

THE SPECIFICS OF EVIDENCE IN THE TAX PROCESS

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Evidence, tax process, tax procedural proof, tax authorities, means of proof, properties of evidence, individual tax legal acts, evidentiary information.

The subject of the article is peculiarities of evidence in the tax process.

The main purpose of the article is to identify the existence or absence of specifics of evidence in the tax process.

The description of the problem field. Each stage of the tax process is accompanied by tax authorities issuing tax legal acts; it requires them to obtain the necessary evidence. At the same time, theorists of tax procedural relations seek to circumvent the issue of the nature of tax procedural evidence. Some researchers believe that the theory of evidence, which formed the interdisciplinary institute of evidence, can eliminate the need for a theoretical definition of the tax evidence, but this is difficult to agree with. Some tax evidence has specific features that determines the need of its independent research.

The description of methodology. The author uses analysis, synthesis, comparison, interpretation of legal acts, economic approach as well as the dialectic and formal-legal methods. The main results and scope of their application. Evidence in the tax process is information about facts that are relevant to the adoption of a certain decision by the authorized subject of the tax process. Evidence must be obtained from acceptable and reliable sources and investigated in compliance with the procedure established by law.

It seems possible to set the list of evidence in the tax process legislation as follows: an oral explanation of the subject of the tax process or his representative; witness testimony; conclusion and testimony of an expert or specialist; written evidence; a protocol of a procedural action; material evidence; photo, video or audio materials.

The evaluation of evidence by an authorized entity includes its consideration for relevance, admissibility, sufficiency and reliability. Only if the evidence meets the above criteria it will have probative value in a specific procedural situation.

Conclusions. The purpose of the proof sets the maximum importance and its systemic significance for the entire tax process, since evidence-based knowledge traditionally appears to be the main supporting structure of the law enforcement process, in particular, evidence create the basis for its motives and conclusions. Accurate and objective establishment of factual circumstances of tax case is impossible without proper evidence. The main properties of evidence are relevance, admissibility, sufficiency and reliability.

1. Introduction

Despite the fact that the interest of modern legal science to the tax process was identified after the adoption of part one of the Tax Code of the Russian Federation (hereinafter the Tax Code of the Russian Federation), the legal doctrine still lacks a universally recognized definition of the tax process, its place in the system of financial and tax law is not defined, there is no clearly regulated mechanism of tax procedural proof. Meanwhile, proof is one of the central elements of any jurisdictional activity [1, p. 69], including the proceedings on a tax offense.

The doctrine of financial and tax law emphasizes the peculiarity of tax procedural evidence, the specificity of the criteria of relevance, admissibility, sufficiency and reliability of evidence [2, p. 13; 3], however, the issues of functioning of special form of evidence and proof in the tax process are not directly and comprehensively addressed, probably because the problem of ambiguous perception of the tax process is seen as a priority (for example, in the tax process, many seek to consider only the proceedings in cases of tax offenses (see, for example: [4, p. 4])). The polarity of the opinions of experts studying the formation of the tax process does not contribute to the development of its final and theoretically recognized content, the definition of its true position in the structure of the financial and legal segment of Russian law [5, p. 4; 6, p. 5; 58; 7, p. 92-93].

Theoretical and normative uncertainty as to the evidence issues in tax legal relations creates the risk of incomplete protection of the interests of participants in the tax process, notes the danger for the abuse of authority power of its participants, which ultimately determines the relevance and necessity of studies on the application of evidence theory in the activities of tax authorities. It is necessary to develop new methods, tools and approaches to ensure effective evidence and to ensure the regulatory changes. The actualization of the problem is supported by the annual growth of disputes on the evaluation of evidence obtained by tax authorities and put them

in the basis of their decisions, the diversity and originality of judicial and administrative practice, as well as the systematic theoretical unexplored field of evidence in tax procedural activities.

In this regard, the purpose of our study is to identify the specifics of evidence in the tax process.

The overall goal involves a number of specific tasks:

- definition of the concept, functions and meaning of tax procedural evidence;
- identification of the main properties of evidence in the tax process;
- determination of the system of evidence in the tax process.

2. The concept and significance of evidence in the tax process

Each stage of the tax process as a theoretical and practical activity of tax authorities is accompanied by the issuance of individual tax legal acts in different order (the requirement to pay tax, collection, insurance premium, penalty, penalty or fine, the decision to attract to tax liability, the decision to reduce or exempt from the expense of money, the decision to return tax, etc.), on the eve of the decision, the necessary information on the circumstances that became the basis for such a decision. It is upon examination of the information that the authorized official of the tax authority assesses it for its compliance with the actual circumstances, as well as for the possibility of considering this information as a sufficient and exhaustive basis for making a legally significant decision.

The given thesis allows to consider such information evidentiary, however the tax legal doctrine often disagrees in opinion on whether it is necessary to consider any information which is the basis for acceptance of the intermediate or final procedural decision, the proof [8, p. 82] or the last can be recognized only essential data [9, p. 93]? The subjects of tax-procedural relations tend to avoid the question of the nature of tax evidence, initially, resorting to the consideration of private moments of the tax process [10, p. 11]. The

research approach is partly justified, since there is no definitely developed, even scientific, approach to the study of tax procedural evidence. However, A. Mesarev, the term "proof" and words derived from it are used in the Tax Code only five Articles (clause 1, Article 40, paragraph 4, 6 of Article 103, paragraph 7, Article 104, paragraph 6 of Article 105, sub. 1, 2 item 111) (4, p. 3). At the same time the legislator, who in the code will confidence in evidence as common knowledge of this concept. Hence the inaccuracy of determining the tax on legally significant facts necessary, in particular, to resolve cases on tax violations, incomplete research of circumstances of the case and failure to take all necessary measures for collection of evidence are a consequence of the existence of such a legal and definitional gap.

However, some representatives of financial and legal science believe that the theory of evidence and proof, which formed an inter-sectoral institute of evidentiary law, can compensate for the need for a theoretical basis of the legal evidentiary institute [9, p. 10]. But it is not possible to agree with this, since the evidence and evidence used in it have different features and cannot be fully identified with "things" in other branches of legal science and legislation [11, p. 10]. The presence of the tax and legal industry's own evidence, which has its usefulness in our opinion, can testify not only to the degree of its practical implementation, but also in some way determine the intersectoral independence along with the method and functions of this set of evidence in the financial and legal norms.

And in a broad sense is called the concept of truth, which is the correspondence between the (actual situation) and reality [12, p. 79]. In the tax procedural aspect, in relation to civil, arbitrazh, administrative and administrative proceedings, evidence should be understood as a means of obtaining by the court or other authorized body of the facts relevant to the case. p. 21. "data on the facts (is equal-the) possessing property of relativity, which is confirmed by the circumstances having value for the course of judicial case, which is confirmed by the procedural form provided by the law, received and investigated in the order strictly

established by the procedural law" [14, p. 310; 15, p. 10]. At the same time, some doctrinal representatives consider evidence as a phenomenon [16, p. 10] and as a phenomenon of evidentiary nature (an evidentiary fact and evidence) [17, p. 187].

Based on the above practices, the nature of evidence in the tax process is the information on facts (actual) as the law for adoption by an authorized body of the tax process-specific solution, which is a solid and reliable source and investment in strict compliance with statutory order. The proposed version of the article allows us to identify the following types of evidence in the tax process:

1. It has administrative and judicial nature. Tax procedural proof are defining in the majority of the relations of administrative order, which are stages of the tax process that are in the form of law enforcement, to which is to study evidence.

2. It is a decision-making by a special subject to the authorized tax authority. It is based on evidence that the competent official of the tax authority makes a procedurally significant decision of an intermediate or final nature.

3. Contains information about the fact, directly or indirectly in contact with the financial and economic life of public legal entities and economic agents. The general economic nature of the relations of tax procedural evidence involves affecting the scope of acts of financial and economic life and related phenomena, establishing the truth, mainly related to the public financial area.

4. It has a fiscal and target orientation. Evidence shall be subject to collection, research and evaluation to establish legally significant circumstances and to make specific individual tax legal act based on the results of their identification for the purpose of conditions (ascertaining the performance of duty, bringing to responsibility) directly or indirectly to ensure fiscal and public interests in the performance of taxpayer (payer of the tax) of his tax duty [18, p. 10].

1. The evidence from a carrier is a general characteristic of a carrier and legal nature. Such carriers may be subjects of the tax process (individuals (taxpayer, witness, expert and others), written documents, objects of research and trial).

6. The carrier, research and evidence are an integral part of a procedure, which is a part of an internal process of a procedure. Functions on collecting, research and evidence shall be subject to authorized entities only in accordance with the norms of tax legislation. The facts received in violation of the procedural form do not have the force of proof and should not be recognized as such [18, p.13].

Despite the presence of features, the general functions of evidence in the tax process do not differ from the directions of the evidence developed by the theory of evidentiary process as an integral condition of procedural and cognitive activity, proof performs three main functions [12, p. 88]: information accumulation (the intermediate element in the process – "fact" – result), reflective information (the process of facts of real reality and the process of substantiating conclusions during a decision). The proof of evidence in the tax process is a process of established form, perceived as a part of procedural branches of law.

It is expedient to speak about the significance of tax procedure evidence in the scope of the entire procedural aspect of tax law, since the evidence acts as the core of the entire tax process. The existence of a procedural doctrine of evidence in itself speaks about universal recognition in domestic law (regardless of industry affiliation) of the evidence of evidence as a legal process of establishing circumstances. The evidence of proofs and the evidence of the tax law is a part of the evidence of the existence of the evidence with the greatest possible accuracy.

In order to study the value of multilateral use of evidentiary tools, it is

necessary to consider the evidence as a procedural evidence, clearly demonstrating its practical meaning, which is the evidence in the tax process is the guarantee of a complex of procedural information necessary for making procedural decisions. The fundamental beginning of procedural activity, the absence of which is completely unnatural structure of the modern jurisdiction.

3. The evidence in the tax process

Information about the facts of tax and legal significance is diverse, can be obtained in various ways (have a material and ideal form (the form of law of the substance), be received and conventional. The reduction of evidence into a legal system is to treat not only the evidence but also practical importance. It is now, in the legislative use of evidence from the evidence of their formal classification of the evidence of systematization of evidence acquires a different level of relevance. First of all, it is due to the existence of great practical difficulties in the work of tax authorities due to the lack of an exhaustive list of evidence inherent in tax procedural activities.

Any evidence recognized by procedural law must have a certain procedural form, which acts as an indicator of the "evidentiary nature" of information in a particular form of evidentiary process as an indicator of its "evidentiary nature" [19, p.10]. The procedural form of evidence is provided by the law, thus dividing the evidence into procedural and non-procedural. The first of which have evidentiary force in a particular process. Two traditional branches of procedural science (criminal and civil procedure) persistently engaged in the classification of evidence leave behind the tax process as a young and absolutely unperfected systemic phenomenon. A domestic jurisprudence, so the tax doctrine is not tested by them as a basis of "procedural law" industries, including the tax process.

Currently, the tax procedure is a process provides for the following types of evidence (means of proof): examination of the

person involved in the case; testimony of the suspect (accused); testimony of the victim; testimony of a witness; written evidence, including the Protocol of the investigative (judicial) action; physical evidence; conclusion and testimony of an expert; conclusion and testimony (consultation) of a specialist; other document or material objects, including a specially selected method of special means (measuring device).

At the same time, the legislation of the Russian Federation on tax and tax issues is even today characterized by only one real feature: the lack of a single, integrated approach in the tax process to gathering the consent of "third" persons to the generalized version of the means of proof, established today by the tax legislation, in the representation, looks as follows:

1) an explanation of the payer (clause 88 of the Tax Code);

2) explanation of the person held liable for committing a tax offence (clause 7 of Article 101.4 of the Tax Code);

3) the testimony of a witness, including the result of a "survey" of a specialist (Article 90, paragraph 3 of Article 96 of the Tax Code);

4) tax declaration, calculation of tax, calculation of advance payment (Art. 80-81 of the Tax Code);

5) the "reason" on the fact of financial and economic loss of the payer (tax agent) having value for tax (Art. 93, 93.1, 94 of the Tax Code of the Russian Federation);

6) "material object" related to the tax offence (Article 94 of the Tax Code);

7) expert opinion (p. 8-9 of Article 95 of the Tax Code);

8) material tax audit, including the requirement to provide explanations, the requirement to provide documents (information), the self-notification to the tax authority, notice of the time and place of consideration of materials of checks, etc. as a result of the results of field tax control, the restriction of access to the tax information (item 3 of Article 91 of the Tax Code), the act of detecting (identifying) evidence (item 4 of Article 94 of the Tax Code), the act of identification of taxes paid (paragraph 4 of Article 78 of the Tax Code);

9) a written objection submitted by a person in two forms: a written objection under the act (paragraph 1 of Article 101.4 of the Tax Code) and a written objection of a person committing a tax offence (paragraph 1 of Article 101.4 of the Tax Code);

10) Protocol on the procedure for the implementation of the provisions of the Tax Code;

11) results of public operational-search actions received and issued in compliance with the requirements of the law.

The generalized analysis of the stated set of means of proof shows its disorder and non-absence of the accurate list of the proofs (on sources), excessive particularity (technical normative specificity in definition of types of means of proof applied at production of control actions and also limitation of volume (coverage) of tax process (proofs are applicable only in the plane of tax control). The latter is a consequence of the author's unresolved question about the structure of the tax process, the penultimate consequence of that, after, and the disorder and inconsistency of evidence-a consequence of the penultimate.

Deprivation of the tax process a regulation a certain (legally stipulated) possibility of business evidence of technical means of technical vision and photography, allowing in practice a significant number of questions, expert testimony and expert opinions, as well as independent significant his explanations speaks not only about the imperfection of the existing "system" of evidence, but also shortsightedness, irrelevance of the behavior of the legislator in relation to the tax procedural norms. In spite of the fact that the proof is an aid of competitiveness which is not inherent in tax process at the present stage of its development, on it as the most important and the fast tool of procedural activities process, is each procedure, each separate production and procedural action is obliged to be focused.

Therefore, it is possible to generalize and systematize at its own level the means of proof to be used in the tax process. The evidence already existing in the tax process (including of exclusive bearing (item 1) and explanation (explanation) of the controlled

subject of the tax process (payer, tax agent) or his representative; 2) testimony of a witness; 3) conclusion and testimony of an expert; 4) conclusion and testimony of a specialist; 5) other evidence, including tax declarations, calculation of fees, calculation of advance payment, documentation on the tax object, which is important for making a procedural decision, tax and other calculations (application, calculation, petition, etc.); 6) other procedural action; 7) photo, video or audio material, which is important for making a procedural decision.

The above list, in our opinion, fully reflects the possibility of implementing evidentiary tools in the tax process and can be one of the options proposed for the formal consolidation in the Tax Code of the list of evidence.

Having great importance for the study of the nature of evidence, their classification as a set of logical operations for the division of evidence into species (subspecies) because of the versatility of this legal category allows a comprehensive study of its similarities, differences, shortcomings and advantages, revealed when comparing elements. In this regard, it would seem fair and expedient to include the means of proof currently enshrined in the Tax Code in order to fully form a general picture of the current results of the development of the evidentiary aspect of tax legislation. It will allow, being based on the existing logical classification of proofs already contained in the doctrine [12, p. 106–109].

By the nature of the relationship between the content of the evidence and the facts, it is divided into direct and indirect. Direct evidence is a document or other material and other evidence of the facts, which is based on the facts and is not subject to any further processing. Indirect evidence is a document or other material and other evidence of the facts, which is based on the facts and is subject to further processing. The use of the latter less than the path of proof, does not create a solid basis for the adoption of the only possible procedural decision. According to the process of forming the content of evidence are divided into

initial (witness testimony) and derivative (expert opinion). The law assumes the duty of the subject of proof to seek to collect the original evidence of evidence of the evidence.

According to the source, it is possible to distinguish between primary evidence (witness testimony, expert opinion, etc.) and secondary (material (various documents and materials) and mixed (expert opinion [19, p. 177, 179]. In relation to the evidence of tax offenses in the side view, we can distinguish evidence "for the prosecution" (proof of existing facts, necessary to the tax offense) and evidence of "protection" (written decision involved the tax liability of persons) [20, p. 22].

Specifics of evidence in the tax process

A kind of "filter" and "threshold" in the process of using evidence as a tool for proof are the actions of the tax authority, which recognize the evidence as relevant, important for making a procedural decision, admissibility (non-contradiction to established facts, non-contradiction to the terms of completeness of the information) and reliability (reliability of the evidence). Only if the evidence meets the criteria with it, it can be used as evidence. Here, the value of evidentiary material depends on its reliability, relevance, and admissibility. It is a set of elements [21, p. 109].

Relevance. The property is called a measure, which determines the use in a particular procedural decision only necessary in its content of evidence; it is a relationship between the content of the evidence and the actual circumstances included in the content of procedural knowledge [12, p. 125], which is expressed in the meaning of this evidence for making a certain decision. Relevance is recognized as a feature of evidence, inherent in the first place, since the decision on the basis of the living evidence in the process can provide the continuation of the process [22, p. 58]. Thus, the content of the evidence is a property (feature), but also the

conditions of admission of information to the process and the rules of conduct of the court.

The civil procedure code of the Russian Federation (hereinafter – the CPC of the Russian Federation) treats the sign of reliability very succinctly, emphasizing the initial priority in addressing the issue of reliability, as well as deciding on the form of defining hypothesis 'value for assessment of the case' (art. 66 of the CPC of the Russian Federation). The definition provided in the CPC of the Russian Federation is not a universal rule of the Russian Federation (hereinafter – the RF) in the field of evidence. The CPC of the Russian Federation does not contain any provisions on a certain way to synthesize evidence. The limits of relevance: the court does not accept written requests for support of a person's position in the case, documents on the assessment of their activities, other documents that are not relevant to the circumstances of the case (Article 67 of the CPC of the Russian Federation). At the same time, the relevance of evidence in a particular procedural situation is determined by the evaluation judge. The judge, based on an objective assessment of the relevance of the evidence, takes the following steps: determining relevance to the "case" (illuminated point of the fact, the definition of the relevant facts, the future content of the evidence attributable to the "case" (Article 67 of the CPC of the Russian Federation).

The category of reliability of evidence is not alien to the current procedural norms of tax legislation. For example, the Tax Code talks about the possibility of investigation as a process of the person who has the information about circumstances of relevance to tax control; the possibility of inspection (not to ascertain the circumstances relevant to the completeness check; of the expert determining relevant circumstances, the information about which he had questions, or to make conclusions about these circumstances (p. 1 Article 90, paragraph 2 Article 92, paragraph 8 Article 95 of the Tax Code).

However, the non-disclosure of relevance as a universal requirement and mandatory property to all types of evidence used in tax-procedural activities, constrains the improvement of the evidentiary process and will other

designated shortcomings.

Sufficiency. The completeness of the procedural knowledge of the relevant circumstances is inevitably associated with the inclusion of necessary evidence on the one hand and exclusion (on the other hand) of evidence and "distorting" information. Firstly, in the second lies the dual of the sufficiency categories, denoting borders in aggregate data, expedited evidentiary force, with limit the reversal of relativity.

So, the requirement of sufficiency is not limited to the grounds of the absence of doubts and withdrawal of doubts (their originality) including the assumption that the documents (their originals), evidence of the commission of the offenses can be destroyed, changed, collected, or replaced (paragraph 1 of Article 35, section 8, Article 94 of the Tax Code); the grounds for the adoption of interim measures – the presence of assumptions about what the rejection of these measures can complicate or make impossible further execution of such decision and (or) recovery (clause 10, Article 101 of the Tax Code); grounds for suspending the execution of the appeal act (action) – the presence of assumptions that the said act (action) does not comply with the law (paragraph 5 of Article 138 of the Tax Code); use of a loan on changing the term of payment of tax (fee) – the presence of assumptions that the interested person will use such a change to evade tax (Article 139 of the Tax Code); the grounds for subject to taxation or is going to leave the Russian Federation for permanent residence (p. 3 p. 1 Article 62 of the Tax Code); the grounds of granting a delay (installment) payment of tax (fee) the assumptions that the possibility of payment will occur during the period for which it is provided (paragraph 2 of Article 64 of the Tax Code); the grounds for the seizure of property – the presence of assumptions about the person will take steps to conceal himself or his property (paragraph 1 of Article 77 of the Tax Code).

Law enforcement practice often conceives and, sometimes, independently of its guidelines of sufficiency. For example, the presence of documents on the transaction by individuals and persons is not a sufficient reason to refuse to account for expenses for tax purposes. The non-universality of the sufficiency criterion, its non-

adherence to all possible evidence in the tax process creates conditions for the boundlessness of the growth of the evidence base, reducing its quality, and delaying procedural deadlines.

Reliability. Compliance of the obtained information with the actual circumstances is the determining aspect of the implementation of the evidentiary tool in the process. The truthfulness or falsity of information regarding the circumstances that are important for the adoption of a procedural decision is determined by the authorized subject when making such a decision, as a result of which the only possible conclusion is made about the consistency of evidence with objective reality. Such consistency is revealed when compared with other evidence. In the case of compliance (consistency), the inconsistency or significant discrepancy of evidence [23, p. 206].

In the process of selective and evaluation activities of the official of the tax authority, authorized to make a procedural decision, the legislation on taxes and fees establishes a mechanism for certifying information before they are attached to the materials of the "case". Thus a taxpayer or his representative must sign a tax return (calculation) to confirm the reliability and completeness of the information specified in it (paragraph 5 of Article 80 of the Tax Code). At the same time, in the event of voluntary discovery of errors, and only in the Declaration, the taxpayer has the right to additionally submit to the tax authority documents confirming the reliability of the information in the Declaration (paragraph 4 of Article 81 of the Tax Code). The reliability of not only the tax return, but also other procedural documents is of great importance in the activities of tax authorities.

Admissibility. The three previous properties are directly related to the content of the evidence, and the fourth is due to its procedural nature (the source of the evidence and the way of presenting information in it), regardless of the nature of the information. It is the admissibility that limits the use in the process of proof of any kind of evidence provided by law, dictates the use of only pre-prescribed legal norms for a specific procedural situation of evidence [24, p. 74] (for example, circumstances requiring the use of special

knowledge in their study should be confirmed only by the expert's conclusion). The rules of admissibility are almost equally formulated in foreign legislation, but in Russian law requirements of admissibility as applied to relevance and sufficiency does not find a unequivocal answer, responding differently in evidence arbitration practice. In our view, this is unfair, since the predominance of the financial and economic nature of the studied circumstances arising against the background of tax law, sometimes requires mathematical specificity, "precisely selected" analytical approach, the use of specialized and accounting knowledge, the use of stylized means of proof inherent exclusively in fiscal activities.

In legal literature, was selected items properties admissibility: an appropriate entity authorized to receive evidence; a suitable source of evidence; proper immediate action on receipt of evidence, the proper procedure for this action [25, p. 13-27]. The given is as much as possible discuss an essential requirement of admissibility.

Violation of procedural norms of the law entails inadmissibility of the presented evidence, its exclusion from the evidence base (paragraph 4 of Article 52 of the Tax Code). Unlike the Criminal procedure code of the Russian Federation, in the UPK the Russian Federation, establishing the inadmissibility of the use as evidence does not meet the requirements of the results of operational-investigative activities (Article 89 of the criminal procedure code of the Russian Federation). The Tax Code provides for directed to the tax on law enforcement materials, the role of grounds for making legal decisions within the established authority (paragraph 2 of Article 56 of the Tax Code). It seems that admissibility in the tax process is peculiar to all types of evidence without exception, despite the fact that views on this matter differ in science [26, p. 13; 27, p. 54].

5. Conclusions

Thus, the purpose of the study was achieved: the features of evidence in the tax process were revealed. Under the evidence the tax understandable information about the facts of tax law for adoption by an authorized entity in the tax process-specific solutions derived from valid and

reliable sources and investigated in terms of strict compliance with statutory procedural order.

The purpose of proof sets the maximum importance and its systemic significance for the entire tax process, since evidentiary knowledge traditionally appears as the main structural structure of the procedural activity of the enforcement officer, in particular, creates the basis for his motives and conclusions in the form of evidence, without which an accurate and objective establishment of factual circumstances is impossible.

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