C) Nos. 1854 and 1895-1898 of 1992, dated 28-8-2009], a Division Bench of Court had observed that the circumstances under which the right of cross examination can be taken away would have to be 'exceptional'. This would include circumstances where the person who had given the statement was dead or cannot be found or is incapable of giving evidence or is kept out of the way by adverse party or whose presence cannot be obtained without an amount of delay or expense which, under the circumstances, the Court considers unreasonable. It was held by the Court in *Basudev Garg's case (supra)* that "it is clear that unless such circumstances exist the noticee would have a right to cross-examine the person whose statements are being relied upon even in quasi judicial proceedings."

10. The adjudicating authority failed to show the existence of any of the extraordinary circumstances under Section 9D of the Act to justify the denial of right to cross-examine. In the considered view, this was a serious infraction which vitiated the adjudication order.

11. In the decision of the Supreme Court in *Swadeshi Polytext Ltd. v. Collector of Central Excise* [2000] 122 ELT 641 and *Laxman Exports Ltd. v. Collector of Central Excise* [2002] 143 ELT 21 it is held that when a statement is used against an Assessee an opportunity of cross-examining the persons who made those statements ought to be given to the Assessee. The case needs to be remanded back to original adjudicating authority to pass the order afresh after affording opportunity of cross examining persons whose statements are relied or who are referred in SCN.



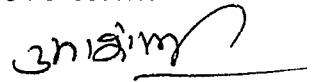
12. CA certificate admissibility issue and issue of sample invoice, appellant shall comply before adjudicating authority in fresh hearing afforded, all the reasons, stated in impugned OIO, for denying its admissibility of CA certificate/sample invoices etc. and for confirming duty.

13. In view of facts and discussion herein above, the Adjudicating Authority is directed to decide the case afresh, for which case is remanded back to the Adjudicating Authority, after due compliance of the principles of natural justice and after proper appreciation of the evidences that may be put forth by the appellant before him. The appellant is also directed to put all the evidences before the Adjudicating Authority in support of their contention as well as any other details/documents etc. that may be asked for by the Adjudicating Authority when the matter is heard in remand proceedings before the Adjudicating Authority.

14. In view of above impugned OIO is set aside and appeal filed by the appellants is allowed by way of remand.

15. अपीलकर्ता द्वारा दर्ज की गई अपील का निपटारा उपरोक्त तरीके से किया जाता है।

15. The appeals filed by the appellant stand disposed off in above terms.


(उमा शंकर)

केन्द्रीय कर आयुक्त (अपील्स)

ATTESTED



(R.R. PATEL)

SUPERINTENDENT (APPEAL),

CENTRAL TAX, AHMEDABAD

To,

M/s ADCO Controls,

Plot No. 5318, phase -IV, GIDC,

Vatva, Ahmedabad- 382 445



Copy to:

- 1) The Chief Commissioner, Central Tax, Ahmedabad South .
- 2) The Commissioner Central Tax, CGST, Ahmedabad South.
- 3) The Asst. Commissioner, Central Tax, Div-III, Ahmedabad South
- 4) The Asst. Commissioner(System), Hq, CGST, Ahmedabad South.
- 5) Guard File.
- 6) P.A. File.

