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REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES  
DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE  
**BUREAU OF CUSTOMS**

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26 April 2024

**CUSTOMS MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR**  
**NO. 83-2024**

**TO :** ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER  
ALL DEPUTY COMMISSIONERS  
ALL DIRECTORS AND DIVISION CHIEFS  
ALL DISTRICT AND SUB-PORT COLLECTORS  
ALL OTHERS CONCERNED

**SUBJECT :** TARIFF CLASSIFICATION DISPUTE RULING

This has reference to the herein attached Tariff Commission Circular Dispute Ruling (TCC DR) No. 23-018 issued on 23 April 2024 pursuant to Paragraph 2 of Section 1100 of Republic Act No. 10863, otherwise known as Customs Modernization and Tariff Act, on the shipment of "M334391 Pressure Transducer TMP 4008B/H/S/S V10" from Germany consigned to Fresenius Medical Care Philippines Incorporated, (Import Entry/ Customs Reference No. C-26216, Ninoy Aquino International Airport), the dispositive portion of which states that:

**"WHEREFORE**, premises considered, subject article is hereby classified as follows:

Product	AHTN 2022 Code	2023 MFN Rate
M334391 Pressure Transducer TMP 4008B/H/S/S V10	9026.20.90	Zero

For record purposes, please confirm the dissemination of this circular throughout your offices within fifteen (15) days from receipt thereof.

For strict compliance.



06209

**BIENVENIDO Y. RUBIO**  
Commissioner

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REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES  
TARIFF COMMISSION

RE: REQUEST FOR TARIFF CLASSIFICATION  
DISPUTE RULING ON "M334391 PRESSURE  
TRANSDUCER TMP 4008B/H/S/S V10",  
CONSIGNED TO FRESENIUS MEDICAL CARE  
PHILIPPINES INCORPORATED

TCC (DR) NO. 23-018

09-48137

(Import Entry/Customs Reference No. C-26216,  
BOC-NAIA)

Issued on: 23 April 2024

TARIFF CLASSIFICATION DISPUTE RULING

Before this Commission is a request for a Tariff Classification Dispute Ruling (TCDR), pursuant to Paragraph 2 of Section 1100 of Republic Act No. 10863, otherwise known as the Customs Modernization and Tariff Act (CMTA), on the shipment of M334391 Pressure Transducer TMP 4008B/H/S/S V10, imported by Fresenius Medical Care Philippines Incorporated (Importer/Consignee) from Germany. The request of the Importer/Consignee for a TCDR was accepted by this Commission on 05 September 2023.

The shipment of said subject article, declared under ASEAN Harmonised Tariff Nomenclature (AHTN) 2022 subheading 9026.90.00, with a Most Favoured Nation (MFN) rate of duty of zero, was processed under Import Entry/Customs Reference No. C-26216 at the Bureau of Customs (BOC) - Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA). The BOC contested the declared heading and reclassified subject article under AHTN 2022 subheading 9033.00.00, with an MFN rate of duty of 3% *ad valorem*.

Hence, this request for a TCDR.

In the initial assessment of the application, the Importer/Consignee committed to provide information about the hemodialysis machine to which the subject article is a part of, including its functionality and exploded parts diagram depicting the machine's parts/components, to determine subject article's position/location. The information was received by this Commission on 11 September 2023.

With information deemed sufficient to classify subject article and pursuant to Section 7.3 of Commission Order No. 2018-01, this Commission requested the concerned BOC District Collector on 19 December 2023 for comments on the request for a TCDR on M334391 Pressure Transducer TMP 4008B/H/S/S V10. Further, Section 7.4 of the same Commission Order states that within 10 working days from the receipt of the notice and the records of the case, the BOC may file a comment or submit any additional explanation or documents to justify its findings. However, to this date, the Commission has not received any response from the BOC-NAIA, hence, it proceeded to evaluate the classification of the subject article based on the submissions received from the Importer/Consignee.

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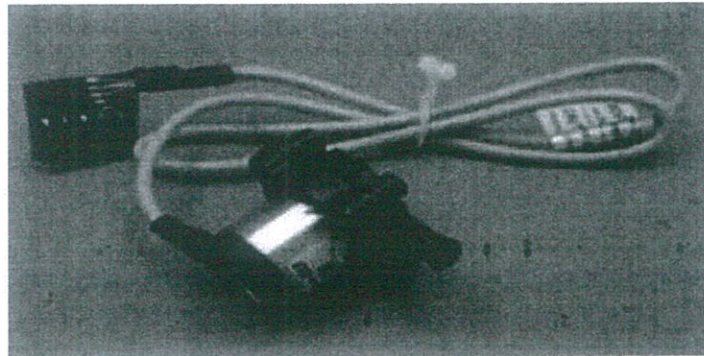
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In the evaluation of disputes on tariff classification, Section 8 of Commission Order No. 2018-01 provides that this Commission, if it deems necessary, shall conduct a hearing to clarify the facts necessary to resolve the pending disputes in tariff classification. In the present case, however, this Commission found that the submissions of the Importer/Consignee were sufficient to make a correct determination on the tariff classification of the subject article. A hearing, therefore, is no longer necessary.

After due examination of the submitted product brochure, technical specifications, commercial invoice, photograph of the product, and technical document for 4008S Hemodialysis Machine, it is established that subject article is a pressure transmitter, a component/part of the 4008S Hemodialysis Machine. It primarily consists of a pressure-sensing element connected to a cable. The pressure-sensing element detects and measures the dialysate pressure in the hydraulics of the machine, then converts it into electrical signals through the transduction process. These signals are transmitted, through the cable/wiring connected to the transducer, to the monitoring system of the hemodialysis machine for further processing or analysis such as for determining the integrity of the filter and closed system (via pressure holding tests). Subject article is installed between the multifunction block and relief valve and/or before the dialyzer valve of the hemodialysis machine, where it monitors pressure changes that occur during the process of hemodialysis.

Below is the photograph of the subject article submitted by the Importer/Consignee to this Commission:



Both the Importer/Consignee and BOC considered classification of subject article as a part of a machine/apparatus under Chapter 90 of the AHTN 2022 which covers *optical, photographic, cinematographic, measuring, checking, precision, medical or surgical instruments and apparatus; parts and accessories thereof*. However, their classification differed at the heading level, with the Importer/Consignee selecting heading 90.26 [*instruments and apparatus for measuring or checking the flow, level, pressure or other variables of liquids or gases (for example, flowmeters, level gauges, manometers, heat meters), excluding instruments and apparatus of heading 90.14, 90.15, 90.28 or 90.32*] while the BOC considered the residual heading for parts of machines/apparatus of Chapter 90, heading 90.33 [*parts and accessories (not specified or included elsewhere in this Chapter) for machines, appliances, instruments or apparatus of Chapter 90*].

It should be noted that the classification of parts or components of machines/apparatus generally depend on the classification of the machine/apparatus where these will be used. In the instant case, it is established that subject article is a component or part of a hemodialysis machine. Based on this Commission's evaluation, hemodialysis machines are covered under heading 90.18 of the AHTN 2022 (*instruments and appliances used in medical, surgical, dental or veterinary sciences, including scintigraphic apparatus, other electro-medical apparatus and sight-testing instruments*). Therefore, the classification of subject article under Chapter 90 by the Importer/Consignee and the BOC merits consideration.

Note 2 to Chapter 90, which governs the classification of parts and accessories for the machines, apparatus, instruments and articles of the Chapter, states that:

"2.- Subject to Note 1 above, parts and accessories for machines, apparatus, instruments or articles of this Chapter are to be classified according to the following rules :

- (a) **Parts and accessories which are goods included in any of the headings of this Chapter or of Chapter 84, 85 or 91 (other than heading 84.87, 85.48 or 90.33) are in all cases to be classified in their respective headings [emphasis added];**
- (b) *Other parts and accessories, if suitable for use solely or principally with a particular kind of machine, instrument or apparatus, or with a number of machines, instruments or apparatus of the same heading (including a machine, instrument or apparatus of heading 90.10, 90.13 or 90.31) are to be classified with the machines, instruments or apparatus of that kind;*
- (c) **All other parts and accessories are to be classified in heading 90.33 [emphasis added]."**

The pertinent Harmonized System (HS) Explanatory Notes (EN) for parts and accessories in heading 90.18, which covers hemodialysis machines, state that:

#### **"PARTS AND ACCESSORIES**

**Subject to the provisions of Notes 1 and 2 to this Chapter (see the General Explanatory Note), parts and accessories of apparatus or appliances of this heading remain classified here [emphasis added]."**

As stated in the above HS EN, parts and accessories of heading 90.18 remain classified in that heading but are bound by the conditions outlined in Notes 1 and 2 of Chapter 90.

Moreover, the pertinent HS EN for heading 90.26 of the AHTN 2022, where the Importer/Consignee classified subject article, state that:

**"Apart from instruments or apparatus more specifically covered by other headings of the Nomenclature, such as :**

- (a) *Pressure-reducing valves and thermostatically controlled valves (heading 84.81);*
- (b) *Anemometers (wind gauges) and hydrological level gauges (heading 90.15);*
- (c) *Thermometers, pyrometers, barometers, hygrometers and psychrometers (heading 90.25);*
- (d) *Instruments and apparatus for physical or chemical analysis, etc. (heading 90.27),*

*this heading covers instruments and apparatus for measuring or checking the flow, level, pressure, kinetic energy or other process variables of liquids or gases.*

*The instruments and apparatus of this heading may be fitted with recording, signalling or optical scale-reading devices or transmitters with an electrical, pneumatic or hydraulic output.*

**Measuring or checking apparatus generally incorporates an element sensitive to variations in the quantity to be measured (e.g., Bourdon tube, diaphragm, bellows,**

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semiconductors) **moving a needle or a pointer. In some devices the variations are converted into electrical signals** [emphasis added].

x x x”

On the other hand, the pertinent HS EN to heading 90.33, the residual heading for parts and accessories for machines, appliances, instruments or apparatus of Chapter 90, and which BOC considered as the more appropriate heading for subject article, state that:

“This heading covers all parts and accessories for machines, appliances, instruments or apparatus of this Chapter, **other than** :

(1) Those mentioned in Chapter Note 1, e.g. :

(a) Optical elements of glass, not optically worked (Chapter 70).

(b) Articles of a kind used in machines, appliances, instruments or apparatus, of vulcanised rubber other than hard rubber (e.g., rubber gaskets, washers and the like) (heading 40.16), of leather or of composition leather (e.g., leather diaphragms for gas meters) (heading 42.05) or of textile material (heading 59.11).

(c) Parts of general use, as defined in Note 2 to Section XV, of base metal (Section XV) or similar goods of plastics (Chapter 39).

(2) **Those covered by Chapter Note 2 (a), which constitute in themselves machines, appliances, instruments or apparatus of any particular heading of Chapter 90 or of Chapter 84, 85 or 91 (other than the residual headings 84.87, 85.48 or 90.33). It therefore follows that separately presented articles of this type must be classified in their respective headings** [emphasis added].

x x x”

The text/description of heading 90.33 [*parts and accessories (not specified or included elsewhere in this Chapter) for machines, appliances, instruments or apparatus of Chapter 90*] clearly indicates that this heading should be considered only when classifying parts and accessories for the machines, appliances, instruments or apparatus of Chapter 90 which are not mentioned in Note 1 (i.e., exclusions to Chapter 90) nor covered by Notes 2 (a) and 2 (b) of Chapter 90.

By reference to Note 2 (a) to Chapter 90 and the HS EN to headings 90.18, 90.26 and 90.33, the Commission has determined that subject article, being a part specifically for a hemodialysis machine which is responsible for detecting and measuring the dialysate pressure in the hydraulics of the 4008S Hemodialysis Machine, converting it into electrical signals, and then transmitting them through the cable/wiring to the monitoring system of the machine for further processing or analysis [such as for determining the integrity of the filter and closed system (via pressure holding tests)], is specifically covered under heading 90.26 of the AHTN 2022.

Based on the information received from the Importer/Consignee, and the clarifications provided by the foregoing Chapter Notes and HS EN, subject article is properly classified under AHTN 2022 subheading 9026.20.90 by virtue of Rules 1 and 6 of the General Rules for the Interpretation (GRI) of the HS (Section 1610 of the CMTA).

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WHEREFORE, premises considered, subject article is hereby classified as follows:

Product	AHTN 2022 Code	2023 MFN Rate
M334391 Pressure Transducer TMP 4008B/H/S/S V10	9026.20.90	Zero

This is for compliance by the BOC pursuant to Section 1100 of the CMTA.

So Ordered.

FOR THE COMMISSION

*MariLou P. Mendoza*  
Digitally signed

**MARILOU P. MENDOZA**  
Chairperson

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