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CUSTOMS, EXCISE & SERVICE TAX APPELLATE TRIBUNAL
PRINCIPAL BENCH, WEST BLOCK No.2, R.K.PURAM, NEW DELHI - 110066
CUSTOMS APPEAL BRANCH

Appeal No. C/281 /2005, ~~222/2005~~

Date 16/07/2008

Assistant Registrar
C.E.S.T.A.T, New Delhi

To :
COMMISSIONER OF CUSTOMS, ICD, TKD, NEW
DELHI.
ICD, TKD, NEW DELHI.

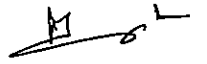
COMMISSIONER OF CUSTOMS, ICD, TKD, NEW
DELHI.

Appellant

M/S TOUCH WOOD INDUSTRIES

Vs
Respondent

I am directed to transmit herewith a certified copy of Final order No.C/199/08-CUS. DATED 07.07.08
passed by the Tribunal under Section 129, (B) of the Customs Act.1962 & Financial Act 1994 relating to Service Tax


Assistant Registrar
(Customs Appeal Branch)

Copy to :

1. Respondent

M/S TOUCH WOOD INDUSTRIES

497/18, PEERAGARHI, DELHI.

2. Adv. / Consult MR. A.K. MISHRA, CONSLT.,
B-25, LAJPAT NAGAR-II, NEW DELHI.

3. S.D.R.

4. J.C.D.R.

5. Bar association, CESTAT, New Delhi

6. M/s. Deeparchi Publications. M-93, Marg. 46, Saket, New Delhi 110017

7. M/s Centax Publications (P) Ltd., 1512-B, Bhishm Pitamah marg. Opp. ICICI Bank of Defence Colony, New Delhi -

8. Excise & Customs cases, B-37, Sector -I, NOIDA - 201301 Gautam Budh Nagar, (U.P.)

9. Raghuraman's 44-B, Regal Flat, Shipra Suncity, Indirapuram - 201010, Ghaziabad, DT, U.P.

10. Nidheshak publications, I.P.Estate, new Delhi

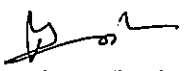
11. Taxmann Allied Service Pvt Ltd., 21/35, West Punjabi Bagh, New Delhi - 110026

12. Commercial Laws of India Pvt Ltd Post Bag No. 1033, No.70(Old No. 88), Thyagaraya Road, T. Nagar, Chennai 60017

13. Taxindiaonline.com Pvt.Ltd, B-XI/8183, Vasant Kunj, New Delhi - 110070

14. Office Copy

15. Guard file


Assistant Registrar
(Customs Appeal Branch)

**IN THE CUSTOMS, EXCISE & SERVICE
TAX APPELLATE TRIBUNAL,
WEST BLOCK NO. 2, R.K. PURAM,
NEW DELHI**

COURT – II

CUSTOMS APPEAL NO. 281 OF 2005

[Arising out of Order-in-Appeal No. CC(A)CSP(338)D-II/04 dated 30.12.2004 passed by the Commissioner of Customs (Appeals), Delhi-II, New Delhi]

For approval and signature:

Hon'ble Mr. S.S. Kang, Vice President,
Hon'ble Mr. Rakesh Kumar, Member (Technical)

1.	Whether Press Reporters may be allowed to see the order for publication as per Rule 27 of the CESTAT (Procedure) Rules, 1982?	
2.	Whether it would be released under Rule 27 of the CESTAT (Procedure) Rules, 1982 for publication in any authoritative report or not?	
3.	Whether their Lordships wish to see the fair copy of the order?	(u)
4.	Whether order is to be circulated to the Departmental authorities?	

C.C., New Delhi

Appellant

Versus

M/s. Touch Wood Industries

Respondents

Appearance:

Shri B.K. Singh, Departmental Representative, for the Revenue;
None for the respondents

Coram:

Hon'ble Mr. S.S. Kang, Vice President,
Hon'ble Mr. Rakesh Kumar, Member (Technical)

Date of Hearing: 7th July, 2008

FINAL ORDER NO. C/199/08 dated 7/7/08

Per S.S. Kang:

Heard both sides. This is a departmental appeal against the order of the Commissioner (Appeals) vide which the order of assessment enhancing the value of imported goods was set aside.

2. Brief facts of the case are that M/s. Touch Wood Industries (hereinafter referred to as the Respondent) imported a consignment of wooden items including 867 cartons of one-lakh pieces each of Fruit Picks from M/s. Harbin Li Luan Wooden Industries Company LTd., Harbin, China under invoice No. LY 191040831 dated 25.8.2004 and accordingly filed B/E No. 383338 dated 8.10.2004 for clearance of the goods, declaring transaction value as the assessable value. However, the department rejected the declared transaction value and loaded the assessable value US\$ 14 per carton and assessed the goods accordingly. In order to avoid demurrage and detention charges, the party paid duty on the enhanced value and took clearance of the goods. On appeal filed by the importer the order was set aside.

3. The contention of the Revenue is that the enhancement was ordered based on evidence relating to value of imports during the period in question. The data included prices of imports from the same country

as that of the present consignment in dispute. He submits that the appellant agreed for the enhancement. The Commissioner (Appeals) has recorded that the appellant has accepted the loading of the value; paid the duty without protest and took clearance of the goods. However, without calling for any details/ records from the assessing authority, he has chosen to set aside the order. The submission by the Learned D.R. is that if the appellant had not agreed to the enhancement, then a detailed order specifying the reasons for enhancement would have been issued.

4. Learned Advocate appearing for the respondent submitted that the enhancement has been done without relying on contemporaneous import price and submits that the same is factually correct. They have only accepted the order of assessment as they had no option, in view of the mounting demurrage and urgent need for the goods. Therefore, their right to appeal is there.

5. We find that in similar circumstances the Tribunal in the case of the C.C., New Delhi vs. M/s. Polyglass Acrylic Mfg.Co. Pvt. Ltd., vide final order No. C/105/08-CUSTOMS dated 3.4.2008 held as under:-

“We have carefully considered the submissions made from both the sides. We have come across quite a few similar appeals. We are, therefore, constrained to make certain general observations for future guidance by the assessing authorities and the Commissioner (appeals) in dealing with similar matters.

6. When a declared value is accepted and assessed, obviously there is no room for dispute from either side. When the value declared by the importer is proposed to be enhanced by the assessing authority, the procedure to be followed should be consistent with the principles of natural justice as well as the provisions of the Customs Act and the Rules made there under. There are specific provisions for resorting to provisional assessment as well as for payment under protest. We are aware that the clearance of cargo by the Customs requires to be done speedily. This is specially true in respect of the clearance of Air cargo where the consignments come by air, paying heavy freight. Obviously, the consignments are imported by air when they are required urgently. Therefore, the assessing officers have time constraints. However, it is felt that the disputes may arise only in respect of a small percentage of cases. In respect of such cases, the Customs authorities should follow a transparent procedure. The proposal for enhancement and the basis for such enhancement require to be made known and opportunity should be given to the importer to give his views before a decision is taken. The Board's instructions contained in circular No 91/2003 dated 16.10.03 clearly envisage that only when the assessee accepts for enhancement of the price in writing, the authorities are permitted not to issue speaking orders. This procedure should be followed in the interests of both the assessees and the Department.

7. With the above observations, we come to the order of Commissioner (Appeals). We understand that during the relevant period, there is no system of a departmental representative being present when the matter is heard before the Commissioner (Appeals). In such a situation, when the Commissioner (Appeals) disagrees with the decision of the authorities below, he is required to go into the basis on which the assessment order or the original order of the adjudicating authority was made. Unlike the assessing officers who are dealing with the consignments waiting to be cleared, the Commissioner (Appeals) need not be in such a hurry to deal with the appeal relating to consignments already cleared and pass defective and cryptic order. In the present case, we are not able to come to any conclusion whether the Commissioner (Appeals) has taken due care and caution in getting the relevant materials before passing the present order. He could have considered the option of remand with direction to the original authority to issue a speaking order. We hasten to add that the Commissioner (Appeals) has powers to accept or reject or modify the orders of the original authorities/ assessing authorities.

8. In the present proceedings, we are mainly concerned with the manner in which the present order has been passed. It appears that the materials produced before us by the learned DR regarding the higher contemporaneous import price have not been considered by the Commissioner (Appeals). Under these circumstances, with out

expressing any opinion on the merits of the case, we deem it proper to set aside the order of the Commissioner (Appeals) and also the order of assessment and remit to the original authority to issue a speaking order specifically referring to the material said to have been relied upon for enhancing the value and after giving a reasonable opportunity of hearing to the respondent. The respondent is permitted to make written submissions within a period of one month from the date of receipt of this order and the original authority shall decide the case expeditiously thereafter but within two months from the date of expiry of time granted for filing of submissions by the respondents.”

6. In view of the above decision which is fully applicable on the facts of present case, the impugned order is set aside and matter is remanded to the Commissioner (Appeals) for deciding afresh after affording opportunity of hearing to respondents. Appeal is allowed by way of remand.

(Operative part pronounced in the Open Court.)

(S.Š. KANG)
VICE PRESIDENT

(RAKESH KUMAR)
MEMBER (TECHNICAL)

Dated 7th July, 2008
RK