GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN CUSTOMS APPELLATE TRIBUNAL BENCH-III, JAMIL CHAMBERS, SADDAR, KARACHI

Before: Mr. Muhammad Nadeem Qureshi, Member Judicial-I, Karachi Mr. Khalid Mahmood, Member Technical-I, Islamabad

Customs Appeal No.K-514 of 2015/5282

M/s. Hamid Holdings, 5/146, 1st Floor, Near Adam Masjid, Thanai Lanc, jodia Bazar, Karachi.

Appellants

ATTESTED

Versus

 The Additional Collector of Customs, Collectorate of Customs (Adjudication) 1st Floor, Custom House, Karachi.

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The Collector of Customs,

Model Customs Collectorate of Appraisement (West),

Custom House,

Karachi.

Respondents

Tr. Imran Iqbal, Advocate, present for appellants
Nawab Touqeer Ahmed, AO present for respondents.

Date of Hearing:

31-03-2015

Date of Order:

31-03-2015

ORDER

Mr. Muhammad Nadeem Qureshi, Member Judicial-I, Karachi:

The appellant moved an urgent application which was accordingly allowed on the ground that the goods involved in the subject appeal are perishable. During the arguments, issue of expiry was extended by the appellant on the ground that the printing of expiry date was at default, caused by the manufacturer. In lieu of that the manufacturer submitted the certificate, wherein they stated that the milk powder normally has shelf life of 24 months from the manufacture date, if stored in its original packing un-opened and un-damaged and kept in good conditions, the report collected by

the appellant from the website of the manufacturing company, also

transpires the same conditions and standards about the expiry of skimmed milk. During the hierarchy of the Customs, to overcome the subject issue, appellant requested for the laboratory test of the said consignments from any government laboratory to determine, whether the detained goods are fit for human consumption or otherwise. Request was denied without assigning any reasons. The appellant, therefore, prayed for grant/approval of laboratory test, before this forum, in the interest of natural justice and equity.

On behalf of the respondent, Nawab Taugeer Ahmed - AO, Elestrongly opposed the arguments extended by the appellant on the ground that the subject consignment was scized/detained on the the substantive evidence, expiry date embossed/printed by the manufacturer on each and every bag of subject consignment. He further contended that the controversy/question of expiry date has been settled and there is no reason to believe that the goods are still fit for human consumption and the action taken by the Customs against the appellant is well under the warrant of law and if any permission for laboratory test is granted without prejudice, may effect the whole seizurc.

03. Without touching the merits of the case, for purpose to resolve the core issue, we are of the considered view that the seized goods are required to be analyzed from the government laboratory. By doing so, we hereby direct the respondent to draw the samples from the said consignment and send the same to the PCSIR and HEJ Laboratory, for analysis/test, samples shall be collected in presence of the witnesses, accompanied by one of the appellant's representative, in accordance with prescribed law. Such activity

and expenditure made thereon are to be borne by the appellant. The report may be submitted within ten days.

04. At the same time the appellant's are directed to submit the

evidence in proof thereof which could validate the substantive description of the seized consignment, alongwith the explanation about the shelf life of the skimmed milk and submit the same during the course of pleadings, or before the next date of hearing. The case is adjourned to 11-04-2015, for compliance report and further hearing on merits of the case accordingly.

In the meantime office is directed to place the case before the worthy Chairman for its entrustment accordingly.

Member Technical I Samabad

(MUHAMMAD NADEEM OURESHI) Member Judicial-I Karachi

GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN

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