

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
OFFICE OF THE ADDITIONAL DIRECTOR GENERAL OF FOREIGN TRADE
SHASTRI BHAWAN, HADDOWS ROAD, CHENNAI-600 006

F.No.04/21/021/00489/AM10

DATED: 03.06.2019.

ORDER-IN-ORIGINAL

PASSED BY : J. MURALIDHARAN, DY. DIRECTOR GENERAL OF FOREIGN TRADE

- 1 Any person/party aggrieved by this Order may, under Section-14 of the Foreign Trade (Development & Regulation) Act, 1992 readwith Foreign Trade (Development & Regulation) Amendment Act, 2010 (Notification dated 20.8.2010) and as amended from time to time, file an appeal against the same to the appropriate authority viz. The Additional Director General of Foreign Trade, Chennai within 45 days from the date of issue of this Adjudication Order together with a copy of this Order and complete set of evidences in the form of annexure/attachment to the appeal relied upon in support of the appeal.
- 2 Any person/party desirous of filing an appeal against this Order shall deposit the penalty amount and produce proof of payment of penalty amount alongwith the appeal to the Appellate Authority failing which the appeal is liable to be rejected for non-compliance of the provisions of Section-15 of the Foreign Trade (Development & Regulation) Act, 1992 readwith Foreign Trade (Development & Regulation) Amendment Act, 2010 and as amended from time to time.
- 3 The penalty amount is to be deposited under the Head of Account "1453-Foreign Trade and Export Promotion Minor Head 102 – Other receipts, fines and penalties etc. – Imports and Exports Trade Control Organisation" or through "eMPS (Electronic Miscellaneous Payment System)" as the case may be.
- 4 The Appeal alongwith evidence of payment of penalty is required to be furnished to the Adjudicating Authority within 45 days from the date of serving of this Adjudication Order, failing which, the Importer-Exporter Code Number of the person/firm/company or other entities concerned is liable to be suspended under the provisions of Section-11(4) of the Foreign Trade (Development & Regulation) Act, 1992, readwith Foreign Trade (Development & Regulation) Amendment Act,2010 and as amended from time to time.

FACTS OF THE CASE

M/s. Forward Leather Company, Old No.50, New No.37, Raja Muthiah Road, Periamet, Chennai-600 003 had been granted an EPCG Licence/Authorisation No.0430007747 dated 12.10.2009 for a total duty saved value of Rs.19,361/- under Zero duty EPCG Scheme for import of capital goods listed with the said licence/authorisation, with an obligation to export "Leather & Leather Products" manufactured out of the imported capital goods to the tune of total f.o.b. value of USD 2,358.70 i.e. 6 times of the Duty Saved Value equivalent to foreign currency over and above the annual average of the past export performance fixed for Rs.666,255,351.33/-, subject to the condition that 50% export obligation should be met in the first block within six years from the date of issue of

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licence/authorisation and balance 50% export obligation in the next two years For the purpose of discharge of said export obligation, M/s. Forward Leather Company , Chennai-600 003 were required to submit the export documents under ANF-5B, as per Para-5.13 of Hand Book of Procedures,2009-14 as amended, within a period of three months from the date of expiry of above block periods. Despite, M/s. Forward Leather Company , Chennai-600003 were required to submit a report on fulfilment of export obligation by 30th April of every year to the Licensing Authority/Regional Authority concerned, as per Para-5.6 of Hand Book of Procedures, 2009-14 as amended. M/s. Forward Leather Company , Chennai-600 003 were also required to submit the Installation Certificate issued by the Central Excise Authority or Chartered Engineer as the case may be, within a period of six months from the date of import to the Regional Authority/Licensing Authority concerned, as per Para-5.3.1 of Hand Book of Procedures,2009-14 as amended.

M/s. Forward Leather Company , Chennai-600 003 had surrendered the original EPCG License No. 0430007747 dated 12.10.2009 alongwith all the enclosures vide their letter dated 07.05.2010. On scrutiny of the unutilisation of the above license, this office had found that, the said licence/authorisation had been registered with customs under Registration No. S 45 414/2009 with the bond No. 200257810 for a value of Rs. 22,000/-. Hence M/s. Forward Leather Company , Chennai-600 003 was advised to produce unutilisation certificate issued by customs in this regard vide this office letter dated 09.01.2013. As there was no reply from M/s. Forward Leather Company Chennai-600 003 a reminder was issued on 05.03.2019 vide this office letter of even No. Dated 11.05.2010. Since then there was no reply received from M/s. Forward Leather Company , Chennai-600 003 a Show Cause Notice of even No. dated 26.03.2019 was issued by the undersigned with an opportunity of personal hearing on 24.04.2019 to explain the reasons and facts within a period of 15 days, as to why action should not be taken for placing M/s. Forward Leather Company , Chennai-600 003 under Denied Entity List, refusing issuance of further licences/authorisations/renewal of old licences/authorisations and other export benefits etc. in terms of Section-9(2) of Foreign Trade (Development) Act, 1992 readwith Rule-7(k)of Foreign Trade (Regulation) Rules, 1993 and as to why penalty should not be imposed adjudicating their case under Section-11(2) of Foreign Trade (Development & Regulation) Act, 1992, in exercise of the powers vested in undersigned under Section-13 of the Foreign Trade (Development & Regulation) Act, 1992. However, M/s. Forward Leather Company , Chennai-600 003 had not cared to either reply to the said Show Cause Notice or attended the personal hearing granted to them on 24.04.2019, which tantamounts to gross violation of EXIM/Foreign Trade Policy/Procedures, attracting action under the provisions of Section-9(2) & 11(2) of Foreign Trade (Development & Regulation) Act, 1992 readwith Rule-7(k) of Foreign Trade (Regulation) Rules, 1993.

FINDINGS

M/s. Forward Leather Company , Chennai-600 003 had failed to submit the export documents under ANF-5B and installation certificate as required under Para-5.13 of hand Book of Procedures, 2009-14 or regularised the issue by paying the entire duty saved value utilised alongwith interest thereon to the Customs Authority at Port of Registration and produced documentary evidence towards such payments for the non-fulfilment of above export obligation, as per Para-5.14 of Hand Book of Procedures,2009-14, even after a period nearly more than three years from date of expiry of total export obligation period. M/s. Forward Leather Company , Chennai-600 003 had also violated the condition laid down under Para-5.3.2 of Hand Book of Procedures, 2009-14, by not furnishing the Installation Certificate evidencing the installation of imported capital goods at their own manufacturing premises/supporting manufacturers' premises as the case may be, as endorsed in the subject licence/authorisation within the time limit prescribed therein.

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ORDER

The undersigned has gone through the above facts of the case thoroughly and carefully. In the absence of any export documents towards fulfilment of export obligation and installation certificate as well as in the absence of documentary proof for having paid the duty saved value utilised and interest thereon in case of non-fulfilment of export obligation intended for the above authorisation/licence, the undersigned has every reason to believe that M/s. Forward Leather Company , Chennai-600 003 had misutilised the EPCG Scheme and wilfully defaulted in fulfilling the export obligation, deserving themselves for action/penalty under Foreign Trade (Development & Regulation) Act, 1992 read with Foreign Trade (Development & Regulation) Amendment Act, 2010 (Notification dated 20.8.2010) and Foreign Trade (Regulation) Rules, 1993, as amended from time to time.

The undersigned, in exercise of the powers vested in him under Section-13 of Foreign Trade (Development & Regulation) Act, 1992 read with Foreign Trade (Development & Regulation) Amendment Act, 2010 (Notification dated 20.8.2010) as amended from time to time, hereby impose a fiscal penalty of Rs.5,000/- (Rupees Five Thousand only), in addition to the customs duty (duty saved value utilised) and interest thereon under Section 11(2) of Foreign Trade (Development & Regulation) Act, 1992 read with Foreign Trade (Development & Regulation) Amendment Act, 2010 (Notification dated 20.8.2010) as amended from time to time.

The undersigned, further, orders that no further licence/authorisation/export incentives etc. shall be granted to M/s. Forward Leather Company , Chennai-600 003 and its Partners or to any other firms in which the Partners are directly involved in the capacity of Proprietor/Partners/Directors under Section-9(2) of Foreign Trade (Development & Regulation) Act, 1992 read with Foreign Trade (Development & Regulation) Amendment Act, 2010 (Notification dated 20.8.2010) and Rule-7(k) of Foreign Trade (Regulation) Rules, 1993 as amended from time to time.

This order is issued without prejudice to any other action that may be taken under any other Act, Rules or Regulations etc. in force.


(J. MURALIDHARAN)

DY. DIRECTOR GENERAL OF FOREIGN TRADE

To

M/s. Forward Leather Company,
Old No.50, New No.37, Raja Muthiah Road,
Periamet, Chennai-600 003

Copy to :-

1. All the branches/factories, as per IEC Data-base.
2. All the Partners as per IEC Data-base.
3. Customs Authority at Port of Registration.