

::आयुक्त (अपील्स) का कार्यालय, वस्तु एवं सेवा कर और केन्द्रीय उत्पाद शुक्क:: O/O THE COMMISSIONER (APPEALS), GST & CENTRAL EXCISE,

दवितीय तल, जी एस टी अवन / 2rd Floor, GST Bhavan, रेस कीसे रिंग रोड, Race Course Ring Road.



राजकोट | Rajkot - 360 001

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रजिस्टर्ड डाक ए. डी. द्वारा :-

भगील फाइन सहया Appeal : File No.

मूल आदेश स / 61130 No.

Daniel /

34/JC/2015

Date 10.03.2016

V2/47/GDM/2016 / 22 = To 6224

अपील आदेश संख्या (Order-In-Appeal No.): स्व

KCH-EXCUS-000-APP-106-2017-18

आदेश का दिलांक /

15.11.2017

जारी करने की तारीख

15.11.2017

Date of Order: Date of issue:

कुमार सतोष, आयक्त (अपील्स), राजकोट दवारा पारित / Passed by Shri Kumar Santosh, Commissioner (Appeals), Rajkot

ग अपर आगुक्त। संयुक्त आयुक्त। प्रणापुक्त। सहायक आगुक्त, केन्द्रीय उत्पाद शहका ग्रेसाकर, राजकीर । आधारार । गारीवाका। दवारा उपराितवित आरी

मून जादेश में मृजित । Arising out of above munitioned OrD issued by Addisonal/Joint/Disputy/Assistant Commissioner, Central Excise / Service Tax. Rajkot / Jamnagar / Gandhidham

E अपीलकर्ता & प्रतिवादी का नाम एवं पता /Name & Address of the Appellant & Respondent :-M/s. Seabird Marine Services P. Ltd., IOC Link Road, Near Mundhra CFS., Mundra (Kutch)

इस आदेश(अपीस) से त्यपित कोई त्यपित जिस्ततिकित तीके से उपस्का पाणिकारी / पाणिकाण के समक्ष अपीत दायर कर सकता है।/ Any person aggreed by this Order in Appeal may file an appeal to the appropriate authority in the following way.

मीमा चूनक केन्द्रीय उत्पाद गुल्क एवं संदर्भर अपीतीय स्थागाधिकाण के पति अपील, कान्द्रीय उत्पाद गुल्क अधिनियम 1944 की धारा 358 के असमेत एवं वित्त अधिनियम 1994 की धारा 86 के असमेत विक्योतियात जनह की जा सकती है ए (A)

Appeal to Customs, Excise & Service Tax Appelline Tribunal under Section 358 of CEA, 1944 / Under Section 86 of the Finance Act. 1994 on appeal lies to-

वरीकरण सुरुवाकन से सम्बन्धित मनी सामने मीमा शुल्क केन्द्रीय उत्पादन गुल्क एवं सेवाकर अधीतीय स्थाधारिकरण की विशेष पीठ, वेस्ट बर्लाक स 2. असर के पुरस, नहें दिख्यी, को की जानी धार्मिए ।/ 00

The special bench of Customs, Excise & Service Tax Appellate Tribunal of West Block No. 2, R.K. Puram, New Delhi in all matters relating to classification and varuation

उपरोक्त परिचंदेद राज) में बताए गए अपीजों के इजाबा देश तभी इन्छेंदें हीमा शान्त केंद्रीय उत्पाद शुन्त एवं होताका आणिया जावाधिकरण (सिस्टेट) की परिचम संगीय पीठिका, दक्षितीय तथ बदमाजी भागत अभावों अदमहाकार्य, १८००१६ की की जाती पाहिए () To the West regional bench of Customs, Excise & Service Tax Appellate Tribunal (CESTAT) at, 2" Fixor, Bhaumali Bhawan, Assrea Ahmedabad-380015 in case of appeals other than as membooed in para-1(a) above 00)

अपीनीय न्यावाधिकरण के समक्ष अपीन प्रश्तुत करने के लिए केन्द्रीय उत्पाद वृत्क (अपीन) विधामावती, 2001, के नियम 6 के अनुनेत निर्धारित किए सर्वे प्रथम EA-3 को धार प्रतिकों से दर्ज किया जाना गाणिए। इनसे से क्या है कम एक प्रति के साथ जुड़ उत्पाद वृत्क की सीन ज्यान की आँक और तमाया गया जुनोता. उपए 5 लाख था उपसे कम 5 लाक रूपए या 50 लाख व्यप तक अध्या 50 लाख ब्यए ये अपीन है तो कसका 1,000/व्यपे, 5,000/व्यपे अपया 10,000/व्यपे का निर्दिश अपया शासक की प्रति सत्तरन करें। निर्धारित वृत्क का अनुतान, अवधित अधिकों व्यायाधिकरण की वाद्या के स्वायक रजिस्ता के लाम से किसी भी व्यायाधिकरण की वाद्या के स्वायक रजिस्ता के लाम से किसी भी व्यायाधिकरण की वाद्या की प्रति के द्वाप देशन किसा अस्ति अधिक उत्पाद की साथ विद्या है। उत्पान आदेश (उट्टे अपेट्रेर) के लिए अमेरियन यह के बाथ 500/- व्यप्त का निर्धारित वृत्क जना करना होता। BED

The appeal to the Appellare Tribunal shall be filled in quadroplicate in form EA.3 / as prescribed under Role 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.10,000/- Rs.10,000/- where amount of duty demandimensylpenally/refund is upto 5-tac, 5-tac to 50-tac and above 50-tac respectively in the form of crossed bank draft in favour of Aast. Registrar of branch of any nominated public sector bank of the place where the bench of any nominated public sector bank of the place where the bench of any nominated public sector bank of the place where the bench of the Tribunal is should Application made for grant of stay shall be accompanied by a fee of Rs. 500/-

(B)

The appeal under sub-section (1) of Section 85 of the Finance Act. 1994 to the Appellate Tribunal Shall be filed in quadruplicate in Form 5.7.5 as prescribed under Fluir 9(1) of the Service Tax Rules, 1994, and Shall be accompanied by a copy of the order appealed against (one of which shall be certified copy) and should be accompanied by a fees of Ris 1000/- where the amount of service tax & interest demanded & penalty levied of Ris 5 Lakhs or less, Ris.5000/- where the amount of service tax & interest demanded & penalty levied is more than five liables but not exceeding Ris. Fifty Lakhs. Ris.10,000/- where the amount of service tax & interest demanded & penalty levied is more than lifty Lakhs rupees, in the form of crossed bank draft in Navour of the Assistant Registrar of the beach of nominated Public Sector Bank of the place where the beach of Tribunal is situated / Application made for grant of stay shall be accompanied by a fee of Ris.500/-

- विरम अधिनिषम, 1994 की धारा 88 की उप धाराओं (2) एवं (2A) के अरुगत दन मेरे गयी अधीत, शैवाकर निष्माधानी, 1994, के जिसम प्र(2) एवं (i) 9(2A) के तहत जियोरित प्रथम 5.7.7 में की जा सकेगी गर्द उसके ताम आयुक्त, केन्द्रीय उत्पाद मुक्क अथवा आयुक्त (अपीत), केन्द्रीय उत्पाद मुक्क दक्षण गरित अर्देश की प्रतिमाँ सतस्य करें (असमें में १७ प्रति प्रभागित होती प्रतिश) और आयुक्त (कारा महायक आयुक्त अथवा उपायुक्त, केन्द्रीय इत्यद शुरुका संवाकर, को अपोतीय त्यामाधिकरण को आहेदन दुन करत का विदेश देन लागे आदेश की बीट की साथ से संवास करती होगी । र The appeal under sub-section (2) and (2A) of the section 35 the Finance Act 1994, shall be filed in For ST.7 as prescribed under Pule 9 (2) & 9(2A) of the Service Tax Rules. 1994 and shall be accompanied by a copy of order of Commissioner Central Excise or Commissioner. Central Excise (Appents) (one of which shall be a certified copy) and copy of the order passed by the Commissioner authorizing the Assistant Commissioner or Deputy Commissioner or Central Excise! Service Tax to file the appeal before the Appellate Tribunal
- मीमा शुरूक, केन्द्रीय उत्पाद शुरूक एवं लेशाकर अधीरीय पाणिकाण (गेरटेंट) के पनि अधीरों के सामार्थ में केन्द्रीय उत्पाद शुरूक अधिनियम 1944 की (ii) पार 35रण के अलर्पन जो की विल्लाम अधिनियम, 1994 की धार 83 के अर्थान गंधाबर भी मी लागू की गए है. इस आदेश के पति अपीतीय प्राचिकरण में अपीत करते समय उत्पाद शुल्यानेप का साथ थे 10 परिशात (10%), जब आद एवं जुमील विवादित है. या जुमीला, जब केवल जुमीला विवादित है, का भगतान किया जाए, बार्स कि इस पाए के सतरात जाग कि जाने वाली अपेक्षित देश एति इस करोड रुपए से अधिक न ही।

केंग्रीय अपाद शुरूक एवं संसावन के अंतरीत ज्ञान किए गए शुरूकों में निक्त शामित है

torn 11 ft in Jordan rece

संस्कृत जान की जी वर्ष सराव गति (4)

र्गनबेट जमा नियमाशती के नियम 6 के अंतर्गत देव रक्ता (91)

बचार्ने यह कि इस धारा के पालधान किल्लिय (स. 2) अतिराज्यात 2014 के आरक्ष ते पूर्व किसी अपीलीय पारिकारी के समक विचाराधीन स्थान जेजी एवं अपीत को नामू नहीं होंगे।

For an appeal to be filled before the CESTAT, under Section 35F of the Central Excise Act, 1944 which is also made applicable to Service Tax under Section 83 of the Finance Act, 1994, an appeal against this order shall be before the Tribunal on payment of 10% of the duty domanded where duty or duty and penalty are in dispute, or penalty, where penalty alone is in dispute, provided the amount of pre-deposit payable would be subject to a ceiling of Rs. 10 Crores.

Under Central Excise and Service Tax, 'Duty Demanded' shall include

amount determined under Section 11 D.

amount of enoneous Cennit Credit taken.

amount payable under Rule 6 of the Cernal Credit Rules

- provided further that the provisions of this Section shall not apply to the stay application and appeals pending before any appellate authority prior to the commencement of the Finance (No.2) Act. 2014.

भारत शरकार को पुनरीक्षण आवेदन YCY

Revision application to Government of India: इस सादेश की पुरातीक्षण धारिका जिस्मिनिकित सामलों से केटीन उत्पाद शुल्य अधिमियस, 1994 की घला 35EE के प्रथम परतृक के आसील अका लेखित सारत सरकार, पुनातिका आसेटल ईकाई जिल्ल संसालय राज्यक विस्तार धीची अधिम जीवन डीच्य अवस समय सामी नई दिल्ली-110001, को किया जाना धाहिए। (

A revision application lies to the Under Secretary, to the Government of India, Revision Application Unit, Ministry of Finance, Department of Revenue. 4th Floor, Jervan Direc Building, Parliament Street, New Delhi-110001, under Section 35EE of the CEA 1944 in respect of the following case, governed by first province to sub-section (1) of Section-35B ibid.

- यदि साल के किसी मुकसान के सामले में जाए गुक्तमान किसी जान को किसी कारावारों में अंतर मूह के परनामन के दौरान या किसी अन्य कारावारों मा किस किसी एक अब्दा मूह से दूसी अव्दार मूह पारनामन के दौरान, या किसी अव्दार मूह से या अव्दारण में मान के प्रतासरण के दौरान, मिली कारावारों मा किसी अव्दार गृह से आतं के मुकतान के आतारे में // In case of any loss of goods, where the loss occurs in transit from a factory to a wavehouse or to another factory or from one 100 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
- भारत के बाहर किसी राष्ट्र या होड़ को निर्याल कर रहे आज के विधियोग में प्रयुक्त भगवे मान पर भरी गई वज्हीय उत्पाद शुल्क के छुट (रिकेट) के मामाने में, जो भारत के बाहर किसी राष्ट्र या होड़ को निर्याल केर गयी है। र 000 In case of rebate of duty of excise on goods expired to any country or territory outside India of on excisable material used in the manufacture of the goods which are expected to any country or territory outside India
- मंदि उत्पद्ध शुरूक का भूगानन किए बिना भारत के बातर, नेपान या भूरत को भाव नियोग किया गया है। / (10) In case of goods expirited outside India export to Hepail or Bhutan, without payment of duty.
- मुनिविधत अत्याद के अत्यादम शृंसक के भुनातार के लिए जो इपूरी केवीर इस अधिनियम लाई इसके विधिन्त पातानारों के तसत मान्य की रहें है और ऐसे मादेश जो आपुरूत (अपीन) के दुवारा जिला अधिनियम (स. 2). 1990 की पता 109 के दुवारा जियत की गई लगीख अधवा समायाविधि पर वा बाद में (iv) suffice their and Pol-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 such order is passed by the Commissioner (Appeals) on or after the date appointed under Sec. 109 of the Finance (No.2) Act. 1998.
- उपरोक्त आरोदन की दो प्रतिया प्रपुर कावण EA-8 है. जो के केन्द्रीय उत्पादन कुन्क (अपीज) निवासकारी, 2001, के नियस 9 के अनर्मन विनिद्धिप्ट है. इस आदेश के सर्वष्य के 3 सन के अनर्मन की जानी पातिए । उपराक्त आरोदन के नाथ मृत आदेश व अपीन आदेश की दो प्रतिया समस्य की जानी प्रतिया सम्य ही केन्द्रीय उत्पाद शुक्त अधिनिवास, 1944 की पास 35-EE के तहन जिम्मीयन शुक्त की अदावरों के माथय के नीर पर ER-6 की प्रति (v) साराम् भी जागी वाशिए।

The above application shall be made in displicate in Form No EA-II 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 a communicated and shall be accompanied by two copies each of the OIO and Order-in-Appeals It should also be accompanied by a copy of TR-fi Challan evidencing payment of pre-cribed fee as prescribed under Section 35-EE of CEA, 1944, under Major Head of Account.

- पर्वोक्षण आवेटन के साथ जिस्लानियन निर्माणित शरक की अदाराजी की आहे आहे । जेर्ड अवस्त तकल एक शास क्यारी का उत्तरी करता है तो रूपये 2000 का भूगतान किया। आए और वहि अनसन एक लाख रूपये में न्यादा हो ती (vi) क्रथरी 1000 न का अगलान किया जाए । The revision application shall be accompanied by a fee of Rs. 2007 where the amount involved in Rupees One Lac or less and Rs. 1000h where the amount involved is more than Rupees One Lac
- पदि इस अपनेश में कई मूल साईशों का समानेश है जो पत्तिक मूल आदेश के शिंध शुरूक का मूमारात. उपयोग दश में किया जाना व्यक्ति। इस तस्य के होते हुए और में किया पदि का प्रति के लिए प्रवादिक्षित अमेरिक अम्बद्धिक की एक अपने या के हीता अस्ति में का अमेरिक किया जाता है। / In case, if the order covers various numbers of order in Original Na for each O.L.O. should be paid in the altresaid manner, not withstanding the fact that the one appeal to the Appoint Topural or the one application to the Central Govt. As the case may be, in filled to avoid scriptorio with it exciting Ris. 1 lakk fee of Ris. 1000- for each (D)
- वकामभरिका व्यायासक सूच्य अधिनियम, १९७५ के अनुमूक्त । के अनुसार मून आदेश एक उक्तम आदेश की वनि पर निर्धारित 6.50 रूपये का (E) Figure 12 and the state of the case may be, and the order of the adjudicating authority shall bear a court fee stamp of Rs. 6.50 as prescribed under Schedule-I in terms of the Court Fee Act 1975, as amended
- तीमा शुरूक, केन्द्रीय उत्पाद शुरूक एवं मेशकर अन्द्रैनीय न्यायाधिकाण (कार्य शिवि) निवसकारी, 1982 व वर्णित एवं अन्य स**वन्धित मामानी को** सरिमार्थित करने वाले विवासी की और भी ध्यान आकर्षित किया जाता है। ? (F) Attention is also mysted to the rules covering these and other related matters contained in the Customs. Excise and Service Appetate Tribunal (Procedure) Rules. 1982.
- son antides withouth of artist order out it institut course. विस्तृत और संधितनम कार्यान्त के लिए, अमेलाकी विकासीय वैक्साइट www.cbec.gov.in की टेक्स करती हैं । / For the elaborate, detailed and listest provisions sniating to filling of appeal to the higher appellate authority, the appellant may (G) refer to the Departmental website www.cbec.gov.in

:: ORDER-IN-APPEAL ::

M/s. Seabird Marine Services Pvt. Ltd. (a CFS) at IOC Link Road, Near: Mundhra CFS, Mundra, Kutch (hereinafter referred to as 'the appellant') has filed the present appeal against the Order-In-Original No. 34/JC/2015 dated 10.03.2016 (hereinafter referred to as 'the impugned order'), passed by the Joint Commissioner, Central Excise & Service Tax, Gandhidham (hereinafter referred to as "the lower adjudicating authority").

- The appellant is engaged in providing services under the category of Cargo Handling Services, Storage and Warehouse Services, Input Service Distributor and Renting of Immovable Property and is holding Service Tax Registration No. AACCS9869CST004 under Section 69 of the Finance Act, 1994 (hereinafter referred to as "the Act") and have undertaken to comply with conditions prescribed under Service Tax Rules, 1994 (hereinafter referred to as 'the Rules'). The audit revealed that appellant had shown value of services charged against exempted services in their ST-3 returns filed for the services under the taxable category of Cargo Handling Services. They earned said income against providing services within their 'Container Freight Station (CFS)' registered for providing taxable service in the category of 'Storage and Warehousing Services'. The appellant contested that said income was on account of providing taxable service in the category of 'Cargo Handling Service' in relation to staking of goods/ cargo meant for export including handling/ storage and warehousing of empty containers and the same, though providing within ths said CFS, was out of the purview of taxable services and hence no Service Tax was paid thereon. They also stated that in case of charges against similar activity for cargo handling of imported cargo within the CFS, they have paid Service Tax.
- 2.1 The appellant was providing the services of stacking of goods/ cargo received in their CGS area for storing or warehousing purpose during import and export and includes handling/ storage and warehousing of empty containers. They were providing space for keeping cargo/goods, loading, unloading, stacking, security, handling/storage and warehousing of empty containers etc. facilities within their CFS and issuing single debit note (i.e. invoice). However, they were splitting the charges into two categories viz. (i) Storage and Warehousing Service and (ii) Cargo Handling Service and paying Service Tax accordingly except in the case of charges collected for handling of



integral part of the storage & warehousing services provided by them in their CFS area.

- 2.2 The handling of cargo takes place while providing the services if storage and warehousing and such handling of cargo done by the appellant within their CFS area can, in no way, be related to the context of transport or freight. The said services, in fact, are nothing but service incidental to their service of storing of import or export cargo. The cargo received in their area are required to be handled either before or after providing the service of storing or warehousing and without such handling activity the service of storing or warehousing is not possible. Therefore, such handling services provided within the CFS area does not appear to be any independent activity so as to get classified under the separate category of cargo handling simply because of the fact that cargo is handled. As such, the activity of handling of cargo by the appellant as a part of their storing and warehousing services in the CFS does not appear to fall under cargo handling services.
- 2.3 The CBEC while dealing with the issue as to whether services provided in relation to handling/ storage and warehousing of empty containers are liable to service tax under 'storage and warehousing service', has clarified in Circular No. 96/7/2007-ST dated 23.08.2007 as amended by circular No. 98/1/2008-ST dated 04.01.2008 that the said service is liable to Service Tax under 'storage and warehousing'. The appellant provided value of taxable and non-taxable services under the category 'Cargo Handlin Service' for the period from July, 2012 to March, 2013 as under:

Sr. No.	Year/ Period		Rate of Service Tax	Service Tax (Rs.)
1	2012-13 (July, 12 to March, 13)	74,32,429/-	12.36%	9,18,648/-

2.4 Show Cause Notice No. V.ST/AR-DM/ADC/336/2014 dated 19.03.2014 was issued proposing to classify their services of handling of cargo provided by them in relation to storage and warehousing services within their CFS area under the category of 'Storage and Warehousing Services' under Section 65(105)(zza) read with Section 65(102) of the Act and not under 'Cargo Handling Services'. It was proposed to demand and recover Services Tax amounting to Rs. 9,18,648/- under proviso to Section 73(1) of the Act alongwith interest under Section 75 of the Act and to impose penalties under Section 76,

Section 77 and Section 78 of the Act.



- 2.5 The lower adjudicating authority vide impugned order classified the services in respect of storing of export cargo under the taxable category of 'Storage and Warehousing Services' in terms of Section 65(102) of the Act read with Section 65(105)(zza) ibid and confirmed demand of Services Tax of Rs. 9,18,648/-, in respect of Storage and Warehousing Services provided by them for export cargo under proviso to Section 73(1) of the Act alongwith interest under Section 75 of the Act and dropped penalty under Section 76 of the Act. He imposed penalty of Rs. 10,000/- under Section 77 of the Act and penalty of Rs. 9,18,648/- under Section 78 of the Act with option to pay reduced penalty as provided under proviso to Section 78 ibid.
- 2.6 Being aggrieved by the impugned order, appellant preferred the present appeal mainly on the following grounds:
- They stated that SCN is vague and beyond comprehension as it fails to establish as to how the activity of export cargo would fall under the category of Storage and Warehousing Service under Section 65(102) of the Act post introduction of negative list w.e.f. 01.07.2012.
- The SCN fails to appreciate that they has already discharged service tax under the category of cargo handling service w.e.f. 01.07.2012 for export services for which they have been regularly filing ST-3. Without appreciating the nature of transaction and on the basis of contentions as raised in SCN-1 and SCN-2, similar contentions are also raised in SCN-3 for which they have already discharged service tax. They rely on the judgment of the Supreme Court in case of CCE v. Brindavan Beverages (P) (Ltd.) [(2007) 213 ELT 487 (SC).
- 3. The Ld. Joint Commissioner has clearly overlooked the submissions made by them and mechanically confirmed the demand raised in the show cause notice by not perusing the documents placed on record such as ST-3 return, Challans, Contracts for the period post 01.07.2012 which would be sufficient to show that primarily they have discharged service tax under the category of cargo handling service. They rely on the judgment in the case of Cyril Lasardo (Dead) V/s Juliana Maria Lasarado 2004 (7) SCC 431, Asst. Commissioner, Commercial Tax Department Vs. Shukla & Brothers reported as 2010 (254) ELT 6 (SC)=2011 (22) STR 105 (SC).

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below:

They have also received two SCNs demanding service tax under the service category of 'Storage and Warehousing services', as detailed

S.No.	Period	SCN No.	Demand (Rs.)	Issue under SCN
1.	2006-07 to Sep,11	V.ST/AR- IVGND/Commr /85/2012 dated 16.04.2012 ("SCN-1")	2,85,94,612	Services are covered under 'storage and warehousing service' and hence exemption of export cargo provided under 'cargo handling service' is not available.
2.	Oct, 11 to June, 12	V.ST/AR-IV Gandhidham/2 39/Commr/201 2 dated 14.10.2013 ("SCN-2")	1,27,86,465	Services are covered under 'storage and warehousing service' and hence exemption of export cargo provided under 'cargo handling service' is not available.

- 5. Under above SCNs department's contention was that the exemption claimed by the appellant of 'export cargo' under the service category of 'cargo handling service' is not available and the service provided is during the course of provision of service of 'storage and warehousing service' and hence service would be taxable under the service category of 'storage and warehousing service'.
- On the same ground, they have received this present SCN for the period July, 2012 to March, 2013 demanding service tax of Rs. 9,18,648/- under the service category of 'storage and warehousing service'.
- Before putting forward arguments, the activities as carried out by them is as under:

Export Cargo: In case of export cycle, cargo is carted by the clearing agent at the CFS, then appellant stuffs the cargo in the container and cargo is transported by the appellant to the Port. The appellant charges composite rate for handling as well as transportation of cargo. Post 01.07.2012 (i.e. after introduction of negative (ist), appellantis paying service tax on the total value of invoice i.e. cargo handling plus transportation. If cargo is stored for longer period then appellant collects storage charges and service tax is discharged under the service category of 'storage and warehousing services'.

Import Cargo: In case of import cycle, containers are moved from Port to CFS, unloaded at CFS and after de-stuffing the cargo, it may be delivered to factory for de-stuffing. The appellant charges composite rate for handling as well as transportation of cargo. In case of import cargo, for both Per and Post 01.07.2012 (i.e. after introduction of negative (ist), appellant is paying service tax on the total value of invoice i.e. cargo handling plus transportation. If cargo is stored for longer period then appellant collects storage charges and service tax is discharged under the service category of 'storage and warehousing services'.

Empty Containers: In case of empty container movement, containers are moved from Port to CFS and stored at CFS. Further, they are delivered for factor stuffing purpose or may be utilized at CFS for export stuffing. Agreement for the transportation of the empty containers is entered by the appellant with the Shipping lines. If empty containers are stored at CFS, rent charges is collected by them from the Shipping lines. They are discharging service tax under the service category of 'cargo handling services' for offloading the container and under 'storage and warehousing service' for storage of empty container.

- Taking into consideration the facts stated above, they submitted as under:
- 9. Firstly, SCN is issued based on the allegations that they have not paid service tax under the service category of "storage and warehousing service" for export cargo claiming exemption benefit per se 'cargo handling service'. That post introduction of negative list i.e. w.e.f.

01.07.2012, they have started discharging service tax on the charges collected for 'export cargo' without availing any exemption benefit. Thus, for the period under dispute i.e. July, 2012 to March, 2013 in SCN-3, as the appellant has paid service tax on the amount collected under cargo handling in case of export cargo, the allegations made in the SCN-3 that they have not paid service tax for charges collected for export cargo under 'storage and warehousing service' is incorrect. As the service tax required to be paid as alleged in the SCN-3 is paid by the appellant and is also declared in the ST-3 return, demand raised in the SCN-3 under 'storage and warehousing service' needs to be set aside.

- 10. Secondly, service value of Rs. 74,32,429/- on which demand of Rs. 9,18,648/- is raised in the SCN is for the transportation of empty containers that is collected by them for movement from Port to CFS from various shipping lines. As the allegations raised in the SCN is only with regard to movement of export cargo and not relating to transportation of empty containers from Terminal / Port to CFS, demand as confirmed in the SCN needs to be set aside on this ground only.
- Lastly, even though the allegations is not with regard to movement of 11. empty containers from Terminal to CFS, they submitted that transportation charges collected by them for movement of empty containers from Terminal to Port will not be liable to service tax. If any person who provides transportation of goods by road and issues consignment note qualifies to be goods transport agency (GTA). Further, in case of GTA service, as per rule 2(1)(d)(i)(B) of the Service Tax Rules, 1994 states 'person liable to pay service tax' in case of service provided by a goods transport agency is the 'person liable to pay freight either himself or through his agent'. As per the said rule, if the person liable to pay freight is 'body corporate' then person liable to pay service tax will be 'body corporate' as a recipient of GTA service. In the present case, they have provided the service of transportation of empty containers from Terminal to Port amounting to value of Rs. 74,32,429/-. It is clear that 'empty containers fall within the definition of 'goods' as defined in section 65B(25) of the Act.
- Further, relying on Circular no. 96/7/2007-ST dated 23.08.2007, it is already accepted that 'empty containers' are goods as stated in para 6.1

of SCN-3. They have also issued consignment note for the transportation of said containers on the shipping lines. On perusal of consignment note issued by them, it is clear that it fulfills the minimum requisite details as required per se rule 4B of Service Tax rules, 1994 i.e. serially numbered, name of Consignor and Consignee, registration no. of the goods carriage in which goods are transported, details of goods transported, place of origin and destination, person liable to pay service tax whether consignor or consignee or goods transport agency.

- 13. In the present case, as the person liable to pay freight is the shipping line for the transportation of empty containers from port to CFS, as per rule 2(1)(d)(i)(B) of the Service Tax Rules, 1994, shipping line is the person liable to pay service tax as a recipient of service under GTA service category. Hence, no service tax liability is required to be discharged by the appellant for the transportation income received for transporting empty containers from port to CFS.
- 14. Further, exemption Notification No. 25/2012-ST dated 20.06.2012 which is relating to goods transport agency exempts transportation of goods in a goods carriage of goods where gross amount charged in a single carriage does not exceed Rs. 1,500/-. In the present case also, they have collected transportation charges for transport of empty containers from port to CFS where transportation charges per trip is less than Rs.1,500/-. Hence service tax would not be levied on transportation charges collected by them from shipping lines.
- As per the agreement as entered with Shipping Line, they provides the following services
 - Transportation of empty containers from Port to CFS
 - (ii) 45 days free storage to empty container. From 46th day, carrier is required to pay storage charges.
 - (iii) Free handling charges and internal shifting at CFS.
- 16. Except for transportation charges, any amount that is collected by them, they are discharging service tax on the same. Say if any handling charges is collected, they are paying service tax under 'cargo handling service' and if any storage charges is collected then they are paying service tax under 'storage and warehousing service'. There is separate rate chart for

each service to be provided by the appellant. They rely on the Board Circular no. B11/1/2002-TRU dated 01.08.2002. As per this circular, if CFS is providing composite service of cargo handling and transportation and if the cost of transportation is shown separately in the invoice, then service tax will not be levied on the transportation charges. In the present case also, as per the agreement, there is separate rate for transportation, handling charges and storage charges. Further, the invoice issued by them also states the transportation amount separately in the invoice. Thus, relying on the above circular, transportation charges received by them from the shipping line should not be liable for service tax.

- 17. They rely on the said circular and the judgment of the Tribunal in case of Balmer Lawrie & Co. Ltd. v. CCE (2014) 35 STR 611 (Tri-Mumbai). They also rely on CBEC circular no. 354/98/2015-TRU dated 05.10.2015, as per the said TRU circular, if the primary contract is for transportation of goods then the services ancillary to the transportation like storage, loading / unloading etc, would fall under the service category of GTA service if the said charges are included in the invoice by the GTA himself and not by any other person.
- 18. They further submitted that the value of taxable service of Rs. 74,32,429/- on which demand of Rs. 9,18,648/- is confirmed in OIO also includes the amount of fines and penalties collected by them for rash driving, carrying prohibited items inside CFS premises, damaging CFS property, cheque bounce penalty, etc. in order to bring discipline and to make good the damages to the CFS property. Thus, the said collection of amount is purely in the nature of fines and penalty and is not pertaining to any provision of service. Hence, service tax cannot be levied on such fines and penalties.
- 19. Based on the arguments as stated in the above paras, as they are not liable to pay any service tax, payment of interest and penalties does not arise. The extended period invoked in the case is also not correct. They rely on the following judgments:
 - (a) Suvikram Plastex Pvt. Ltd. v. CCE, Bangalore III 2008 (225) ELT 282 (T)
 - (b) Rallis India Ltd. v. CCE, Surat 2006 (201) ELT 429 (T)

and

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- (c) Patton Ltd. v. CCE, Kolkata V 2006 (206) ELT 496 (T)
- (d) CCE, Tirupati v. Satguru Engineering & Consultants Pvt. Ltd. 2006 (203) ELT 492 (T)
- (e) Indian Hume Pipes Co. Ltd. v. CCE, Coimbatore 2004 (163) ELT 273 (T)
- (f) Akbar Badruddin Jiwani v. Collector of Customs reported at 1990
 (047) ELT 0161 Supreme Court
- (g) Pushpam Pharmaceuticals Company v. CCE reported at 1995 (78) ELT 401 (SC)
- (f) CCE v. Chemphar Drugs and Liniments reported at 1989 (40) ELT 276 (SC).
- 20. They submitted that there being no suppression, penalty under Section 78 is not applicable as none of the five conditions for imposition of penalty under Section 78 are applicable. There is no fraud; collusion; wilful mis-statement; suppression; or contravention of the provisions of Finance Act, 1994 with an intent to evade payment of duty in the present case.
- 2.7 A personal hearing in the matter was held wherein Shri Abhishek
 Doshi, CA reiterated the grounds of appeal and submitted that this Show
 Cause Notice has wrongly been issued; that new negative service tax was in
 operation since 01.07.2012; that CBEC has clarified that empty containers
 are goods and hence transportation of empty containers needs to be
 treated under GTA for which service recipients are required to pay Service
 Tax and not them; that transportation cost of empty containers from
 CFS/Port to place of exporters is less than Rs. 1500/- in almost all cases,
 which are exempted by CBEC. He also emphasized that demand being
 confirmed under taxable category of "Storage and Warehousing Service"
 u/s 65(102) read with Section 65(105)(zza) of Finance Act, 1994 is legally
 not tenable at all as these sections were not existing since 01.07.2012; that
 they have paid Service Tax on 'Storage & Warehousing Services' but not
 paid Service Tax on transportation of empty containers for export from
 CFS/Port to exporters place as it is not payable by them.

FINDINGS:

 I have carefully gone through the facts of the case, the impugned order, the appeal memorandum and submissions made during personal hearing.

- 3.1 The issue to be decided in the present appeal is as to whether the service of handling of cargo provided by the appellant in relation to storage and warehousing services within their Container Freight Station would be classifiable under the category of "Storage and Warehousing Services" under Section 65(105)(zza) read with Section 65(102) of the said Act instead of "Cargo Handling Services" as contended by the appellant.
- 3.2 The Storage and Warehouse Services provided by the appellant, were provided within CFS area for loading docks for stacking, to store/keep cargo meant for containerized export, bulk export, handling of loaded as well as empty containers, storage of cargo arrived in import with additional benefit of inventory, safety/security of cargo and insurance cover to cargo kept under Storage and Warehouse and to mobilize them and provided them facilities of cranes and forklifts.
- 3.3 I find that Section 65(102) of the Finance Act, 1994 provides the definition of "Storage and Warehousing Services" which reads as under:

"storage and warehousing" includes storage and warehousing services for goods including liquids and gases but does not include any service provided for storage of agricultural produce or arty service provided by a cold storage;"

This definition, with reference to the taxable service, is dealt with by Clause (zza) of the Finance Act, 1994 which defines the taxable services as follows:

"the taxable service means 'any service provided or to be provided to any person, by a storage or warehouse keeper in relation to storage and warehousing goods."

- 3.4 From above, I find that storage and warehousing in connection with service tax refers to storage/warehousing of goods and not the medium used for storing such goods. I find that the tax applies to storage and warehousing of all goods except agricultural products and goods kept in cold storage. The appellant has clarified that the services provided by a Container Freight Terminal is specifically included within the ambit of "Cargo Handling Service" and handling of export cargo has been specifically excluded from the tax net. Therefore no service tax was required to be paid by them on handling of export cargo services.
- 3.5 The above contention of the appellant is not tenable as, the services of

handling of cargo provided by CFS is classifiable under Cargo Handling Service only when it is provided in the context of transportation and when incidental to freight. In the present case, handling of cargo takes place within their CFS, which is registered for providing storage and warehousing purpose. The handling of cargo undertaken in the CFS in relation to storage and warehousing services can, in no way, be related to the transport or freight. The said services, in fact, are nothing but services incidental to their service of storing of import or export cargo. The cargo received in this area are required to be handled either before or after providing the service of storing or warehousing and without such handling activity the service of storing or warehousing is not possible. Therefore, such handling services provided within CFS area cannot be any independent activity so as to get classified under the separate category of cargo handling merely because cargo is handled. As such, the activity of handling of cargo by the appellant as a part of their storing and warehousing services in the CFS would not fall under cargo handling services as contended by them.

- 3.6 The appellant is operating Container Freight Station (CFS) and handling of cargo inter-alia includes functions of carting of cargo from the trucks, stuffing of cargo into container and movement of container to the port in the case of cargo during the course of export. Exactly reverse movements arise in the case of cargo arriving in the vessel i.e. in the case of imports. I find that these activities are handling of cargo undertaken in the CFS in relation to "Storage and Warehousing Services". Hence, I find that the appellant has wrongly classified their activity of handling of cargo provided by them in relation to the storage and warehousing of export cargo under the category "Cargo Handling Services" in order to avail the benefit of exemption available for export cargo and paying service tax in the case of import cargo only. I find that the cargo /goods received in their area were not merely subjected to which 'Cargo Handling Service', but also were provided with facility of storage, security and other amenities provided by a storage and warehouse keeper. The services so provided resulted into emergence of essential character of "Storage and Warehousing Services". Therefore, the services provided by the appellant are incidental to storage and warehousing and therefore, the activity carried out by the appellant is correctly classifiable under the category "Storage and Warehousing Services".
 - 4. The appellant has also contended that, they were providing two

separate services falling under the taxable head storage and warehouse services and cargo handling services and that they were receiving separate consideration for the services provided by them as per their Tariff Card which is separate for export and import cargo and specifies separate charges for cargo handling and storage and warehousing service; that they were duly discharging service tax on storage and warehousing services and since the handling of export cargo was exempted under the definition of cargo handling services they were not paying service tax on consideration received towards Handling of Export Cargo.

- I find that what is necessary in law for taxation under the category 4.1 "Cargo Handling Services" is that the service provided should be relating to or in relation to cargo handling by a cargo handling agency. The service provided should be integrally or inseparably connected with handling of cargo. In other words, loading, unloading, packing or unpacking of cargo and handling of cargo for freight in special containers or non-containerized freight and service provided by container freight terminal or other freight terminal for all modes of transport and activity incidental to freight of cargo are all liable to be taxed under the category "Cargo Handling Services". In the instant case, the appellant was carrying out the activity of storing goods in their warehouse and was arranging transportation facility to transport the goods to warehouse. Since, the activity of loading and unloading is incidental to storage and warehousing services, I hold the above services are rightly classified under the category "Storage and Warehousing Services". anna
- 4.2 I find that the appellant was receiving gross amount for operation of CFS i.e. storage services which included unloading stacking, storage, security, and reloading in CFS area, however, the appellant was splitting these charges into two categories, one, storage and other cargo handling. The appellant is paying service tax under the category of "Storage and Warehousing Services" in the case of storage of imported cargo but in the case of storage of export cargo they are not paying service tax by classifying the same services under the category of "Cargo Handling Services" even though the nature of service rendered for import and export is identical. This arrangement has been made by the appellant only to wrongly avail the benefit of the exemption available for export cargo. As has been held above, the services provided by the appellant are incidental to storage and warehousing and therefore, the activity carried out by the appellant is correctly classifiable under the

category "Storage and Warehousing Services".



- 5. On going through the ST-3 returns, I find that the appellant is paying service tax under the category of "Storage and Warehousing Services" in the case of storage of imported cargo but in the case of storage of export cargo, they are not paying service tax by classifying the same services under the category of "Cargo Handling Services" even though the nature of service rendered for import and export is identical. In view of this, I find that there is no element of cargo handling present in the instant service and therefore, the activity carried out by the appellant is correctly classifiable under the category "Storage and Warehousing Services".
- 5.1 Annexure III to Circular F. No. B11/1/2002-TRU, dated 1.8.2002, highlights the activities which are taxable as they are part of the whole activity of providing 'Storage and Warehousing Services', Relevant extracts of the circular are as under:
 - 2. As per clause (87), "storage and warehousing" includes storage and warehousing services for goods including liquids and gases but does not include any service provided for storage of agricultural produce or any service provided by a cold storage. As per sub-clause (zza) of clause (90), the taxable service is any service provided, to any person, by a storage or warehouse keeper in relation to storage and warehousing of goods.
 - 3. Storage and warehousing service for all kind of goods are provided by public warehouses, private warehouses, by agencies such as the Central Ware Housing Corporation, Air Port Authorities, Railways, Inland Container Depots, Container Freight Stations, storage godown and tankers operated by private individuals etc. The storage and warehousing service provider normally make arrangement for space to keep the goods, loading, unloading and stacking of goods in the storage area, keeps inventory of goods, makes security arrangements and provide insurance cover etc. Service provided in ports has already been covered under the category of port service.
 - 5. It has been stated that in some case a storage owner only rents the storage premises. He does not provide any service such as loading/unloading, stacking, security etc. A point has been raised as to whether service tax would be leviable in such cases. It is clarified that mere renting of space cannot be said to be in the nature of service provided for storage or warehousing of goods. Essential test is whether the storage keeper provides for security of goods,



stacking, loading/ unloading of goods in the storage area.

- 10. Another point made by the CWC is that they engage handling and transport contractors (H&T contractors) to provide handling and transport services who would be charging them service tax for cargo handling services. CWC add supervision charges and raises the bill to the customers. For warehousing they raise a separate bill. The question is whether CWC is liable to pay service tax on cargo handling services and if so, whether they can take credit of the tax paid on cargo handling services by the H&T contractor. Similar situations may exist in respect of other storage and warehouse keepers. It is clarified that if the storage and warehouse keeper undertakes cargo handling services also and raises its own bill to the customer for such service, then he would be liable to pay service tax under the category of cargo handling services also. However, he would be eligible to take credit of service tax paid on cargo handling services rendered by the H&T contractors and adjust the same against his service tax liability on cargo handling services provided he raises a separate bill for the same to his client. In other words, he cannot adjust the credit against storage and warehousing service charges.
- 5.2 I find that the storage services provided by the appellant are one of the key elements of providing "Storage and Warehousing Services". The appellant has submitted that in terms of the above mentioned Circular, when storage and warehousing services and cargo handling services were provided simultaneously, they were charging separately for the cargo handling services, and were classifying the same under cargo handling services, and that handling of export cargo services were exempted, no service tax was being paid on such services. The above argument of the appellant is not correct as handling of export is exempted under the category of "Cargo Handling Services and not under the Category "Storage and Warehousing services". I find that the issue has already been clarified by the Board vide circular F. No. B11/ 1/ 2002-TRU, dated 1.8.2002 at para 10 quoted above.
- 5.3 Section 65A of the Finance Act, 1994, clarifies classification of taxable services as follows -
 - For the purposes of this chapter, classification of taxable services shall be determined according to the terms of the sub-clauses (105) of section 65;
 - (2) When for any reason, a taxable service is prima facie, classifiable under two or more sub-clauses of clause (105) of section 65, classification shall be effected as follows:-
 - (a) the sub-clause which provides the most specific description shall be

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preferred to sub-clauses providing a more general description;

- (b) composite services consisting of a combination of different services which cannot be classified in the manner specified in clause (a), shall be classified as if they consisted of a service which gives them their essential character, in so far as this criterion is applicable;
- (c) when a service cannot be classified in the manner specified in clause (a) or clause (b), it shall be classified Under the sub-clause which occurs first among the sub-clauses which equally merits consideration.
- The fact that the appellant was providing services of handling of cargo in relation to staking of goods/cargo received in CFS area for storing or warehousing purpose during import and export and includes handling /storage and warehousing of empty containers. The said services, as per the classification principles mentioned above, appear to fall rightly under the category of taxable services as defined under Section 65(105)(zza) of the Act. As Storage and Warehousing Service is the more specific description and the said activities carried out by the appellant appropriately fall under the category of "Storage and Warehousing Service" in terms of provision of Section 65 A (2) (a) of the said Act.
- The appellant has contested that post 01.07.2012 after introduction of negative list, they are paying Service Tax on total value of invoice i.e. cargo handling plus transportation. If the cargo is stored for longer period then they collect storage charges and Service Tax has been discharged under 'storage and warehousing services'. From the facts available on records, I find that on one hand they are contesting that post 01.07.2012, they are discharging Service Tax for export cargo also and on other, they are furnishing the Service Tax value/ amount taxable and non-taxable for the period from July, 2012 to March, 2013 on which they have not paid the Service Tax. It is pertinent to note here that the information was sought based on the two Show Cause Notices issued to them for the earlier period, wherein they have classified the taxable service under 'cargo handling services' though the same was properly classifiable under 'storage & warehousing charges' to escape from Service Tax liability. The appellant is paying service tax under the category of "Storage and Warehousing Services" in the case of storage of imported cargo but in the case of storage of export cargo, they are not paying service tax by classifying the same services under the category of "Cargo Handling Services" even though the nature of service rendered for import and export is identical. When they are



accepting that post 01.07.2012, they are discharging the Service Tax on all value of services then they cannot claim exemption on value of Rs. 74,32,429/- on which they have not paid Service Tax. Therefore, the contrary stand adopted by the appellant is not correct and tenable.

- 7. The appellant also contested that the allegations raised in the Show Cause Notice is only with regard to movement of export cargo and not relating to transportation of empty containers from terminal/ port to CFS and argued that the transportation charges collected by them for movement of empty containers from Terminal to Port will not be liable to Service Tax as the recipient of the GTA service is liable to pay the Service Tax. I find that the appellant is trying to twist allegations made in the Show Cause Notice to prove their case. Instead of providing the clarification of the taxable value of Rs. 74,32,429/- on which Service Tax demand is made, they are trying to prove their case by making alternative arguments.
- Now they have come up with the argument that the service recipient is liable to pay Service Tax under GTA relying on Notification No. 25/2012-S.T. dated 20.06.2012 where in it has been stated that if gross amount charged for goods transported in a single carriage does not exceed Rs. 1,500/-, transportation charges received by goods transport agency is exempt from service tax. It is on record that they are providing a composite service and as per their convenience they have splitted the charges into two taxable categories one for storage and warehousing services and cargo handling service. To escape from Service Tax liability, they have submitted copies of consignment notes with the appeal papers. The verification of consignment notes reveal that the same are computer generated without any signature. It does not contain the value of transportation. Thus, it can be construed that the said exercise made by appellant is nothing but an after though to deviate from allegations leveled in the Show Cause Notice. As far as import cargo is concerned, they classify the service under 'storage and warehousing service' and for export cargo, they classify the service under 'cargo handling service' even though there is no change in nature of service.
- 8. The appellant relied upon the judgment of Balmer Lawrie & Co. reported as 2014 (35) STR 611 (Tri. Mumbai). I find that the reliance placed by them is of no help to them as facts of the case are altogether different than of this case. They also placed reliance on CBEC Circular No. 354/98/2015-TRU

dated 05.10.2015. I find that this circular is meant for GTA service provider who provides composite service which may include various ancillary services such as loading/ unloading, packing/ unpacking, transshipment, temporary storage etc. which are provided in the course of transportation of goods by road. In this case, the appellant is providing main services of 'storage and warehousing services' and 'cargo handling services' and transportation is part and parcel of their main services and not GTA service. Therefore, I am of the considered view that Circular dated 05.10.2015 is not applicable in this case.

- 9. In view of above discussions, I find that the appellant is liable to pay Service Tax of Rs. 9,18,648/- on 'storage and warehousing services'. Since the tax liability is held, the payment of interest under Section 75 and imposing penalty under Section 78 would apply. Therefore, I uphold the impugned order and reject the appeal filed by the appellant.
- ९.१ अपीलकर्ता दवारा दर्ज की गई अपील का निपटारा उपरोक्त तरीके से किया जाता है।
- 9.1 The appeal filed by the appellant is disposed of in above terms.

(कुमार संतोष)

आयुक्त (अपील्स)

By R.P.A.D.

To,

M/s. Seabird Marine Services Pvt. Ltd. (a CFS) at IOC Link Road, Near: Mundhra CFS, Mundra, Kutch मे. सीबर्ड मरीन सर्विसिस प्राइवेट लिमिटेड (अ सी.एफ.एस.) आईओसी लिंक रोड, मुन्धा सी.एफ.एस. के पास, मुंद्रा, कच्छ.

Copy to:

- The Chief Commissioner, GST & Central Excise, Ahmedabad Zone, Ahmedabad.
- The Commissioner, GST & Central Excise, Gandhidham.
- The Assistant Commissioner, GST & Central Excise, Division, Gandhidham.
- 4) The Superintendent, GST & Central Excise, Range, Gandhidham.
- 5) Guard File.