

	कार्यालय: प्रधान आयुक्त सीमाशुल्क, मुन्द्रा, सीमाशुल्क भवन, मुन्द्रा बंदरगाह, कच्छ, गुजरात- 370421 OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL COMMISSIONER OF CUSTOMS: CUSTOM HOUSE, MUNDRA PORT, KUTCH, GUJARAT- 370421. PHONE : 02838-271426/271163 FAX :02838-271425 E-mail id- adj-mundra@gov.in	
A. File No.	: GEN/ADJ/ADC/830/2026-Adjn-O/o Pr Commr-Cus-Mundra	
B. SCN No.	: 79/2026-27/ADC/ZDC/MCH	
C. Date of Issue	: 04-06-2026	
D. Passed by	: Dipak Zala, Additional Commissioner of Customs, Custom House, Mundra	
E. Noticess(s)/Importer:	: M/s PAVAN INTERNATIONAL (IEC: ATBPP7155R)	

(Show Cause Notice under Section 124 of the Customs Act, 1962)

Whereas it appeared that:

1 . 1 M/s PAVAN INTERNATIONAL (IEC: ATBPP7155R), having its registered office/principal place located at 1/34/70, T23 Shupth Aarked, Highway Road, Unjha-384170(hereinafter referred to M/s PAVAN INTERNATIONAL as the “*Importer*”), imported goods vide **Bill of Entry No.4890699 dated 03.10.2025 and 4895800 dated 04.10.2025 (RUD-01)** at Customs House Mundra.

1.2 Specific intelligence gathered by the **Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI)** indicated that the aforesaid consignment imported by M/s PAVAN INTERNATIONAL lying at Mundra Port and declared as “**Industrial Oil**” under **CTH 27101990**, were **mis-declared with respect to their description and nature**, with the deliberate intent to clear prohibited/restricted goods.

The details of the import consignment are as follows:

Table-I

	Details of 1 st Bill of Entry	Details of 2 nd Bill of Entry
Bill of Entry No.	4890699 dated 03.10.2025	4895800 dated 04.10.2025
Bill of Lading No.	RSTJEAMUN25000144	RSTJEAMUN25000145
Declared Goods in BE	Industrial Oil	Industrial Oil
Declared Quantity	203120 (in KGS)	200250 (in KGS)

Customs Broker	M/s Gaurav M Jhaverri	M/s Gaurav M Jhaverri
Country of Origin	UAE	UAE
Supplier	M/s. SLS Global FZE	M/s. SLS Global FZE

1.3 Based on the aforesaid intelligence, the consignment imported by M/s PAVAN INTERNATIONAL lying at Mundra Port and declared as "Industrial Oil" under CTH 27101990 were put on hold by the DRI vide email dated 08.10.2025.

2. Examination and drawl of Samples

The examination of aforesaid consignments was conducted by the DRI under panchnama dated 13/14.10.2025 (**RUD-2**) at Mundra Port, in the presence of the authorized representative of the Customs Broker appointed by the importer. During the said examination proceedings, representative samples, in duplicate, were drawn from each of the 20 containers, for laboratory testing to ascertain the exact nature of the import goods in the said consignment.

3. Testing of the Samples:

3.1 The 20 samples drawn from the containers covered under Bill of Entry No.4890699 dated 03.10.2025 and 4895800 dated 04.10.2025 were sent to Custom House Laboratory, Visakhapatnam for testing vide Test Memo No. 510/2025 to 519/2025 and Test Memo No. 556/2025 to 565/2025 both dated 24.10.2025 respectively.

3.2 The laboratory submitted their test reports reference Lab No.380-DRI to 389-DRI dated 07.01.2026, in respect of Bill of Entry No. 4890699 dated 03.10.2025 and reference numbers 426-DRI to 435-DRI dated 07.01.2026 in respect of Bill of Entry No. 4895800 dated 04.10.2025 respectively.

3.3 The test reports in respect of all 10 samples (**RUD-3**) pertaining to Bill of Entry No. 4890699 dated 03.10.2025, based on the parameters tested by the Custom House Laboratory, indicated that all the samples conform to the stringent parameters of Automotive Diesel Fuel. Since all the samples yielded similar findings, the report in respect of Lab No. 389-DRI is reproduced hereunder for illustration:

- The sample has been tested for all the characteristics parameters tested above & which are stringent parameters also to characterize petroleum fuels.*
- The sample meets all the stringent parameter of Automotive diesel fuel as mentioned in IS: 1460:2025 except flash point which is 5.0°C lower than required (decreased by means of using lighter hydrocarbon).*

- *The GCMS pattern of sample shows presence of lighter hydrocarbons, which cannot be a part of Diesel fuels, as per standard refinery protocol & classification of petroleum fuels. Minor deviation from the required values of above 01 parameter, does not effects its application as diesel fuel for Automotive purpose (IS 1460).*
- *The sample is adulterated diesel in respect of the definition of “adulteration” as mentioned in 5.1 of marketing discipline guideline published by PSU’s.*
- *There is no specification available for industrial oil in National & International standards.*
- *The sample also meets the specification of HFHSD (IS 16861) up to the extent of parameter tested above except, flash point which was lowered by using lighter hydrocarbons.*

3.4 The test reports in respect of all 10 samples (**RUD-4**) pertaining to Bill of Entry No. 4895800 dated 04.10.2025, based on the parameters tested by the Custom House Laboratory, indicated that all the samples conform to the stringent parameters of Automotive Diesel Fuel. Since all the samples yielded similar findings, the report in respect of Lab No. 435-DRI is reproduced hereunder for illustration:

- a) The sample is other than Kerosene (IS 1459/IS 1571), Kerosene Intermediate (IS 17793).*
- b) The sample meets all the stringent parameter of Automotive Diesel Fuel not containing bio-diesel (IS 1460).*
- c) The sample is other than Light Diesel Oil - LDO (IS 15770).*
- d) The sample meets all the stringent parameter of HFHSD (IS:16861) except flash point (which is 21 °C less than required 66 °C).*

- *The sample has tested for above parameters mentioned in test report, which are stringent to characterize the product.*
- *The sample is most akin to Automotive Diesel Fuel not containing bio-diesel (IS 1460) and also meets the requirement of HFHSD (IS:16861).*
- *There is no specification available for industrial oil in National & International standards.*
- *It is non-hazardous.*

3 . 5 For parameters not covered in the Custom Laboratory’s Vishakhapatnam testing, additional samples were forwarded to Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemicals Limited (MRPL) vide Test Memo No. 946/2025 dated 06.03.2026 in respect of Bill of Entry No. 4890699 dated 03.10.2025 and Test Memo No. 947/2025 dated 06.03.2026 in respect of Bill of Entry No. 4895800 dated 04.10.2025 respectively, to ensure comprehensive testing of all specifications under IS 1460 and IS 16861, as mandated by

the Hon'ble Supreme Court in ***Gastrade International v. Commissioner of Customs, Kandla.***

3 . 6 The Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemicals Limited (MRPL) has submitted their reports vide Test Report No. MRPL/DRI/2026/26 and MRPL/DRI/2026/27 dated 16.04.2026 respectively (**RUD-5**).

The findings of the both aforementioned Test Reports are reproduced below:

Table-II

Sl. No.	Bill of Entry No. & Dated	Quantity	Declared Description	Sample Test Result	IS Standards
01.	4890699 dated 03.10.2025	203120 (in KGS)	Industrial Oil	Conform to the parameters of Automotive Diesel Fuel (ADF)	IS 1460:2025
02.	4895800 dated 04.10.2025	200250 (in KGS)	Industrial Oil	Conform to the parameters of Automotive Diesel Fuel (ADF)	IS 1460:2025

4 . Whereas, detailed analysis of the MRPL Test Report indicates that the samples meets all parameters (*including Distillation recovery*) of Automotive Diesel Fuel (IS 1460:2025) except for one parameter, namely Flash Point in respect of Bill of Entry. 4895800 dated 04.10.2025 Therefore, the Test Reports highlighted in **Table-II** above suggested that the goods imported meets the requirements Automotive Diesel Fuel (ADF) conforming to standard IS 1460:2025.

4.1 Further, the specifications of Automotive Diesel Fuel (ADF) as per IS 1460 of the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) are reproduced below:

Table 1 Requirement for Automotive Diesel Fuel
(Clauses [3.1.4](#), [3.2](#) and [Foreword](#))

Sl No.	Characteristic	Requirement	Method of Test, Ref to Parts of IS 1448 ISO/EN/Annex
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
i)	Appearance	Clear, bright and free from sediments, suspended matter and undissolved water at normal ambient fuel temperature	Visual
ii)	Total Acid Number (TAN), mg of KOH/g, <i>Max</i>	0.20	(Part 2) ⁸
iii)	Ash, percent by mass, <i>Max</i>	0.01	(Part 4/Sec 1) ⁸
iv)	Carbon residue, on 10 percent residue ¹ , percent by mass, <i>Max</i>	0.30	(Part 8) ⁸ /(Part 189)
v)	Cetane number, <i>Min</i>	51 ²	(Part 9) ⁸
vi)	Cetane index, <i>Min</i>	46 ²	(Part 174) ⁸
vii)	Pour point ³ , °C, <i>Max</i> :		(Part 10/Sec 2) ⁸
	a) Winter	3	
	b) Summer	15	
viii)	Copper strip corrosion for 3 h at 50 °C, <i>Max</i>	Class 1	(Part 15) ⁸
ix)	Distillation, 95 percent w/v recovery, °C, <i>Max</i>	360	(Part 18) ⁸ /ISO 3405

Table 1 (Concluded)

Sl No.	Characteristic	Requirement	Method of Test, Ref to Parts of IS 1448 ISO/EN/Annex (4)
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
x)	Flash point, Abel ⁴ , °C, <i>Min</i>	35	(Part 20) ⁸
xi)	Kinematic viscosity, mm ² /s, at 40 °C	2.0 to 4.5	(Part 25/Sec 1) ⁸ /(Part 186)
xii)	Total contamination, mg/kg, <i>Max</i>	24	EN 12662 ⁸
xiii)	Density at 15 °C, kg/m ³	810 to 845 ⁵	(Part 16) ⁸ /(Part 32)/(Part 167)
xiv)	Total sulphur, mg/kg, <i>Max</i>	10	(Part 160) ⁸ /(Part 34)/(Part 161)/(Part 159)
xv)	Water content, mg/kg, <i>Max</i>	200	(Part 182) ⁸
xvi)	Cold Filter Plugging Point (CFPP) ³ , °C, <i>Max</i> :		(Part 110) ⁸
	a) Winter	6	
	b) Summer	18	
xvii)	Oxidation stability ⁶ , g/m ³ , <i>Max</i>	25	(Part 154) ⁸
	Oxidation stability ⁶ , minutes, <i>Min</i>	60	EN 16091 ¹²
xviii)	Oxidation stability (for diesel fuel having FAME content of above 2 percent v/v), hours, <i>Min</i>	20	EN 15751 ⁸
	Oxidation stability (for diesel fuel having FAME content of above 2 percent v/v), minutes, <i>Min</i>	60	EN 16091
xix)	Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbon (PAH), percent by mass, <i>Max</i>	8	EN 12916 ⁸
xx)	Lubricity, wear scar diameter (wsd) at 60 °C, µm, <i>Max</i>	460	(Part 149) ⁸
xxi)	FAME content ⁷ , percent v/v, <i>Max</i>	7.0	Annex B ⁸

4.2 And whereas on analysis of the parameters detailed in the Test Reports vis-a-vis the parameters stipulated in the BIS standards of IS 1460, it appears in accordance with the intelligence, that goods being imported under aforesaid Bills of appears to be mis-declared and following conclusion appears to flow from the analysis.

Table-III

Sr No	Bill of Entry No.	Quantity	Product description as per analysis of Test Report (CRCL+MRPL)
1	4890699 dated 03.10.2025	203120 (in KGS)	Automotive Diesel Fuel (ADF) conforming to Standards IS 1460:2025
2.	4895800 dated 04.10.2025	200250 (in KGS)	Automotive Diesel Fuel (ADF) conforming to Standards IS 1460:2025

4.3 As per Customs Tariff Act, it appears that the goods found as Automotive Diesel Fuel (ADF) conforming to standard IS 1460:2025 are classifiable under CTH 27101944. The relevant descriptions of the above mentioned CTHs as per the Customs Tariff Act are as below:

HS CODE (1)	ITEM DESCRIPTION (2)	UNIT (3)	BASIC (4)	EFFECTIVE (5)	PRE. (6)	IGST (7)	SWS (8)	TOTAL (9)	POLICY (10)	REMARKS (11)
2710 19 43	--- Light diesel oil conforming to standard IS 15770	kg.	5.00	5.00	---	18.00	0.50	24.490	State Trading Enterprises	Import as per Policy Condition (5) of Chapter 27
2710 19 44	--- Automotive diesel fuel, not containing biodiesel, conforming to standard IS 1460	kg.	2.50	2.50	---	14% + Rs. 15 per litre	0.08		State Trading Enterprises	Import as per Policy Condition (5) of Chapter 27 SWS - 3% by Ntfn 12/2018-Cus.

Further, as per ITC(HS), 2022, Schedule 1: Import Policy, Section V: Mineral Products, Chapter 27: Mineral Fuels, Mineral Oils And Products Of Their Distillation; Bituminous Substances; Mineral Waxes: Goods falling under the description of "Automotive Diesel Fuel (ADF) conforming to standard IS 1460", the import policy makes the goods restricted by way of importation by State Trading Enterprises only by virtue of Policy Condition No. 5 which prescribes "Import allowed through IOC subject to para 2.21 of Foreign Trade Policy, except for the companies who have been granted rights for marketing of transportation fuels in terms of Ministry of P&NGs Resolution No. P23015/1/2001-MKT. Dated 8.3.2002 including HPCL, BPCL and IBP who have been marketing transportation fuels before this date". The screenshots of the relevant extracts:

Sl.No.	Notes	Notification No.	Notification Date
1	Import of naphtha is free.		
2	Import of SKO shall be allowed through State Trading Enterprises (STEs) i.e. IOC, BPCL, HPCL and IBP for all purposes with STC being nominated as a State Trading Enterprise (STE) for supplies to Advance Licence holders. Advance Licence holders shall however, have the option to import SKO from the above mentioned STEs including STC		
3	Import is restricted in terms of Interim PIC Procedure of Rotterdam Convention on Prior Informed Consent procedure for hazardous chemicals and pesticides.		
4	Automobile industries, having RandD registration, are allowed to make free import of reference fuels (Petrol and Diesel) which are not manufactured in India, up to maximum of 5 KL per annum, subjects to the condition that the said imported reference fuels shall be used for RandD and emission testing purposes only		
5	Import allowed through IOC subject to para 2.21 of Foreign Trade Policy, except for the companies who have been granted rights for marketing of transportation fuels in terms of Ministry of P&NGs Resolution No. P23015/1/2001-MKT. Dated 8.3.2002 including HPCL, BPCL and IBP who have been marketing transportation fuels before this date.	08/2023	29/05/2023
6	Import of pet coke for fuel purpose is prohibited. However, import of Pet coke of the following categories shall be permitted, subject to conditions : a. Import of Pet coke is free for cement, lime kiln, calcium carbide, gasification industries and graphite electrodo industries for use as feed stock or in the manufacturing process only on Actual User basis. b. Total import of 1.9 Million MTs of Raw Petroleum Coke(RPC) for manufacturing Calcined Petroleum Coke(CPC) and 0.5 Million MTs of CPC for Aluminium Industry respectively shall be permissible during 2024-25, and 1.9 Million MTs of RPC for manufacturing CPC Manufacturing and 0.8 Million MTs of CPC for Aluminium Industry respectively shall be permissible from 2025-26 onwards, subject to the following conditions: i. Import of RPC & CPC shall be permitted only as a feedstock / raw material and under no circumstances shall be used as fuel. ii.Import of RPC and CPC shall be permitted to cater entirely to the domestic needs of aluminium	27/2024-25	04/09/2024

5 **Confiscation and Seizure:**

5.1 As per the test results above, it is evident that the importer had

imported restricted petroleum products, by mis-declaring the same as "Industrial oil". The Custom Laboratory reports confirmed that the goods imported vide Bill of Entry No. 4890699 dated 03.10.2025 and 4895800 dated 04.10.2025 was in fact Automotive Diesel Fuel, which is restricted for import into India, and permissible only subject to Condition No. 5 of Chapter 27 of ITC(HS), 2022, Schedule 1 Import Policy issued by DGFT. Therefore, having a reasonable belief that the goods in **Table No-II** above, were liable to be confiscated under the provisions of the Section 111 of the Customs act, 1962, the same were placed under seizure as per the provisions of Section 110(1) of the Customs Act, 1962 vide seizure memo dated 13.01.2026. **(RUD No-6).**

6 . During investigation, statements of following person were recorded under Section 108 of the Customs Act, 1962, which are briefly discussed herein-below:

6 . 1 Statement of Sh. Nikunj kumar Kantilal Patel, Aged 41 years (DOB: 16.05.1985), Proprietor of M/s PAVAN INTERNATIONAL was recorded on 11.05.2026(RUD No-7), wherein he interalia stated that: (English translation):

- On being asked as to who is responsible for negotiating terms with overseas suppliers, he stated that being the proprietor, he himself undertakes negotiations with overseas suppliers, generally through telephonic conversations. He further stated that documents between the supplier and the firm are exchanged through WhatsApp and e-mail. He also stated that he looks after the entire work of the firm including local management, import-export activities and GST related work.
- On being asked regarding management of remittances and payment terms, he stated that he alone is responsible for making payments to overseas suppliers. He further stated that the entire payment is made to the supplier only after customs clearance of the goods.
- On being asked regarding specifications of Industrial Oil ordered, he stated that while placing orders they only asked the overseas supplier to provide Industrial Oil classifiable under CTH 27101990 and that he is not aware of any other technical specifications.
- On being asked whether sampling was conducted in his presence, he stated that sampling of the cargo covered under Bill of Entry No. 4890699 dated 03.10.2025 and Bill of Entry No. 4895800 dated 04.10.2025 was carried out in the presence of a person duly authorized by his firm.

- On being shown the CRCL Visakhapatnam Test Reports and asked to comment, he stated that he has seen the printouts and has put his dated signatures in token of having seen the same. He admitted that as per the said reports, the samples meet all the parameters of Automotive Diesel Fuel (IS 1460). However, he stated that they had ordered Industrial Oil only and claimed that the overseas supplier had exported the wrong cargo/consignment, i.e. ADF.
- On being shown the MRPL Test Reports dated 16.04.2026 and asked to comment, he stated that he has seen the reports and has put his dated signatures on the same. He admitted that in respect of Bill of Entry No. 4890699, all 21 parameters prescribed under IS 1460:2025 are met and in respect of Bill of Entry No. 4895800, 20 out of 21 parameters are met, with deviation only in flash point. He further stated that the reports establish that the goods are a restricted commodity (ADF). However, he reiterated that the overseas supplier had exported the wrong cargo.
- On being asked whether he had specifically ordered goods with lower flash point or addition of lighter hydrocarbons, he denied the same and stated that they had only ordered Industrial Oil and had not given any such instructions to the supplier.
- On being asked whether he was aware that the imported goods were diesel and that deviation in flash point was deliberate, he denied the same and stated that they were not aware that the goods were a restricted commodity. He reiterated that no adulteration was carried out at his end or at his direction and again attributed the same to the supplier.
- On being asked with reference to the judgment dated 09.03.2026 of the Hon'ble Gujarat High Court, he stated that he respects the verdict and acknowledged that as per the CRCL and MRPL test reports, the goods are ADF. However, he reiterated that the supplier had exported the wrong cargo.
- On being asked whether the goods fall under the category of adulterated diesel in terms of the said judgment, he stated that he respects the findings of the Hon'ble Court but maintained that no adulteration was carried out at his end or under his directions and that only Industrial Oil was ordered.
- On being asked regarding the observations of the Hon'ble High Court distinguishing the case from Gastrade International, he stated that the same has been read over and explained to him and he has

understood the same. He reiterated that there was no intention to import restricted goods and that the overseas supplier had supplied the wrong consignment. He further stated that due to financial distress arising from detention of consignments since October 2025, they are not preferring an appeal before the Hon'ble Supreme Court.

7 Hon'ble High Court of Gujarat at Ahmedabad order and judgement dated 09.03.2026 R/Special Civil Application No. 16799 of 2025 and allied matters (RUD No. -8):

7.1 During the course of investigation, the importer had filed **Special Civil Application 1239 of 2026** before the Hon'ble High Court of Gujarat at Ahmedabad, challenging the seizure memo and seeking provisional release of their consignment.

7.2 The observations of the Hon'ble High Court on the test reports issued by the Customs Laboratory, Visakhapatnam (CRCL) and Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemicals Limited (MRPL) are reproduced below:

"46. Keeping in mind the aforesaid principles enunciated by the Supreme Court, we have attempted to distinguish the case of the petitioners for the following reasons.

*47. Significantly, in the Test Reports in the case of **Gastrade International (supra)**, the Apex Court has recorded that there was no opinion and finding expressed that the imported goods are "most akin" to HSD, which is not the issue in the Test Reports in question. In the first test report of CRCL, Visakhapatnam, out of 18 parameters tested, except for the parameters relating to flash point, distillation recovery and sulphur, the report categorically records that the sample is mainly composed of diesel fraction, is adulterated with lighter hydrocarbons, and is most "akin to HFHSD (IS 16861) / adulterated HFHSD". The diesel fraction is found to be between 95% to 98%). Thus, out of 21 parameters, the 18 parameters tested by CRCL, Visakhapatnam and MRPL, there is a clear opinion by the laboratory that the sample meets all characteristics of ADF and HFHSD, except the flash point, which is lowered by mixing lighter hydrocarbons. In this context, we may refer to the definition of 'adulteration' as supplied in the 'Malpractices Order, 2005'. It reads thus:*

"2(a) "adulteration" means [presence of marker in motor spirit and high speed diesel and/or] [Inserted by Notification No. G.S.R. 18(E) dated 12.1.2007 (w.e.f. 21.12.2005).] the introduction of any foreign substance into motor spirit or high speed diesel illegally or unauthorisedly

with the result that the product does not conform to the requirements of the Bureau of Indian Standards specifications number IS 2796 and IS 1460 for motor spirit and high speed diesel respectively or any other requirement notified by the Central Government from time to time;"

Thus, any foreign substance, which is blended in high-speed diesel illegally or unauthorizedly, which ultimate results into failure of requirements of BIS specifications IS 1460 is an adulteration.

*48. In the instant case, there is a definite conclusion that the flash point, which is one of the most important parameters as emphasized by the Supreme Court, has been lowered by the use of lighter hydrocarbons and the product is therefore characterized as adulterated HFHSD. No such clear and unambiguous opinion was rendered by any of the three laboratories in the case of **Gastrade International(supra)** and also by the expert, who was examined during the inquiry."*

7.3 Application of the "Most Akin Test" by the Hon'ble Gujarat High Court:

*"50. Thus, if the rule of the "most akin test" is applied, the product declared by the petitioners as industrial oil is found to be Automotive Diesel Fuel / HFHSD, which is a restricted commodity. Hence, in view of the settled legal position laid down in the cases of **Om Prakash Bhatia (supra)** and **Raj Grow Impex (supra)**, we are not inclined to set aside the action of seizure of goods in question."*

7 . 4 Observations of the Hon'ble Gujarat High Court on Testing Conducted at Different Laboratories:

*"Hence, even if there are two or more Test Reports from different laboratories, so long as they conform to the directions of the Supreme Court in the case of **Gastrade International (supra)** and test the parameters prescribed under the relevant Indian Standards, such test results cannot be discarded merely because they were undertaken by different laboratories."*

7.5 Emphasis by the Hon'ble Gujarat High Court on Environmental

Impact:

“53. The product imported by the petitioners, if released, will have a direct environmental impact affecting society at large. In such circumstances, having regard to the nature of the product, the Test Reports cannot be discarded merely because different parameters were tested in two different laboratories.”

7.6 The High Court of Gujarat dismissed the SCA filed by the importer vide common oral judgment and order dated 09.03.2026, in R/Special Civil Application No. 16799 of 2025 and allied matters.

8. Extension under Section 110(2) of the Customs Act, 1962

Since the investigation could not be completed within the mandated six-month period, the competent authority granted a further extension of four months under Section 110(2) of the Customs Act, 1962, which was conveyed to the importer vide this office letter dated 06.04.2026 (**RUD No. 09**).

9. Relevant Legal provisions:

9.1 The relevant portion of ITC(HS), 2022 Schedule 1 Import Policy Section V, MINERAL PRODUCTS Chapter 27 Mineral Fuels, Mineral Oils and Products of Their Distillation; Bituminous Substances; Mineral Waxes is reproduced as under:

27101939	---	obtained from kerosene intermediate: ---- Aviation turbine fuels, kerosene type conforming to standard IS 1571	STE (State Trading Enterprise)	Import as per Policy Condition (5) of Chapter 27.
27101941	---	Gas oil and oils obtained from gas oil: ---- Gas oil	STE (State Trading Enterprise)	Import as per Policy Condition (5) of Chapter 27.
27101942	---	Gas oil and oils obtained from gas oil: ---- Vacuum gas oil	STE (State Trading Enterprise)	Import as per Policy Condition (5) of Chapter 27.
27101943	---	Gas oil and oils obtained from gas oil: ---- Light diesel oil conforming to standard IS 15770	STE (State Trading Enterprise)	Import as per Policy Condition (5) of Chapter 27.
27101944	---	Gas oil and oils obtained from gas oil: ---- Automotive diesel fuel, not containing biodiesel, conforming to standard IS 1460	STE (State Trading Enterprise)	Import as per Policy Condition (5) of Chapter 27.
27101949	---	Gas oil and oils obtained from gas oil: ---- High flash high speed diesel fuel conforming to standard IS 16861	STE (State Trading Enterprise)	Import as per Policy Condition (5) of Chapter 27.
27101951	---	Fuel oils conforming to standard IS 1593: ---- Grade LV	Free	

9.2 Further, Para 2.21 of the Foreign Trade Policy, 2023 reads as under:

“2.21 State Trading Enterprises (STEs)

(a) State Trading Enterprises (STEs) are governmental and non-governmental enterprises, including marketing boards, which deal with goods for export and /or import. Any good, import or export of which is governed through exclusive or special privilege granted to State Trading Enterprise (STE), may be imported or exported by the concerned STE as per conditions specified in ITC (HS). The list of STEs notified by DGFT is in Appendix-2J.

(b) Such STE(s) shall make any such purchases or sales involving imports or exports solely in accordance with commercial considerations, including price, quality, availability, marketability, transportation and other conditions of purchase or sale in a non-discriminatory manner and shall afford enterprises of other countries adequate opportunity, in accordance with customary business practices, to compete for participation in such purchases or sales.

(c) DGFT may, however, grant an authorisation to any other entity to import or export any of the goods notified for exclusive trading through STEs.”

9 . 3 Further, Policy Condition of Chapter 27 of the Customs Tariff is reproduced as below:

“(5) Import allowed through IOC subject to Para 2.21 of the Foreign Trade Policy, except for companies who have been granted rights for marking of transportation fuels in terms of MoP&NG Resolution No. P-23015/1/2001-MKT dated 08.03.2022 for products excluding gasoline conforming to standard IS 2796 (ITC HS Code: 27101241) and Automotive Diesel Fuel, not containing Bio Diesel conforming to standard IS 1460 (ITC HS Code 27101944) which would be allowed to be imported by entities in terms of MoPNG Resolution No. P-12029(11)/2/2018-OMC-PNG dated 08.11.2019.

(B) RELEVANT PROVISIONS OF CUSTOMS ACT, 1962:

9 . 4 Section 2(22): *"goods" includes (a) vessels, aircrafts and vehicles; (b) stores; (c) baggage; (d) currency and negotiable instruments; and (e) any other kind of movable property;*

Section 2(23): *“import”, with its grammatical variations and cognate expressions, means bringing into India from a place outside India;*

Section 2(25): “imported goods”, means any goods brought into India from a place outside India but does not include goods which have been cleared for home consumption;

Section 2(26): “importer”, in relation to any goods at any time between their importation and the time when they are cleared for home consumption, includes [any owner, beneficial owner] or any person holding himself out to be the importer;

Section 2(39): “smuggling”, in relation to any goods, means any act or omission which will render such goods liable to confiscation under section 111 or section 113.

Section 11A: “illegal import” means the import of any goods in contravention of the provisions of this Act or any other law for the time being in force.

9.5 Section 17 Assessment of duty:

(1) An importer entering any imported goods under section 46, or an exporter entering any export goods under section 50, shall, save as otherwise provided in section 85, self-assess the duty, if any, leviable on such goods.

..

(4) Where it is found on verification, examination or testing of the goods or otherwise that the self-assessment is not done correctly, the proper officer may, without prejudice to any other action which may be taken under this Act, re-assess the duty leviable on such goods.

9.6 Section 46 Entry of goods on importation:

(4) The importer while presenting a bill of entry shall make and subscribe to a declaration as to the truth of the contents of such bill of entry and shall, in support of such declaration, produce to the proper officer the invoice, if any, relating to the imported goods.

(4A) the importer who presents a bill of entry shall ensure the following, namely:

- (a) The accuracy and completeness of the information given therein;
- (b) The authenticity and validity of any document supporting it; and
- (c) Compliance with the restriction or prohibition, if any, relating to the goods under this Act or under any other law for the time being in force.

9.7 Section 111. Confiscation of improperly imported goods, etc.:

The following goods brought from a place outside India shall be liable to confiscation: -

-(d) any goods which are imported or attempted to be imported or are brought within the Indian customs waters for the purpose of being imported, contrary to any prohibition imposed by or under this Act or any other law for the time being in force;

(m) any goods which do not correspond in respect of value or in any other particular with the entry made under this Act or in the case of baggage with the declaration made under section 77 in respect thereof, or in the

case of goods under transshipment, with the declaration for transshipment referred to in the proviso to sub-section (1) of section 54;

Section 112 Penalty for improper importation of goods, etc.:

Any person, -

- a. *who, in relation to any goods, does or omits to do any act which act or omission would render such goods liable to confiscation under section 111, or abets the doing or omission of such an act, or*
- b. *who acquires possession of or is in any way concerned in carrying, removing, depositing, harbouring, keeping, concealing, selling or purchasing, or in any other manner dealing with any goods which he knows or has reason to believe are liable to confiscation under section 111,*

shall be liable, -

- i. *in the case of goods in respect of which any prohibition is in force under this Act or any other law for the time being in force, to a penalty 5 [not exceeding the value of the goods or five thousand rupees], whichever is the greater;*
- ii. *in the case of dutiable goods, other than prohibited goods, subject to the provisions of section 114A, to a penalty not exceeding ten per cent. of the duty sought to be evaded or five thousand rupees, whichever is higher:*

Section 114AA Penalty for use of false and incorrect material:

If a person knowingly or intentionally makes, signs or uses, or causes to be made, signed or used, any declaration, statement or document which is false or incorrect in any material particular, in the transaction of any business for the purposes of this Act, shall be liable to a penalty not exceeding five times the value of goods.

(C) Relevant Provisions of Customs Valuation (Determination of Value of Imported Goods) Rules, 2007:

“Rule 4. Transaction value of identical goods. - (1) (a) *Subject to the provisions of rule 3, the value of imported goods shall be the transaction value of identical goods sold for export to India and imported at or about the same time as the goods being valued;*

.....

(3) *In applying this rule, if more than one transaction value of identical goods is found, the lowest such value shall be used to determine the value of imported goods.*

“Rule 5. Transaction value of similar goods. - (1) *Subject to the provisions of rule 3, the value of imported goods shall be the transaction value of similar goods sold for export to India and imported at or about the same time as the goods being valued:*

Provided that

(2) *The provisions of clauses (b) and (c) of sub-rule (1), sub-rule (2) and*

sub-rule (3), of rule 4 shall, mutatis mutandis, also apply in respect of similar goods.

Rule 7 of the CVR, 2007, stipulates that: -

(1) Subject to the provisions of rule 3, if the goods being valued or identical or similar imported goods are sold in India, in the condition as imported at or about the time at which the declaration for determination of value is presented, the value of imported goods shall be based on the unit price at which the imported goods or identical or similar imported goods are sold in the greatest aggregate quantity to persons who are not related to the sellers in India, subject to the following deductions : -

(i) either the commission usually paid or agreed to be paid or the additions usually made for profits and general expenses in connection with sales in India of imported goods of the same class or kind;

(ii) the usual costs of transport and insurance and associated costs incurred within India;

(iii) the customs duties and other taxes payable in India by reason of importation or sale of the goods.

(2) If neither the imported goods nor identical nor similar imported goods are sold at or about the same time of importation of the goods being valued, the value of imported goods shall, subject otherwise to the provisions of sub-rule (1), be based on the unit price at which the imported goods or identical or similar imported goods are sold in India, at the earliest date after importation but before the expiry of ninety days after such importation.

(3) (a) If neither the imported goods nor identical nor similar imported goods are sold in India in the condition as imported, then, the value shall be based on the unit price at which the imported goods, after further processing, are sold in the greatest aggregate quantity to persons who are not related to the seller in India.

(b) In such determination, due allowance shall be made for the value added by processing and the deductions provided for in items (i) to (iii) of sub-rule (1).

Rule 8 of the CVR, 2007, stipulates that: -

Subject to the provisions of rule 3, the value of imported goods shall be based on a computed value, which shall consist of the sum of: -

(a) the cost or value of materials and fabrication or other processing employed in producing the imported goods;

(b) an amount for profit and general expenses equal to that usually reflected in sales of goods of the same class or kind as the goods being valued which are made by producers in the country of exportation for export to India;

(c) the cost or value of all other expenses under sub-rule (2) of rule 10.

Rule 9 of the CVR, 2007, stipulates that: -

(1) Subject to the provisions of rule 3, where the value of imported goods cannot be determined under the provisions of any of the preceding rules, the value shall be determined using reasonable means consistent with the principles and general provisions of these rules and on the basis of data available in India;

Provided that the value so determined shall not exceed the price at which such or like goods are ordinarily sold or offered for sale for delivery at the time and place of importation in the course of international trade, when the seller or buyer has no interest in the business of other and price is the sole consideration for the sale or offer for sale.

(2) No value shall be determined under the provisions of' this rule on the basis of –

- (i) the selling price in India of the goods produced in India;*
- (ii) a system which provides for the acceptance for customs purposes of the highest of the two alternative values;*
- (iii) the price of the goods on the domestic market of the country of exportation; (iv) the cost of production other than computed values which have been determined for identical or similar goods in accordance with the provisions of rule 8;*
- (v) the price of the goods for the export to a country other than India;*
- (vi) minimum customs values; or*
- (vii) arbitrary or fictitious values.*

Rule 12. Rejection of declared value. - *(1) When the proper officer has reason to doubt the truth or accuracy of the value declared in relation to any imported goods, he may ask the importer of such goods to furnish further information including documents or other evidence and if, after receiving such further information, or in the absence of a response of such importer, the proper officer still has reasonable doubt about the truth or accuracy of the value so declared, it shall be deemed that the transaction value of such imported goods cannot be determined under the provisions of sub-rule (1) of rule 3.*

10. Valuation:

10.1 From the foregoing paras, it is evident that M/s PAVAN INTERNATIONAL was involved in mis-declaration of goods in terms of description and classification and the declared value in the corresponding Bills of Entries appear to be not acceptable as true transaction value and merits rejection in terms of Section 14 of Customs Act, 1962 read with Rule 12 of Customs Valuation (Determination of Value of Imported Goods) Rules, 2007. The value is required to be re-determined by sequentially proceeding in terms of Rules 4 to 9 of Customs Valuation (Determination

of Value of Imported Goods) Rules, 2007. Since exact comparative data in respect of the import goods covered under the subject consignments are not available in absence of clear descriptions and mis-declaration on the part of the importer, the value of the subject import consignments cannot be determined as per the provisions of Rule 4 to Rule 8 to the Customs Valuation (Determination of value of Imported goods) Rules, 2007. Since the goods cannot be fully compared with similar/identical imports as the same are restricted goods, their value appears to be determinable under Rule 9 (Residual method) of the Customs Valuation (Determination of Value of Imported Goods) Rules, 2007 read with sub-section (1) of Section 14 of Customs Act, 1962 and on the basis of objective and quantifiable data available in India. For valuation of the seized goods-ADF, the prevailing market rates of the goods in the 1st week of October-2025 were taken, such as invoices generated by Nayara Energy Limited, ADF-**Rs 52,541.75/KL (RUD-10)**. Accordingly, in terms of Rule 9 of the Customs Valuation Rules, 2007, the same value can be adopted for the offending goods in this case.

10.2 Further, import of **“Automotive Diesel Fuel (ADF) as per IS 1460:2025”**, is restricted into India, and the same can only be imported subject to Policy Condition No. 5 of Chapter 27 of Customs Tariff, which stipulates that only *‘import is allowed through IOC subject to para 2.21 of Foreign Trade Policy, except for the companies who have been granted rights for marketing of transportation fuels in terms of Ministry of P&NGs Resolution No. P23015/1/2001-MKT. Dated 8.3.2002’* to import the same. It therefore appears that said importer mis-declared restricted goods i.e. **“Automotive Diesel Fuel (ADF) as per IS 1460:2025”** as “Industrial Oil” in the consignments.

10.3 As discussed above, the consignment covered under Bill of Entry No.4890699 dated 03.10.2025 and 4895800 dated 04.10.2025 was reported as **“Automotive Diesel Fuel (ADF) as per IS 1460:2025”** by the Custom Laboratory, Vishakhapatnam and MRPL. The outcome of the test reports indicate that the invoice value declared by the importer does not reflect the actual value of the goods. Since the goods were mis-declared in the Bill of Entry, the declared collective assessable value of Rs **1,84,61,388/-** (Rs. 92,96,384/- + Rs. 91,65,004/-) in Bills of Entries cannot be accepted as the true “transaction value” under Section 14 of the Customs Act, 1962, and is liable to rejection under Rule 12 of the CVR, 2007.

10.4 Accordingly, for valuation purpose, to arrive at a fair and reasonable value within the framework of law and procedures under the Valuation Rules, the ADF data dated 01.10.2025 of the Nayara Energy Limited was referred. The base price was noted as **Rs 52,541.75/KL**. Based on this, the re-determined value of the import consignments of **“Automotive Diesel**

Fuel (ADF) as per IS 1460:2025", having a total quantity of **403370 KGs** (203120 Kgs + 200250 Kgs) equivalent to total 486.37 KL (using average density of 0.829g/ml in respect of Bill of Entry No. 4890699 dated 03.10.2025 and 0.8297g/ml in respect of Bill of Entry 4895800 dated 04.10.2025 as reported by Custom House Laboratory, Visakhapatnam), is **Rs. 2,55,54,751/-**, in terms of provisions of Rule 9 of the CVR, 2007.

Thus, the value of the goods, as per the test reports of the Custom Laboratory and MRPL, is determined accordingly, are as below:

Table-IV

Sl. No.	Bill of Entry No.	Sample Test Result	Declared Description	Quantity (in KGs)	Declared value as per BoE	Approx. Market Value (in Rs.)
01.	4890699 dated 03.10.2025	Automotive Diesel Fuel (ADF)	Industrial Oil	203120	9296384/-	12873679/-
02.	4895800 dated 04.10.2025	Automotive Diesel Fuel (ADF)	Industrial Oil	200250	9165004/-	12681072/-
Total					1,84,61,388/-	2,55,54,751/-

Therefore, the said goods having declared value of Rs. **1,84,61,388/-** and re-determined value of Rs. **2,55,54,751/-** as per Table-IV, appear to be liable for confiscation under Section 111(d) and 111 (m) of the Customs Act, 1962.

11. Findings of the investigation:

11.1 Specific intelligence gathered by the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence indicated that M/s PAVAN INTERNATIONAL was indulged in import of restricted goods through mis-declaration. The importer had declared the consignment as Industrial Oil, whereas examination and sampling carried out by the DRI revealed otherwise. The representative samples drawn in respect of Bill of Entry No. 4890699 dated 03.10.2025 and 4895800 dated 04.10.2025 were forwarded to the Custom House Laboratory, Visakhapatnam which confirmed that the goods met all characteristics parameters of Automotive Diesel Fuel (ADF) under IS 1460:2025.

To ensure comprehensive testing of all parameters mandated by the Hon'ble Supreme Court in **Gastrade International v. Commissioner of Customs, Kandla**, additional samples were sent to Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemicals Limited (MRPL). The combined reports from CRCL and MRPL conclusively established that the imported goods were in fact Automotive Diesel Fuel conforming to IS 1460, and not Industrial Oil as declared.

11.2 The sample Test report (CRCL Visakhapatnam, Lab No. 389-DRI, Test Memo No. 519/2025) in respect of Bill of Entry No. 4890699 dated 03.10.2025 is reproduced below:

TEST REPORT	
Lab No: 389-DRI	Chemical examiner@yahoo.com
F.No. DRI/GRU/Int-26/2025	Date: 07.01.2026
Test Memo No: 519/2025	Date: 01.11.2025
B.E. No: 4890699	Date: 24.10.2025
Sample Received from: Intelligence officer, (DRI), Gandhidham Regional Unit.	Date: 03.10.2025
Description of Sample: Industrial Oil (CTH 27101990)	
Date of Receipt: 01.11.2025	
Sample Plan: Sample not Drawn by this laboratory	
Report: The sample is in the form of pale yellow oily liquid. It is mainly composed of Mineral Hydrocarbon Oils having mineral oil content more than 70 % by weight. It is having following characteristics:	
1. Appearance	= Clear & bright, free from sediments, suspended matter & undissolved water
2. Total Acid Number (mg of KOH/gr)	= Less than 0.2% by wt.
3. Ash content	= Nil
4. Carbon residue on 10% Residue	= Less than 0.30% by wt.
5. Cetane Number	= To be done at Refinery end.
6. Cetane Index	= 58.2
7. Pour Point	= below 3°C.
8. Flash Point(Abel), deg. C	= 30.0 °C
9. Density at 15° C	= 0.829 g/ml
10. Kinematic viscosity at 40° C	= 3.2208 cSt.
11. Sulphur Content	= Less than 50 ppm (5.53 ppm).
12. Distillation: IBP	= 67 °C
50% distilled at, °C	= 283 °C
85% Recovery by vol., at °C	= 332 °C
%Volume recovered at 360 deg. C	= more than 95% by vol.
95% Recovery by vol., at °C	= 359 °C
13. Cold Filter Plugging Point	= Facility available at Refinery end only
14. Oxidation stability	= To be done at refinery end only.
15. Lubricity wear scan at 60° C	= Facility available at Refinery end only
16. Fame Content	= Absent
17. PAH % by max	= not determined as it is not an characteristic parameter.
18. Water	= Less than 200 PPM.
The sample has been tested for all the characteristics parameters tested above & which are stringent parameters also to characterize petroleum fuels.	
The sample meets all the stringent parameter of Automotive diesel fuel as mentioned in IS:1460:2025 except flash point which is 5.0 °C lower than required (decreased by means of using Lighter hydrocarbon).	
The GCMS pattern of sample shows presence of lighter hydro carbons, which can not a part of Diesel fuels, as per standard refinery protocol & classification of petroleum fuels.	
Minor deviation from the required values of above 01 parameter, does not effects its application as diesel fuel for Automotive purpose (IS 1460).	
The sample is adulterated diesel in respect of the definition of "adulteration" as mentioned in 5.1 of marketing discipline guideline published by PSU's.	
There is no specification available for industrial oil in National & International standards.	
The sample also meets the specification of HFHSD (IS 16861) up to the extent of parameter tested above except, flash point which was lowered by using lighter hydrocarbons.	
Sealed remnant sample returned herewith.	

The sample Test report (CRCL Visakhapatnam, Lab No. 434-DRI, Test Memo No.564/2025) in respect of Bill of Entry No. 4895800 dated 04.10.2025 is reproduced below:

Lab No: 434-DRI		TEST REPORT		Date: 07.01.2026
F.No: DRI/GRU/Int-26/2025				Date: 01.11.2025
Test Memo No: 564/2025				Date: 24.10.2025
B.E. No: 4895800				Date: 04.10.2025
Sample Received from: Intelligence officer, (DRI), Gandhidham Regional Unit.				
Description of Sample: Industrial Oil (CTH 27101990)				
Date of Receipt: 01.11.2025				
Sample Plan: Sample not Drawn by this laboratory.				
Report: The sample is in the form of pale yellow coloured oily liquid. It is mainly composed of Mineral Hydrocarbon Oils having mineral oil content more than 70 % by weight. It is having following characteristics:				
1. Appearance	= clear & bright, free from sediments, suspended matter & undissolved water			
2. Total Acid Number (mg of KOH/gr)	= Less than 0.10% by wt.			
3. Ash content	= Nil			
4. Carbon residue on 10% Residue	= Less than 0.30% by wt.			
5. Cetane Number	= To be done at Refinery end.			
6. Cetane Index	= 59.6			
7. Pour Point	= below 3°C.			
8. Flash Point(Abel), deg. C	= 22.0 °C			
9. Density at 15° C	= 0.8292 g/ml			
10. Kinematic viscosity at 40° C	= 3.13 cSt.			
11. Sulphur Content	= Less than 50 ppm.			
12. Distillation: IBP	= 64°C			
50% distilled at, °C	= 295°C			
85% Recovery by vol., at °C	= 344°C			
%Volume recovered at 360 deg. C	= 94% by vol.			
95% Recovery by vol., at °C	= 366°C			
13. Cold Filter Plugging Point	= Facility available at Refinery end only			
14. Oxidation stability	= To be done at refinery end only.			
15. Lubricity wear scan at 60° C	= Facility available at Refinery end only			
16. Fame Content	= Absent			
17. PAH % by max	= not determined as it is not an characteristic parameter.			
18. Water	= Less than 200 PPM.			
Point wise reply to queries raised is as the following:				
1. a) The sample is other than Kerosene (IS 1459/IS 1571), Kerosene Intermediate (IS 17793).				
b) The sample meets all the stringent parameter of Automotive Diesel Fuel not containing bio-diesel (IS 1460) except flash point (which is 13 °C lower than required (decreased by means of using Lighter hydrocarbon) and Distillation Recovery at 360 °C (which is 1% less than required 95%).				
c) The sample is other than Light Diesel Oil- LDO (IS 15770).				
d) The sample meets all the stringent parameter of HFHSD (IS:16861) except flash point (which is 44°C less than required 66°C).				
2. The sample has tested for above parameters mentioned in test report, which are stringent to characterize the product.				
3. The sample is most akin to Automotive Diesel Fuel not containing bio-diesel (IS 1460) and also meets the requirement of HFHSD (IS:16861).				
4. There is no specification available for industrial oil in National & International standards.				
5. It is non-hazardous.				
Sealed remnant sample returned herewith.				

The above test reports in respect of Bill of Entry No. 4890699 dated 03.10.2025 and 4895800 dated 04.10.2025 clearly establish, as the intelligence had suggested, that the importer had in fact imported restricted goods, namely Automotive Diesel Fuel (ADF), conforming to the parameters and specifications of **IS 1460**.

11.3 As per Schedule 1 Import Policy under ITC(HS), 2022 for Chapter-27 (Mineral Fuels, Mineral Oils, etc.), import of “**Automotive Diesel Fuel (ADF) as per IS 1460**” covered under CTH 27101944, is restricted into India, and the same can only be imported subject to Policy Condition No. 5 of Chapter 27. Accordingly, there being a reasonable belief that that the said goods are liable for confiscation under the provisions of Section 111 of the Customs Act, the same were placed under seizure under Section 110 of the Customs Act, 1962,

11.4 During the investigation, DRI ensured that all 21 parameters under IS 1460 were tested, as mandated by the Hon’ble Supreme Court in **Gastrade International v. Commissioner of Customs, Kandla**.

On analyzing the comprehensive test reports of CRCL, Visakhapatnam and MRPL, a combined parameter-wise assessment was carried out for both consignments against all 21 parameters prescribed under IS 1460:2025 for Automotive Diesel Fuel. The consolidated findings are summarized in the Table below:

Table-V:

**Combined Parameter-wise Summary of Test Reports (CRCL + MRPL)
vs. IS 1460:2025**

Sr. No.	Parameter	IS 1460:2025 Limit	B.E. No. 4890699 (Result / Match) with IS 1460:2025	B.E. No. 4895800 (Result / Match) with IS 1460:2025	Remarks
1	Flash Point (°C)	Min. 35°C	43°C / MATCHING	~20°C / Not MATCHING	Deliberately Lowered by addition of lighter hydrocarbons For the B.E.4895800 dated 04.10.2025
2	Sulphur Content (ppm)	Max. 10 ppm	6 ppm (MRPL) / MATCHING	6 ppm (MRPL) / MATCHING	Within range
3	Lubricity	Max. 460	440/ MATCHING	440/ MATCHING	Within range
4	Appearance (Visual)	Clear, bright, free from sediments, suspended matter & undissolved water	Clear & bright	Clear & bright	Within range

5	Total Acid Number (mg KOH/g)	Max. 0.20	0.04	0.04	Within range
6	Ash Content (% by mass)	Max. 0.01	<0.001	<0.001	Within range
7	Carbon Residue on 10% Residue (% by mass)	Max. 0.30	<0.1	<0.1	Within range
8	Cetane Number	Min. 51	55.2	54.5	Within range
9	Cetane Index	Min. 46	60.2	61	Within range
10	Pour Point (°C)	Max. +3°C (Winter)	-9°C	-12°C	Within range
11	Copper Strip Corrosion (3h at 50°C)	Max. Class 1	Class 1a	Class 1a	Within range
12	Distillation, 95% v/v Recovery (°C)	Max. 360°C	352.8°C	354.5°C	Within range
13	Kinematic Viscosity @40°C (mm ² /s)	2.0 – 4.5	3.293 cSt	2.913	Within range
14	Total Contamination (mg/kg)	Max. 24	12	10	Within range
15	Density @15°C (kg/m ³)	810 – 845	829.8	824.7	Within range
16	Water Content (mg/kg)	Max. 200	140	150	Within range
17	Cold Filter Plugging Point (CFPP) (°C)	Max. +6°C (Winter)	-3°C	-4°C	Within range
18	Oxidation Stability (min)	Min. 60 min	>60 min	>60 min	Within range
19	Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbon (PAH) (% by mass)	Max. 8.0	1.2	1.2	Within range
20	FAME Content (% v/v)	Max. 7	Absent	Absent	Within range
21	Oxidation Stability (with FAME above/below 2%)	Required only if blended with biodiesel	Not applicable – FAME absent / Within range	Not applicable – FAME absent / Within range	Within range
TOTAL	21 Parameters tested	—	21/21 Matching;		20/21 parameters found meeting

11.5 The Flash Point of the imported goods was found to be less than 20°C (MRPL) / 15°C (CRCL) against the mandatory minimum of 35°C under IS

1460 for B.E. No. 4895800 dated 04.10.2025. The Custom House Laboratory, Visakhapatnam categorically concluded that the flash point was decreased by the adulteration of lighter hydrocarbons. This finding was explicitly upheld by the Hon'ble Gujarat High Court in its judgment dated 09.03.2026 on the Special Civil Application No. 16799 of 2025 filed by the Importer. The Hon'ble High court categorically recorded the following finding:

"Thus, out of 21 parameters, the 18 parameters tested by CRCL, Visakhapatnam and MRPL, there is a clear opinion by the laboratory that the sample meets all characteristics of ADF, except the flash point, which is lowered by mixing lighter hydrocarbons."

The intentional lowering of the flash point is a clear indicator of adulteration, undertaken to pass off Automotive Diesel Fuel. The combined reports from CRCL and MRPL conclusively established that the imported goods were in fact Automotive Diesel Fuel conforming to IS 1460:2025 and not Industrial Oil as declared.

11.5.1 In this regard, it is pertinent to refer to the definition of "adulteration" as contained in Section 2(a) of the Motor Spirit and High Speed Diesel (Regulation of Supply, Distribution and Prevention of Malpractices) Order, 2005 (hereinafter referred to as the "Malpractices Order, 2005"), issued by the Government of India in exercise of powers conferred by Section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955. The said provision defines "adulteration" as follows:

"2(a) 'adulteration' means [presence of marker in motor spirit and high speed diesel and/or] the introduction of any foreign substance into motor spirit or high speed diesel illegally or unauthorizedly with the result that the product does not conform to the requirements of the Bureau of Indian Standards specifications number IS 2796 and IS 1460 for motor spirit and high speed diesel respectively or any other requirement notified by the Central Government from time to time;
"

Thus, in terms of the aforesaid statutory definition, any introduction of a foreign substance into high speed diesel, illegally or without authorisation, which results in the product failing to conform to the BIS specification IS 1460, constitutes adulteration. The Hon'ble Gujarat High Court in its judgment dated 09.03.2026 expressly applied this definition and held that the lowering of the flash point through mixing of lighter hydrocarbons constituted adulteration of HFHSD within the meaning of Section 2(a) of the Malpractices Order, 2005.

11.5.2 In sum, viewed collectively, the deviations in flash point are not independent anomalies but form a coherent pattern consistent with deliberate adulteration of Automotive Diesel Fuel. The selective parameter deviations serve only to confirm that an otherwise conforming diesel product was manipulated with lighter hydrocarbons and other substances, with the deliberate design to render it non-compliant with IS 1460 specifications, so as to facilitate its illegal import as "Industrial Oil."

11.6 From the above, it is evident that the importation made by the importer is in violation of the Import Policy pertaining to CTH 27101944 and thereby it is in violation of Para 2.01 and 2.21 of the Foreign Trade Policy 2023 as extended. As per Para 2.01 of the FTP, the imports shall be free, except when regulated by way of prohibition, restriction or exclusive trading through State Trading Enterprises (STEs) as laid down in the Indian Trade Classification (Harmonized System) [ITC (HS)] of Exports and Imports. Looking to the aforesaid facts, since the goods falling under HS Code 27101944 not being freely importable, the same would fall in the exceptional character with importation through the STEs only. As per Para 2.21 of the FTP, any goods, import of which is governed through exclusive or special privilege granted to the STEs, may be imported by the concerned STEs as per the condition specified in the ITC (HS). DGFT has however been given authority to grant an authorization to any other person to import the goods notified for exclusive trading through the STEs.

11.6.1 As per Para 11.41 of the FTP, 2023, "Prohibited" indicates the import/export policy of an item, as appearing in ITC (HS) or elsewhere, whose import or export is not permitted. In the instant case, since the import of ADF classifiable under CTH 27101944 is not permitted by the entities other than STEs, the import of said goods by the private entities is prohibited.

11.6.2 As per Section 3 (2) of the FTDR Act, 1992 empowers the Central Government to issue order, making provisions for prohibiting, restricting or otherwise regulating, the import of goods. As per Section 3(3) of the FTDR Act, 1992, all goods to which the order under Section 3(2) applies shall be deemed to be goods the imports of which has been prohibited under Section 11 of the Customs Act, 1962 and all the provisions of that Act shall have effect accordingly.

11.7 And whereas the provisions of Section 17(1) of the Customs Act, 1962 read with Section 2(2) of the Customs Act lay down onus on the importer to determine duty, classification etc. by way of self-assessment. The importer, at the time of self-assessment, is required to ensure that he declares the correct classification, applicable rate of duty, value, benefit of exemption notifications claimed, if any, in respect of the imported goods while presenting the Bill of Entry. By furnishing incorrect and wrong information in the import documents, it appears that the importer has violated the provisions of the said Section 17(1) read with Section 2(2) of the Customs Act, 1962.

11.8 And whereas in terms of Section 46(4) of the Customs Act, 1962, the importer has to certify the truth of the contents of the Bill of Entry. Further, in terms of Section 46(4A) of the Customs Act, 1962, the importer who presents a bill of entry shall ensure the accuracy and completeness of the information given therein; shall ensure the authenticity and validity of

any document supporting it; and shall ensure compliance with the restriction or prohibition, if any, relating to the goods under this Act or under any other law for the time being in force. In the instant case it appears that the importer was fully aware of the actual goods imported by them. Thus, in view of the facts discussed in the foregoing paras and material evidences available on records, it appears that M/s PAVAN INTERNATIONAL has contravened the provisions of Section 46(4) and 46(4A) of the Customs Act, 1962, in as much as they had intentionally mis-declared the description of the goods imported by them with a malafide intention to import restricted goods under the garb and guise of freely importable goods.

12 Role and Culpability:

12.1 Role played by M/s PAVAN INTERNATIONAL (IEC: ATBPP7155R), located at 1/34/70, T23 Shupth Aarked, Highway Road, Unjha-384170:

From the facts narrated in foregoing paras and evidences gathered during investigation, it appears that M/s PAVAN INTERNATIONAL, Unjha imported consignment covered under 4890699 dated 03.10.2025 and 4895800 dated 04.10.2025 filed at Mundra, by mis-declaring the import goods as "Industrial Oil" classified under CTH 27101990. The investigation conducted by DRI revealed that the actual goods were "**Automotive Diesel Fuel (ADF) as per IS 1460**", which is a '**Restricted**' commodity permitted for import only into India under Policy Condition No. 5 of the Customs Tariff. The inquiry further established that the importer deliberately adulterated the goods by mixing lighter hydrocarbons in order to manipulate certain parameters, thereby attempting to disguise the restricted product as Industrial Oil. This act of mis-declaration and adulteration was intended to circumvent import restrictions and facilitate the clearance of restricted goods for sale in the domestic market. Therefore, it appears that M/s PAVAN INTERNATIONAL, by filing incorrect declarations and failing to ensure proper classification of the goods, knowingly violated the provisions of Section 17(1), Section 46(4) and 46(4A) of the Customs Act, 1962 by deliberately mis-declaring and mis-classifying the imported goods with intent to import restricted goods under the garb of freely importable goods, thereby contravening the import restrictions prescribed under the Foreign Trade Policy and rendering the goods liable to confiscation under Section 111(d) and 111(m) of the Customs Act, 1962. Therefore, M/s PAVAN INTERNATIONAL have made themselves liable for penalty under Section 112(a) and 112(b) of the Customs Act, 1962. Furthermore, M/s PAVAN INTERNATIONAL have deliberately filed false and incorrect documents with the Customs Authorities, suppressing the actual nature of the goods, in order to import restricted goods, M/s PAVAN INTERNATIONAL are also liable for penalty under Section 114AA of the Customs Act, 1962.

1 3 . Now therefore, in the light of the aforesaid facts, M/s PAVAN INTERNATIONAL (IEC: ATBPP7155R), located at 1/34/70, T23 Shupth

Aarked, Highway Road, Unjha-384170' are hereby called upon to show cause in writing to **the Additional Commissioner of Customs, Custom House, Mundra**, having office situated at office of the Pr. Commissioner of Customs, 5B, Port User Building, Adani Ports & SEZ, Mundra, Kutch, Gujarat – 370421 within 30 (thirty) days from the date of receipt of this notice, as to why:-

- i. The classification of goods covered under Bill of Entry No. 4890699 dated 03.10.2025 and 4895800 dated 04.10.2025 filed at Mundra Port, declared as 'Industrial Oil', under CTH 27101990, should not be rejected and the same should not be re-classified as 'Automotive Diesel Fuel (ADF) as per IS 1460:2025' under CTH 27101944;
- ii. The declared value of the said goods declared as 'Industrial Oil', as **Rs. 1,84,61,388/- (One Crore Eighty-Four Lakh Sixty-One Thousand Three Hundred Eighty-Eight Only)** should not be rejected in terms of Rule 12 of the CVR, 2007 and the same should not be re-determined as **Rs 2,55,54,751/- (Rupees Two Crore Fifty-Five Lakh Fifty-Four Thousand Seven Hundred Fifty-One Only)**, as discussed in foregoing para;
- iii. The goods declared as 'Industrial Oil', under the Bill of Entry No. 4890699 dated 03.10.2025 and 4895800 dated 04.10.2025 filed at Mundra Port having re-determined value of **Rs 2,55,54,751/- (Rupees Two Crore Fifty-Five Lakh Fifty-Four Thousand Seven Hundred Fifty-One Only)** as discussed in Table-IV, should not be held liable for confiscation under Section 111(d) and 111(m) of the Customs Act, 1962.
- iv. Penalty should not be imposed upon the importer under Sections 112(a), 112(b), and 114AA of the Customs Act, 1962, separately.

14. This Show Cause Notice is being issued under Section 124 of the Customs Act, 1962 without prejudice to any other action that may be taken against the Noticees or any other person / party connected with this case, under the Customs Act, 1962 or any other law for the time being in force. The aforesaid Noticees are directed to submit their reply in writing within 30 days of issuance of this notice. In their written reply, they should specifically mention whether they would like to be heard in person or through their authorized representative, by the adjudicating authority. They should also produce at the time of showing cause, all the evidences upon which they intend to rely in support of their defense. If no cause is shown against the action proposed in this Show Cause Notice within 30 days from the receipt of this Show Cause Notice (or extended period, if allowed) or if they or their representatives do not appear before the adjudicating authority as and when the case is posted for hearing, the case is liable to be decided ex-parte on the basis of facts and evidences available on record.

15. This Show Cause Notice is being issued on the basis of the evidences available on record. The Department reserves the right to add, alter, amend, modify or supplement this notice at any time on the basis of any

evidence, material facts related to goods under investigation and any other import/smuggling by the said noticees, which may come to the notice of the Department after issuance of this notice and prior to the adjudication of the case.

16. The copies of relied upon documents, as mentioned in this Show Cause Notice, are listed in Annexure-R and are enclosed with this Show Cause Notice and also are an integral part of this Show Cause Notice.

(Dipak Zala)
Additional Commissioner of Customs,
Custom House, Mundra.

By Speed Post/Regd. Post/E-mail/Hand Delivery

List of Noticees

1. M/s PAVAN INTERNATIONAL (IEC: ATBPP7155R), located at
1/34/70, T23 Shupth Aarked, Highway Road, Unjha, Gujarat –
384170 (Email- pavaninternational2024@gmail.com)

Copy to:

1. The Additional Director General, DRI, Ahmedabad
2. The Additional Director, Directorate of Revenue Intelligence, Regional Unit, Gandhidham (Kutch).
3. The Deputy Commissioner, EDI, Custom House, Mundra
4. Guard File.