



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE
BUREAU OF CUSTOMS

A modernized and credible customs administration that upholds good governance and is among the world's best

Republic of the Philippines,

Seizure Identification
No. CFZ **285-2023**

-versus-

Shipment said to contain **“PALMOLIVE SHAMPOO/MFG BY UNILEVER/1351 UNITED NATIONS AVE PACO MANILA METRO MANILA, MEN’S PANTS (KHAKI)/USED/MFG BY DOCKERS JEANS/SIZE 38, ARCH SUPPORT INSERTS MFG BY STERLING GALLEON CORPORATION/ STERLING PLACE 2302 CHINO ROCES AVE MAKATI 1231 METRO MANILA, ETC.”** bound to Tel Aviv, Yafo, Israel which will be shipped thru Federal Express (FedEx) Clark on 11 January 2023 under House Airway Bill No. 771000151554 but found to contain **five (5) reams of Marlboro Red and seven (7) reams of Marlboro Lights Cigarettes**

Exporter/Shipper:
CHANIROSE YACON TONGGAL
Shoeprise.ph Footwear Store
100 J Humarang Street Purok 1 Lumil, Silang,
Cavite 4118 PH

Claimant.

X-----X

DECISION

This resolves the seizure and forfeiture proceedings instituted against the above-captioned shipment for violation of Section 1113 (f) and (l) (3 & 4) of Republic Act (R.A.) No. 10863 otherwise known as the Customs Modernization and Tariff Act (CMTA) in relation to National Tobacco Administration (NTA) Memorandum Circular No. 002, Series of 2020.

As culled from the records, the material facts of the instant case are as follows:

On 11 January 2023, a shipment bound to Tel Aviv, Yafo, Israel (Consignee: Nenssa Perez) under House Airway Bill No. 771000151554 said to contain **“PALMOLIVE SHAMPOO/MFG BY UNILEVER/1351 UNITED NATIONS AVE PACO MANILA METRO MANILA, MEN’S PANTS (KHAKI)/USED/MFG BY DOCKERS JEANS/SIZE 38, ARCH SUPPORT INSERTS MFG BY STERLING GALLEON CORPORATION/ STERLING PLACE 2302 CHINO ROCES AVE MAKATI 1231 METRO MANILA, ETC.”** under the name of CHANIROSE YACON TONGGAL with address at Shoeprise.ph Footwear Store 100 J Humarang Street Purok 1 Lumil, Silang, Cavite 4118 PH arrived at the Federal Express (FedEx) gateway facility and marked for verification/physical examination by the X-ray Inspector on duty.



On 24 March 2023, Trade Control Examiner Maria Annalou Pojas conducted physical examination on the subject shipment in the presence of FedEx Representative with the following findings:

AS DECLARED IN THE INVOICE	AS FOUND
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 PCS. Palmolive Shampoo/Mfg By Unilever/1351 United Nations Ave, Paco, Manila, Metro Manila • 4 PCS. Men's Pants (Khaki)/Used/Mfg By Dockers Jeans/Size 38 • 4 PCS. Arch Support Inserts Mfg By Sterling Galleon Corporation/Sterling Place, 2302 Chino Roces Ave, Makati, 1231 Metro Manila • 3 PCS. Portable Shoe Rack Mfg By My Shoe Rack/Taguig, Metro Manila • 4 PCS. Bedsheet Set/Used/1 Fitted Sheet, 1 Blanket 2 Pillow Cases/Mfg By Ultima Linen • 4 PCS. Insoles Mfg By Easy Soft/Vista Mall, Ground Floor, 4026, Santa Rosa – Tagaytay Rd, Don Jose, Santa Rosa, Laguna • 4 PCS. Sole Gripe Mfg By Aldo Shoe/ Sterling Place, 2302 Chino Roces Ave, Makati, 1231 Metro Manila • 4 PCS. Safeguard Body Soap/5 Bar 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Five (5) reams of Marlboro Red Cigarettes • Seven (7) reams of Marlboro Lights Cigarettes
<p>Value: USD 61.20 Gross Weight: 20.40 kgs.</p>	

Based on the abovementioned discrepancy between the goods found during the physical examination and goods declared in the commercial invoice, Ms. Maricar Go, Officer-In-Charge (OIC) Export Unit, and Trade Control Examiner Julius Ceasar Asuncion and Pojas, through Atty. Lilibeth Sandag, Deputy Collector for Operations, submitted a Memorandum dated 19 May 2023 recommending the issuance of a WSD against the subject shipment for violation of Section 1113 (I) (3 & 4) of the CMTA in relation to NTA Memorandum Circular No. 002, Series of 2020.

On 06 July 2023, a WSD docketed as Seizure Identification (S.I.) No. CFZ 285-2023 was issued by then District Collector of this Port, Atty. Ricardo Morales II, against the subject shipment.

Thereafter, hearings were scheduled on 10 and 11 August 2023, however, no representative from claimant (exporter/shipper) appeared on the appointed date of hearing.

In a Disposition Form dated 04 October 2023 from SP/Capt. Arnel A. Baylosis, District Commander, this Port, it is stated that the WSD and Notice of Hearing were not served because the exporter/shipper and address are fictitious/insufficient.

Thus, we resolve.



ISSUE:

Whether or not the subject shipment may be forfeited in favor of the government.

DISCUSSION:

In quasi-judicial proceedings, procedural rules governing service of notices/summons are not strictly construed. Substantial compliance thereof is sufficient. The constitutional requirement of due process with respect to service of summons only exacts that the service of summons be such as may reasonably be expected to give the notice desired.

In the case at hand, records show that serving of the WSD and Notice of Hearing was unsuccessful considering that the exporter/shipper and address are fictitious/insufficient. Hence, the same were posted at the FedEx, and BOC Bulletin Board and Official Website in compliance with Sections 6.5.2 and 10.13 of Customs Administrative Order (CAO) No. 10-2020, to wit:

6.5.2. x x x If the owner is unknown, with insufficient address, or a foreign entity or individual, service shall be effected by posting of the WSD by the ESS in the bulletin board of the concerned collection district office, and by electronic posting through the BOC website, or printed publication, for fifteen (15) days.

10.13. Notice of Hearing shall be served by personal service or, if not practicable by reason of distance and lack of personnel to effect personal service, by private courier service; or posting in the bulletin board of the Law Division or equivalent office of the concerned Collection District for unknown claimants, with insufficient address or foreign claimants. x x x

Moreover, Section 1121 of the CMTA and Section 9.4 of the same CAO provides that "If, within fifteen (15) days calendar days after service of warrant and due notice, no owner or agent can be found or appears before the District Collector, the seized goods shall be forfeited *ipso facto* in favor of the government to be disposed of in accordance with the CMTA."

In this case, since no claimant appeared despite due notice and service of warrant, the seized goods should be forfeited *ipso facto* in favor of the government and disposed of in accordance with the law.

Furthermore, the subject shipment was declared in the commercial invoice as "PALMOLIVE SHAMPOO/MFG BY UNILEVER/1351 UNITED NATIONS AVE PACO MANILA METRO MANILA, MEN'S PANTS (KHAKI)/USED/MFG BY DOCKERS JEANS/SIZE 38, ARCH SUPPORT INSERTS MFG BY STERLING GALLEON CORPORATION/ STERLING PLACE 2302 CHINO ROCES AVE MAKATI 1231 METRO MANILA, ETC." contrary to the findings of Trade Control Examiner Pojas that the same contained **five (5) reams of Marlboro Red and seven (7) reams of Marlboro Lights Cigarettes**. As such, the same are considered goods subject to seizure and forfeiture under Section 1113 (f) and (l) (3 & 4) of the CMTA, to wit:

SEC. 1113. Property Subject to Seizure and Forfeiture. –
Property that shall be subject to seizure and forfeiture include:



xxx

(f) Goods, the importation or exportation of which are effected or attempted contrary to law, or any goods of prohibited importation or exportation, and all other goods which, in the opinion of the District Collector, have been used, are or were entered to be used as instruments in the importation or the exportation of the former.

xxx

(l) Goods sought to be imported or exported:

(3) Through a false declaration or affidavit executed by the owner, importer, exporter, or consignee concerning the importation of such goods;

(4) On the strength of a false invoice or other document executed by the owner, importer, exporter, or consignee concerning the importation or exportation of such goods; or

xxx

Relative thereto, NTA Memorandum Circular No. 002, Series of 2020 defines the following, to wit:

1. License to Export is a written License issued by the NTA to a qualified exporter of tobacco leaf, tobacco products and other tobacco related supplies, materials and ingredients.

4. Export Commodity Clearance is a written declaration issued by the NTA allowing the exportation of the specific commodity, class/grade and quantity in terms of kilos/cases and FOB Value (US\$)

7. Exporter refers to a person, natural or juridical, duly authorized by the NTA to bring out from the country unmanufactured tobacco/manufactured tobacco products other tobacco related supplies, materials and ingredients.

Section 5 thereof states:

1. **Application for ICC/ECC/TCC.** – For every shipment, importers/exporters of tobacco leaf, tobacco products, heated tobacco products and other tobacco related materials and ingredients shall secure from the NTA an ICC/ECC/TCC (NTA-RD-F-017 rev 02/018 rev 02) at least three working days prior to the date of unloading/loading of the commodity. xxx

In the case at hand, the subject shipment contained five (5) reams of Marlboro Red and seven (7) reams of Marlboro Lights Cigarettes which requires an ECC from the NTA.



Unfortunately, the exporter/shipper failed to submit the same prior to exportation of the said shipment.

All told, this Office finds it proper to forfeit the subject shipment for violation of Section 1113 (f) and (l) (3 & 4) of the CMTA in relation to NTA Memorandum Circular No. 002, Series of 2020.

WHEREFORE, by virtue of the authority vested in me by law, it is hereby ordered and decreed that **shipment said to contain "PALMOLIVE SHAMPOO/MFG BY UNILEVER/1351 UNITED NATIONS AVE PACO MANILA METRO MANILA, MEN'S PANTS (KHAKI)/USED/MFG BY DOCKERS JEANS/SIZE 38, ARCH SUPPORT INSERTS MFG BY STERLING GALLEON CORPORATION/ STERLING PLACE 2302 CHINO ROCES AVE MAKATI 1231 METRO MANILA, ETC."** bound to Tel Aviv, Yafo, Israel which will be shipped thru Federal Express (FedEx) Clark on 11 January 2023 under House Airway Bill No. 771000151554 but found to contain five (5) reams of Marlboro Red and seven (7) reams of Marlboro Lights Cigarettes, subject of this seizure and forfeiture proceeding, be **FORFEITED** in favor of the Government to be disposed of in the manner provided for by law.

Let copies of the Order be furnished to all parties and offices for their information.

SO ORDERED.

Port of Clark International Airport, Clark Freeport Zone, Pampanga,
_____.


ATTY. ERASTUS SANDINO B. AUSTRIA, CESO V
District Collector, Port of Clark

Copy furnished:

1. Owner/Consignee/Shipper
2. Unit/Office in Custody of the Goods
3. Chief, ACDD

