



GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN
COLLECTORATE OF CUSTOMS APPRAISEMENT (EAST)
CUSTOM HOUSE, KARACHI



No.C-31/KAPE/DC-PCT/2025

Dated: 29.01.2026

PUBLIC NOTICE NO. 01/2026

SUBJECT: CLASSIFICATION OF 'SUGAR PASTE WHITE'.

Briefly, M/s Far Eastern Impex (Pvt) Limited, Karachi imported a consignment declared to contain 'Sugar Paste White' under PCT heading 1702.9090. The consignment was released by the clearance Collectorate under the declared PCT heading, however, the directorate of I&I Karachi put a hold on the consignment and were of the view that the subject goods are classifiable under PCT heading 1704.9090. Accordingly the goods were re-assessed and importer lifted the consignment from port by paying leviable duties and taxes. Being aggrieved, the importer filed an appeal before the Collector of Customs (Appeal), Karachi. The learned Collector of Customs (Appeal) disposed of the appeal vide order in Appeal No. 2198/2025 by referring the matter to classification committee.

Importer's point of view:-

2. M/s Far Eastern Impex (Pvt) Limited, Karachi contended that the Customs authorities had consistently been classifying the subject product under PCT heading 1702.9090 until the present classification dispute arose. The importer also submitted product literature for reference. According to the provided literature, the product is marketed as 'Mirpain sugar paste white, and is used for coating cakes as well as making of roses and figures on a cake for decoration. The product's composition includes 74% sugar, 12% glucose syrup, 8% vegetable fat, 3% starch and thickner, 2% colorant & aroma and 1% preservatives. The importer argued that the product is essentially a sugar paste used as a decorative topping for cakes, and not as a filling. Therefore, they asserted that it is correctly classifiable under PCT heading 1702.9090, and not under HS code 1704.9090. They further maintained that PCT heading 17.04 covers only those pastes which are based on sugar and containing little or no added fat and suitable for transformation directly into sugar confectionery of this heading, but also used as a filling for products of this or other headings. In contrast, the subject product contains a relatively high fat content (8%) and is not used as a filling, thus falling outside the scope of PCT heading 1704.

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Uman Asghar
Chief (PCT)

Case making directorate's point of view:-

3. Case making directorate is of the view that PCT heading 17.02 covers 'Other sugars' i.e. other than sugars of heading 17.01 or chemically pure sugars of heading 29.40. The sugar of this heading are lactose, invert sugar, glucose, fructose, sucrose sugar, Malto-dextrins, maltose, sugar syrups, artificial honey and caramel. They argued that the subject product is a sugar confectionery and ready to use for decoration of cake, correctly classifiable under PCT heading 1704.9090.

Law and analysis:-

4. The classification committee considered the declared HS Code i.e. 1702.9090. For reference, PCT 17.02 main heading is reproduced below;

17.02 Other sugars, including chemically pure lactose, maltose, glucose and fructose, in solid form; sugar syrups not containing added flavouring or colouring matter; artificial honey, whether or not mixed with natural honey; caramel

According to EN to the above heading it covers other sugars (other than sugars of heading 17.01 or chemically pure sugars of heading 29.40) in solid form, sugar syrups and also artificial honey and caramel.

5. The committee then considered the HS code proposed by the directorate i.e. PCT heading 17.04. Main heading of the same is reproduced below;

17.04 Sugar confectionery (including white chocolate), not containing cocoa

According to EN this heading covers most of the sugar preparations which are marketed in a solid or semi-solid form, generally suitable for immediate consumption and collectively referred to as sweetmeats, confectionery or candies. It includes Pastes based on sugar and containing little or no added fat and suitable for transformation directly into sugar confectionery of this heading, but also used as a filling for products of this or other headings, for example :

(a) Fondant pastes prepared from sucrose, sucrose or glucose syrup or invert sugar syrup with or without flavouring, used for making fondants, as a filling for sweets or chocolates, etc.

(b) Nougat pastes, being aerated mixtures of sugar, water and colloidal materials (e.g., egg white) and sometimes with a small quantity of added fat, with or without the addition of

nuts, fruits or other suitable vegetable products, used for making nougat, as filling for chocolates, etc.

- (c) Almond pastes, prepared mainly from almonds and sugar, used essentially for making marzipan.

However, this heading excludes pastes based on sugar, containing added fat in a relatively large proportion and, sometimes, milk or nuts, not suitable for transformation directly into sugar confectionery (heading 21.06).

6. Keeping in view the exclusion of PCT heading 17.04 and request of the importer, the classification committee also considered the PCT heading 21.06 which is reproduced below;

21.06 Food preparations not elsewhere specified or included.

This heading includes Pastes based on sugar, containing added fat in a relatively large proportion and, sometimes, milk or nuts, not suitable for transformation directly into sugar confectionery but used as fillings, etc., for chocolates, fancy biscuits, pies, cakes, etc.

Holdings:-

7. From the above discussion it is evident that the PCT heading 17.02 is totally irrelevant to the subject product as the same covers only other sugars (other than sugars of heading 17.01 or chemically pure sugars of heading 29.40) in solid form, sugar syrups and also artificial honey and caramel. As far as the relevancy of PCT heading 17.04 and 21.06 is concerned, it is stated that both PCT headings cover pastes based on sugars, however, the line of demarcation between these two headings is the suitability of the sugar paste for transformation directly into sugar confectionery. Pastes based on sugar and containing little or no added fat and suitable for transformation directly into sugar confectionery qualify the PCT heading 17.04. On the other hand, Pastes based on sugar, containing added fat in a relatively large proportion and, sometimes, milk or nuts, not suitable for transformation directly into sugar confectionery are classifiable under PCT heading 21.06.

8. Forgoing in view this committee is of the view that the subject product i.e. 'Sugar Paste White' is suitable for transformation directly into sugar confectionery i.e. the same can be used 'as is' to make confectionery products (coating of cake or making flowers/figures on it) without significant modification or further processing, appropriately classifiable under PCT heading 1704.9090 in terms of General Rules of Interpretation GRI 1 and 3(6).

9. The above finding is specific to the product whose details/ specifications have been given above. Further, the ruling is based on the documents, literature and information

provided by the referring Collectorate/Importer and shall be treated as annulled if it is found at any subsequent stage that the same was obtained by providing incorrect, false, misleading or incomplete information.

10. This Public Notice is issued in terms of Chapter-II (Classification) of CGO 02/2025 dated 24.03.2025 and any appeal against this determination/decision shall lie with the Board in terms of Rule 2 of the Pakistan Rules provided in the preamble of the First Schedule to the Customs Act, 1969.

Sd/-
(Ammara Durrani)
Additional Collector/
Secretary Classification Committee

Copy for information to:

1. Member (Customs-Policy), Federal Board of Revenue, Islamabad.
2. Member (Customs-Operations), Federal Board of Revenue, Islamabad.
3. Member (Customs-Legal & Accounting), Federal Board of Revenue, Islamabad.
- ✓ 4. Member (FATE), Federal Board of Revenue, Islamabad.
5. The Chief (Tariff & Trade), Federal Board of Revenue, Islamabad.
6. The Director General of Customs Exports & Input/Output Co-Efficient Organization (IOCO), Karachi.
7. The Chief Collector of Customs (Appraisalment) South, Custom House, Karachi.
8. The Chief Collector of Customs Appraisalment Balochistan, Custom House, Quetta.
9. The Chief Collector of Customs Appraisalment Punjab, Custom House, Lahore.
10. The Chief Collector of Customs Appraisalment (North), Custom House, Peshawar.
11. The Collector, Collectorate of Customs Appraisalment-SAPT, Custom House, Karachi.
12. All Collectors / Directors of Customs.
13. The Director, Reforms and Automation (R&A), Custom House, Karachi with the request to incorporate this ruling in WeBoC.
14. M/s. Far Eastern Impex (Pvt) Limited, F.E.I Centre, G-3, Central Commercial Area K.C.H.S.U Shahrah-e-Faisal, Karachi, Pakistan.
15. Masood Aziz & Associates, 1st floor State Life Building No.3, Dr. Ziauddin Ahmed Road, Karachi.
16. The Karachi Chamber of Commerce & Industry, Karachi.
17. The Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Karachi.
18. The Karachi Customs Agents Association, Karachi.
19. Notice Board.


(Ammara Durrani)
Additional Collector/
Secretary Classification Committee