## **INDIRECT TAXES UPDATE - 125**

## **EXCISE**

## Clarifications regarding Mandatory pre-deposit of duty or penalty for filing appeal

Section 35FF of the Central Excise Act, 1944 and Section 129EE of the Customs Act, 1962 prescribe mandatory pre-deposit as a percentage of the duty demanded where duty demanded is in dispute or where duty demanded and penalty levied are in dispute.

In this regard, CBEC vide Circular No. 993/17/2014-CX., Dated: January 05, 2015 has provided the following:

i) In order to facilitate seamless verification of the deposits at the time of processing the refund claims made in case of favorable order from the Appellate Authority, the Commissionerates are required to maintain a database of the record of deposits made. Following pro forma has been prescribed to maintain the separate database (e-register preferably) in respect of appeals before CESTAT and Commissioner (Appeals):

I	S1.	Name	of	the	Details	of	duty	Amount of pre-	Order No and	date of the
ı	No.	Appellant/ Party			paying document viz			deposit paid	order	of
ı					Challan etc.				Commissioner(A)/Tribunal	

- ii) In order to process the refund claims quickly, the Tribunal Registry (where appeal memo is received)/ Commissioner (Appeals) must send a copy of the appeal memo to the Commissionerate concerned immediately after receipt in lines with Rule 17 of the CESTAT (procedure) Rules, 1982.
- iii) The amended provisions regarding filing of appeal along with stipulated percentage of predeposit shall apply to all appeals filed on or after 6th August, 2014.
- iv) Drawback, like rebate in Central Excise, is refund of duty suffered on the export goods. Mandatory pre-deposit would be payable in cases of demand of drawback as the new section 129E would apply to such cases.
- v) Mandatory pre-deposit would be required to be paid in cases of drawback, rebate and baggage at the first stage appeal before Commissioner (Appeals). However, no pre-deposit would be payable in such cases where the appeal is filed before the Joint Secretary (Revision Application) because the ambit of the Section 129E of the Customs Act, 1962 does not extend to appeals under section 129DD in the legislation.

[ Circular No. 993/17/2014-CX., Dated: January 05, 2015]

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