

Landmark victory in EU import duty case

Last year the European Union introduced a new rule that classified any digital still camera with a resolution higher than 800x600 pixels and the duration of video of 30 minutes or more (at 23 fps or higher) as a 'video camera recorder' with a much higher duty rate.

Trade and customs lawyers of McMan & Co, has just won an appeal with Dutch Customs about the classification of high-speed cameras. Our client Vision Research Europe was faced with a substantial duty bill after its products, which were originally classified as digital still cameras, were classified as video cameras after the publication of the new EU rule.

As a result of our appeal Vision Research's products have now been classified again as digital photo cameras. This decision is seen as a landmark victory in the battle against reclassification actions by the EU.

Importers who are faced with increased duty bills in the EU because of similar reclassification decisions are advised to safeguard their rights and appeal against additional duty assessments.