

IN THE HIGH COURT OF SINDH AT KARACHI

Special Customs Reference Application Nos.1071 to 1077 of 2023

Date	Order with Signature of Judge
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Hearing of case (priority)

1. For order on office objection
2. For hearing of main case
3. For hearing of CMA No.2226/2023

02.04.2026

Syed Zafar Hussain, Advocate for the applicant

Following questions of law had been proposed for determination:

- “1. Whether in the facts and circumstances of the case the Appellate Tribunal was justified in holding that the values of the goods in question were determined directly under section 25(9) of the Customs Act, 1969 (Fall Back Method) through impugned Valuation Ruling No. 1693/2022 dated 31.08.2022 without following the sequential methods as provided under section 25 of the Customs Act, 1969?
2. Whether the Appellate Tribunal while exercising Appellate jurisdiction under section 194-B(1) of the Customs Act, 1969 was within jurisdiction to pass a direction that to assess the imported consignment of the respondent importer under section 25(1) of the Customs Act, 1969?
3. Whether on the facts and circumstances of the case, the learned Appellate Tribunal misread the relevant section 25-A(1) of the Customs Act, 1969 read with all the Rules and Notifications issued for the determination of Customs value for the purpose of assessment of the imported goods?”

Courier receipt is placed on record to demonstrate that service has been effected.

Per learned counsel for the applicant, impugned judgment is not sustainable, as it directed the transactional value to be accepted under Section 25(1) of the Customs Act, 1969, whereas, the correct recourse ought to have been for the valuation to have been ascertained in accordance with law, including without limitation reference to section 25 of the Act. In such regard, learned counsel relies upon judgment reported as 2023 PTD 1769. In pursuance hereof learned counsel for the applicant seeks that the impugned judgment to be set aside and the matter be remanded for adjudication afresh in accordance with law.

Learned counsel also places reliance on judgment of this court dated 04.07.2024 passed in SCRA 1926 of 2023, which reads as follows:

"11. In view of hereinabove facts and circumstances, the impugned judgment of the Tribunal cannot be sustained in its entirety and the matter has to be remanded to the concerned Collectorate for passing of appropriate assessment orders under Section 25 of the Act. The questions proposed on behalf of the Applicant Department need to be rephrased in the following manner:

- i. Whether in the facts and circumstances of the case, the Tribunal was justified in holding that Director Valuation had failed to follow the sequential methods of Valuation under Section 25 of the Act while determining values of the goods in question under Section 25(7) read with Section 25(9) of the Act?
- ii. Whether in the facts and circumstances of the case, the exercise carried out by the Director Valuation while determining the values under Section 25(7) read with Section 25(9) of the Act was in accordance with law?
- iii. Whether in the facts and circumstances of the case, the Tribunal was justified in accepting the declared values of the Respondents as true Transactional values under Section 25(1) of the Act?...

12. Questions Nos.1 & 3 as above are answered in negative; in favour of the Applicant, and against the Respondents, whereas, Question No.2 is also answered in negative; against the Applicant and in favor of the Respondents. All Reference Applications are partly allowed / disposed of to the extent of Questions Nos.1 & 3 and all matters stand remanded as above to the concerned Collectorates. Let a copy of this order be sent to the Customs Appellate Tribunal in terms of sub-section (5) of Section 196 of the Customs Act, 1969. Office to place a copy of this order in the connected Reference Applications."

Counsel places reliance on paragraphs 11 and 12 of the aforesaid judgment and state that these reference applications may also be disposed of upon the same terms. Order accordingly. SCRA's stand disposed of.

A copy of this decision may be sent under the seal of this Court and the signature of the Registrar to the learned Customs Appellate Tribunal, as required per section 196(5) of the Customs Act, 1969. Office is instructed to place a copy hereof in each connected files.

JUDGE

JUDGE