आयुक्त का कार्यालय Office of the Commissioner केंद्रीय जीएसटी, अपील अहमदाबाद आयुक्तालय

Central GST, Appeals Ahmedabad Commissionerate जीएसटी भवन, राजस्व मार्ग, अम्बावाड़ी, अहमदाबाद-380015

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By SPEED POST

DIN:- 20230264SW0000222CDE

(क)	फ़ाइल संख्या / File No.	GAPPL/COM/STP/982/2022-APPEAL 18851-55
(ख)	अपील आदेश संख्या और दिनांक / Order-In-Appeal No. and Date	AHM-EXCUS-003-APP-124/2022-23 and 21.02.2023
(ग)	पारित किया गया / Passed By	श्री अखिलेश कुमार, आयुक्त (अपील) Shri Akhilesh Kumar, Commissioner (Appeals)
(घ)	जारी करने की दिनांक / Date of issue	27.02.2023
(ङ)	1	al No. Kalol/DC/D.Khatik/32/ST/2020-21 dated 12.02.2021 Commissioner, CGST, Division-Kalol, Gandhinagar
(च)	अपीलकर्ता का नाम और पता / Name and Address of the Appellant	M/s Dubond Products (India) Pvt. Ltd., Opposite Mahadev Temple, Narmada Pipe Compound, Santej-Vadsar Road, Santej, Gandhinagar, Gujarat-382721

कोई व्यक्ति इस अपील-आदेश से असंतोश अनुभव करता है तो वह इस आदेश के प्रति यथास्थिति नीचे बताए गए सक्षम अधिकारी को अपील अथवा पुनरीक्षण आवेदन प्रस्तुत कर सकता है, जैसा कि ऐसे आदेश के विरुद्ध हो सकता है।

Any person aggrieved by this Order-in-Appeal may file an appeal or revision application, as the one may be against such order, to the appropriate authority in the following way.

भारत सरकार का पुनरीक्षण आवेदन:-

Revision application to Government of India:

(1) केन्द्रीय उत्पादन शुल्क अधिनियम, 1994 की धारा अतत नीचे बताए गए मामलों के बारे में पूर्वोक्त धारा को उप-धारा के प्रथम परन्तुक के अंतर्गत पुनरीक्षण आवेदन अधीन सचिव, भारत सरकार, वित्त मंत्रालय, राजस्व विभाग, चौथी मंजिल, जीवन दीप भवन, संसद मार्ग, नई दिल्ली: 110001 को की जानी चाहिए:-

A revision application lies to the Under Secretary, to the Govt. of India, Revision Application Unit Ministry of Finance, Department of Revenue, 4th Floor, Jeevan Deep Building, Parliament Street, New Delhi - 110 001 under Section 35EE of the CEA 1944 in respect of the following case, governed by first proviso to sub-section (1) of Section-35 ibid: -

(क) यदि माल की हानि के मामले में जब ऐसी हानिकार खाने से किसी भण्डागार या अन्य कारखाने में या किसी भण्डागार से दूसरे भण्डागार में माल ले जाते हुए मार्ग में, या किसी भण्डागार या भण्डार में चाहे वह किसी कारखाने में या किसी भण्डागार मे हो माल की प्रकिया के दौरान हुई हो।

In case of any loss of goods where the loss occur in transit from a factory to a arehouse or to another factory or from one warehouse to another during the course

of processing of the goods in a warehouse or in storage whether in a factory or in a warehouse.

(ख) भारत के बाहर किसी राष्ट्र या प्रदेश में निर्यातित माल पर या माल के विनिर्माण में उपयोग शुल्क कच्चे माल पर उत्पादन शुल्क के रिबेट के मामलें में जो भारत के बाहर किसी राष्ट्र या प्रदेश में निर्यातित है।

In case of rebate of duty of excise on goods exported to any country or territory outside India of on excisable material used in the manufacture of the goods which are exported to any country or territory outside India.

(ग) यदि शुल्क का भुगतान किए बिना भारत के बाहर (नेपाल या भूटान को) निर्यात किया गया माल हो।

In case of goods exported outside India export to Nepal or Bhutan, without payment of duty.

(घ) अंतिम उत्पादन की उत्पादन शुल्क के भुगतान के लिए जो डयूटी केडिट मान्य की गई है और ऐसे आदेश जो इस धारा एवं नियम के मुताबिक आयुक्त, अपील के द्वारा पारित वो समय पर या बाद में वित्त अधिनियम (नं 2) 1998 धारा 109 द्वारा नियुक्त किए गए हो।

Credit of any duty allowed to be utilized towards payment of excise duty on final products under the provisions of this Act or the Rules made there under and such order is passed by the Commissioner (Appeals) on or after, the date appointed under Sec. 109 of the Finance (No.2) Act, 1998.

(2) केन्द्रीय उत्पादन शुल्क (अपील) नियमावली, 2001 के नियम 9 के अंतर्गत विनिर्दिष्ट प्रपत्र संख्या इए-8 में दो प्रतियों में, प्रेषित आदेश के प्रति आदेश प्रेषित दिनाँक से तीन मास के भीतरमूल-आदेश एवं अपील आदेश की दो-दो प्रतियों के साथ उचित आवेदन किया जाना चाहिए। उसके साथ खाता इ का मुख्य शीर्ष के अंतर्गत धारा 35-इ में निर्धारित फी के भुगतान के सबूत के साथ टीआर-6 चालान की प्रति भी होनी चाहिए।

The above application shall be made in duplicate in Form No. EA-8 as specified under Rule, 9 of Central Excise (Appeals) Rules, 2001 within 3 months from the date on which the order sought to be appealed against is communicated and shall be accompanied by two copies each of the OIO and Order-In-Appeal. It should also be accompanied by a copy of TR-6 Challan evidencing payment of prescribed fee as prescribed under Section 35-EE of CEA, 1944, under Major Head of Account.

(3) रिविजन आवेदन के साथ जहाँ संलग्न रकम एक लाख रूपये या उससे कम होतो रूपये 200/- फीस भुगतान की जाए और जहाँ संलग्नरकम एक लाख से ज्यादा हो तो 1000/- की फीस भुगतान की जाए।

The revision application shall be accompanied by a fee of Rs.200/- where the amount involved is Rupees One Lac or less and Rs.1,000/- where the amount involved is more than Rupees One Lac.

सीमा शुल्क, केन्द्रीय उत्पादन शुल्क एवं सेवा कर अपीलीय न्यायाधिकरण के प्रति अपीलः-Appeal to Custom, Excise, & Service Tax Appellate Tribunal.

- (1) केन्द्रीय उत्पादन शुल्क अधिनियम, 1944 की धारा 35-बी/35-इ के अंतर्गत:-Under Section 35B/ 35E of CEA, 1944 an appeal lies to :-
- (2) उक्तलिखित परिच्छेद में बताए अनुसार के अलावा की अपील, अपीलों के मामले में सीमा शुल्क, केन्द्रीय उत्पादन शुल्क एवं सेवाकर अपीलीय न्यायाधिकरण (सिस्टेट) की पश्चिम क्षेत्रीय पीठिका, अहमदाबाद में 2nd माला, बहुमाली भवन, असरवा, गिरधरनागर, अहमदाबाद-380004।

To the west regional bench of Customs, Excise & Service Tax Appellate Tribunal (CESTAT) at 2ndfloor, Bahumali Bhawan, Asarwa, Girdhar Nagar, Ahmedabad: 380004. In case of appeals other than as mentioned above para.

The appeal to the Appellate Tribunal shall be filed in quadruplicate in form EAprescribed under Rule 6 of Central Excise(Appeal) Rules, 2001 and shall be appanied against (one which at least should be accompanied by a fee of Rs.1,000/-, Rs.5,000/- and Rs.10,000/- where amount of duty / penalty / demand / refund is upto 5 Lac, 5 Lac to 50 Lac and above 50 Lac respectively in the form of crossed bank draft in favour of Asstt. Registar of a branch of any nominate public sector bank of the place where the bench of any nominate public sector bank of the place where the bench of the Tribunal is situated.

(3) यदि इस आदेश में कई मूल आदेशों का समावेश होता है तो प्रत्येक मूल ओदश के लिए फीस का भुगतान उपर्युक्त ढंग से किया जाना चाहिए इस तथ्य के होते हुए भी कि लिखा पढी कार्य से बचने के लिए यथास्थिति अपीलीय न्यायाधिकरण को एक अपील या केन्द्रीय सरकार को एक आवेदन किया जाता हैं।

In case of the order covers a number of order-in-Original, fee for each O.I.O. should be paid in the aforesaid manner notwithstanding the fact that the one appeal to the Appellant Tribunal or the one application to the Central Govt. As the case may be, is filled to avoid scriptoria work if excising Rs. 1 lacs fee of Rs.100/- for each.

(4) न्यायालय शुल्क अधिनियम 1970 यथा संषोधित की अनुसूची -1 के अंतर्गत निर्धारित किए अनुसार उक्त आवेदन या मूलआदेश यथास्थिति निर्णयन प्राधिकारी के आदेश में से प्रत्येक की एक प्रतिपर रू 6.50 पैसे का न्यायालय शुल्क टिकट लगा होना चाहिए।

One copy of application or O.I.O. as the case may be, and the order of the adjournment authority shall a court fee stamp of Rs.6.50 paise as prescribed under scheduled-I item of the court fee Act, 1975 as amended.

(5) इन ओर संबंधित मामलों को नियंत्रण करने वाले नियमों की ओर भी ध्यान आकर्षित किया जाता है जो सीमा शुल्क, केन्द्रीय उत्पादन शुल्क एवं सेवाकर अपीलीय न्यायाधिकरण (कार्याविधि) नियम, 1982 में निहित है।

Attention in invited to the rules covering these and other related matter contended in the Customs, Excise & Service Tax Appellate Tribunal (Procedure) Rules, 1982.

(6) सीमा शुल्क, केन्द्रीय उत्पादन शुल्क एवं सेवाकर अपीलीय न्यायाधिकरण (सिस्टेट) एके प्रति अपीलो के मामले में कर्तव्यमांग (Demand) एवं दंड (Penalty) का 10% पूर्व जमा करना अनिवार्य है। हालांकि, अधिकतम पूर्व जमा 10 करोड़ रुपए है। (Section 35 F of the Central Excise Act, 1944, Section 83 & Section 86 of the Finance Act, 1994)

केन्द्रीय उत्पाद शुल्क और सेवाकर के अंतर्गत, शामिल होगा कर्तव्य की मांग (Duty Demanded)।

- (1) खंड (Section) 11D के तहत निर्धारित राशि;
- (2) लिया गलत सेनवैट क्रेडिट की राशिय;
- (3) सेनवैट क्रेडिट नियमों के नियम 6 के तहत देय राशि।

यह पूर्व जमा ' लंबित अपील' में पहले पूर्व जमा की तुलना मेंए अपील' दाखिल करने के लिए पूर्व शर्त बना दिया गया है।

For an appeal to be filed before the CESTAT, 10% of the Duty & Penalty confirmed by the Appellate Commissioner would have to be pre-deposited, provided that the pre-deposit amount shall not exceed Rs.10 Crores. It may be noted that the pre-deposit is a mandatory condition for filing appeal before CESTAT. (Section 35 C (2A) and 35 F of the Central Excise Act, 1944, Section 83 & Section 86 of the Finance Act, 1994).

Under Central Excise and Service Tax, "Duty demanded" shall include:

- (i) amount determined under Section 11 D;
- (ii) amount of erroneous Cenvat Credit taken;
- (iii) amount payable under Rule 6 of the Cenvat Credit Rules.

(6)(i) इस आदेश के प्रति अपील प्राधिकरण के समक्ष जहाँ शुल्क अथवा शुल्क या दण्ड विवादित हो तो माँग किए गए शुल्क के 10% भुगतान पर और जहाँ केवल दण्ड विवादित हो तब दण्ड के 10% भुगतान पर की जा सकती है।

In view of above, an appeal against this order shall lie before the Tribunal on ayment of 10% of the duty demanded where duty or duty and penalty are in dispute, or penalty, where penalty alone is in dispute."

अपीलिय आदेश / ORDER-IN-APPEAL

The present appeal has been filed by M/s. Dubond Products (India) Pvt. Ltd., Opposite Mahadev Temple, Narmada Pipe Compound, Santej-Vadsar Road, Santej, Gandhinagar - 382721, (hereinafter referred to as the "appellant") against Order-In-Original No.Kalol/DC/D.KHATIK/32/ST/2020-21, dated 12.02.2021 [hereinafter referred to as the "impugned order"], passed by the Deputy Commissioner, CGST, Division: Kalol, Commissionerate: Gandhinagar [hereinafter referred to as the "adjudicating authority"].

- 2. Briefly stated, the facts of the case are that the appellant were holding Central Excise Registration No.AADCD1023GEM001 for manufacturing of excisable goods and also holding Service Tax Registration No. AADCD1023GSD001 for providing taxable services. During the course of audit of the books and account of the appellant by the officers of the Central Tax Audit, Ahmedabad, Revenue Para Nos. 01 to 10, raised under Final Audit Report No.1876/2018-19/EX-ST, dated 03.06.2019, remained unsettled. Issues involved in the Final Audit Report were as under:
 - i) Non-payment of Service Tax under RCM on GTA service; [Service Tax involved- Rs.5,82,875/-]
 - ii) Short-payment of Service Tax under RCM on Manpower Supply service; [Service Tax involved- Rs.4,83,740/-]
 - iii) Non-payment of Service Tax under RCM on Legal Consultancy service; [Service Tax involved- Rs. 24,900/-]
 - iv) Wrong utilization of CENVAT credit for the month of March, 2016 for payment of duty for the month of February, 2016; [CENVAT credit involved-Rs.4,80,652/-]
 - v) Short-payment of Central Excise duty for the month of June, 2017; [Central Excise duty involved- Rs.1,45,318/-]
 - vi) Non-payment of Service Tax under RCM on ocean freight; [Service Tax involved-Rs.8,232/-]
 - vii) Non-payment of penalty / late fee for non-filing of periodical returns; [Penalty/late fee involved-Rs.1,00,000/-]
 - viii) Wrong availment of input service credit, not used in or in relation to manufacture of final products and clearance of goods up to the place of removal; [Service Tax involved- Rs. 18,347/-]
 - ix) Non-payment of Service Tax under RCM on renting of immovable property service provided by the director; [Service Tax involved- Rs.66,875/-]



x) Excess Input Service Credit taken in March, 2016 in respect of Service Tax paid under RCM for the last audit. [Input Service Credit amount involved-Rs.1,11,228/-]

The appellant had not paid the taxes / duty/ late fee/ penalty involved in the above audit paras raised by the officers of the Central Tax Audit, Ahmedabad.

- 3. Therefore, the appellant was issued a Show Cause Notice vide F.No. 109/2019-20/CGST Audit, dated 13.09.2019, wherein it was proposed to:
- ▶ Demand and recover Service Tax amount of Rs.5,82,875/-, Rs.4,83,740/-, Rs.24,900/-, Rs.8,232/-, Rs. 66,875/- under proviso to Section 73(1) of Finance Act, 1994; CENVAT Credit amount of Rs.4,80,652/- under Rule 14 of Central Excise Rules readwith Section 11(4) of Central Excise Act, 1944; Central Excise Duty amounting to Rs. 1,45,318/- under Section 11(4) of Central Excise Act, 1944; Late Fee / penalty amounting to Rs.1,00,000/- under Rule 7C of Service Tax Rules, 1994 readwith Section 70 of Finance Act, 1994 and Rule 12 (6) of the Central Excise Rules, 2002; Input Service Credit amounting to Rs.18,347/- and Rs. 1,11,228/- under Rule 14 of Central Excise Rules,2002 readwith Section 11(4) of Central Excise Act, 1944 and proviso to Section 73(1) of Finance Act, 1994
- ▶ Demand and recover with interest under Rule 14 of Cenvat Credit Rules, 2004
 / Section 11AA of Central Excise Act, 1944 and Section 75 of Finance Act, 1994.
- ➤ Recover penalty under Section 78 of the Finance Act, 1994 and Rule 15 of Cenvat Credit Rules, 2004 readwith Section 11AC of Central Excise Act, 1944.
- 4. The said Show Cause Notice was adjudicated, ex-parte, vide the impugned order wherein:
 - ▶ Demand of Service Tax amount of Rs.5,82,875/-, Rs.4,83,740/-, Rs.24,900/-, Rs.8,232/-, Rs. 66,875/- was confirmed under proviso to Section 73(1) of Finance Act, 1994; the CENVAT Credit amount of Rs.4,80,652/- was disallowed under Rule 14 of Central Excise Rules readwith Section 11(4) of Central Excise Act, 1944; Central Excise Duty amounting to Rs. 1,45,318/- was confirmed under Section 11(4) of Central Excise Act, 1944; Late Fee / penalty amounting to Rs.1,00,000/- was confirmed under Rule 7C of Service Tax Rules, 1994 readwith Section 70 of Finance Act, 1994 and Rule 12 (6) of the Central Excise Rules, 2002; Input Service Credit amounting to Rs.18,347/- and Rs. 1,11,228/- was disallowed under Rule 14 of Central Excise Rules,2002

- readwith Section 11(4) of Central Excise Act, 1944 and proviso to Section 73(1) of Finance Act, 1994
- ▶ Demand of interest was also confirmed under Rule 14 of Cenvat Credit Rules, 2004 / Section 11AA of Central Excise Act, 1944 and Section 75 of Finance Act, 1994.
- ➤ Penalty of Rs.19,22,167/- was confirmed under Section 78 of the Finance Act, 1994 and Rule 15 of Cenvat Credit Rules, 2004 readwith Section 11AC of Central Excise Act, 1944.
- **4.** Being aggrieved with the impugned order passed by the adjudicating authority, the appellant have preferred the present appeal on following grounds:
 - > The appellant had made application under SVLDRS, 2019 on 31.12.2019. With this application, they had thought that the demand is settled and no further dues are pending. However, require payment was not made against the same.
 - > The appellant company noticed a crucial fraud in their company where the person looking after financial and taxation matters had suddenly left the company.
 - > They have no remedy available for relief / immunity against the demand as company is going under various losses and litigation.
- 6. It is observed that the appellant is contesting the demand of Service Tax alongwith Interest & also imposition of penalty total amounting to Rs.40,44,334/[i.e. Service Tax / Central Excise Duty/ Cenvat Credit amount of Rs.20,22,167/-, alongwith interest and also Penalty Rs. 20,22,167/-] confirmed / imposed by the adjudicating authority. Upon scrutiny of the appeal papers filed by the appellant on 04.05.2022, it was noticed that they had submitted DRC-03, dated 04.05.2022 showing payment of Rs.1,52,000/- towards pre-deposit in terms of Section 35F of the Central Excise Act, 1944.
- 7. The CBIC had, consequent to the rollout of the Integrated CBIC-GST Portal, vide Circular No.1070/3/2019-CX dated 24.06.2019, directed that from 1st July, 2019 onwards, a new revised procedure has to be followed by the taxpayers for making arrears of Central Excise & Service Tax payments through portal "CBIC (ICEGATE) E-payment". Subsequently, the CBIC issued Instruction dated 28.10.2022 from F.No.CBIC-240137/14/2022-Service Tax Section-CBEC, wherein it was instructed that the payments made through DRC-03 under CGST regime is not a valid mode of

payment for making pre-deposits under Section 35F of the Central Excise Act, 1944 and Section 83 of the Finance Act, 1994.

- **8.** In terms of Section 35F of the Central Excise Act, 1944, an appeal shall not be entertained unless the appellant deposits 7.5% of the duty in case where duty and penalty are in dispute or 7.5% of penalty where such penalty is in dispute. Relevant legal provisions are reproduced below:-
 - "SECTION 35F: Deposit of certain percentage of duty demanded or penalty imposed before filing appeal. The Tribunal or the Commissioner (Appeals), as the case may be, shall not entertain any appeal —
 - (i) under sub-section (1) of section 35, unless the appellant has deposited seven and a half per cent. of the duty, in case where duty or duty and penalty are in dispute, or penalty, where such penalty is in dispute, in pursuance of a decision or an order passed by an officer of Central Excise lower in rank than the [Principal Commissioner of Central Excise or Commissioner of Central Excise];"
- 9. The appellant was, therefore, called upon vide letter F.No. GAPPL/COM/STP/982/2022-APPEAL dated 24.11.2022 to make the pre-deposit in terms of Board's Circular No.1070/3/2019-CX dated 24.06.2019 read with CBIC Instruction dated 28.10.2022 and submit the document evidencing payment within 10 days of the receipt of this letter. They were also informed that failure to submit proof of pre-deposit would result in dismissal of the appeal for non-compliance in terms of Section 35F of the Central Excise Act, 1944, A reminder letter F.No. GAPPL/COM/STP /982/2022-APPEAL dated 13.12.2022 was also issued to the appellant to make the pre-deposit and to submit the document evidencing payment within 7 days of the receipt of the letter
- 10. However, no communication was received from the appellant, nor did they submit evidence of pre-deposit in terms of Board's Circular No.1070/3/2019-CX dated 24.06.2019. It is observed that though sufficient time was granted to the appellant to make the payment of pre-deposit in terms of Circular No.1070/3/2019-CX dated 24.06.2019, they have failed to furnish proof of revised payment of pre-deposit of 7.5% of the duty/ Tax made in terms of CBIC Instruction dated 28.10.2022 issued from F.No.CBIC-240137/14/2022-Service Tax Section CBEC.
- 11. I find it relevant to mention that the Instruction dated 28.10.2022 was issued by the CBIC consequent to the directions of the Hon'ble Bombay High Court in the case of Sodexo India Services Pvt. Ltd. Vs. UOI and Ors. in Writ Petition No. 6220 of 2022, which is reproduced below:

- "8 Therefore, it does appear that the confusion seems to be due to there being no proper legal provision to accept payment of pre-deposit under Section 35F of the Central Excise Act, 1944 through DRC-03. Some appellants are filing appeals after making pre-deposit payments through DRC-30/GSTR-3B. In our view, this has very wide ramifications and certainly requires the CBI & C to step in and issue suitable clarifications/guidelines/ answers to the FAQs. We would expect CBI & C to take immediate action since the issue has been escalated by Mr.Lal over eight months ago."
- 12. In terms of CBIC's Instruction dated 28.10.2022, I find that the payment made vide DRC-03 cannot be considered as valid payment of pre-deposit. In terms of Section 35F of the Central Excise Act, 1944, the Tribunal or Commissioner (Appeals), as the case may be, shall not entertain any appeal unless the appellant has deposited 7.5% of the duty, in case where duty or duty and penalty are in dispute. These provisions have been made applicable to appeals under Section 85 of the Finance Act, 1994. Hence, this authority is bound by the provisions of the Act and has no powers or jurisdiction to interpret the mandate of Section 35F in any other manner. As such, I hold that for entertaining the appeal, the appellant is required to deposit the amounts in terms of Section 35F, which was not done. I, therefore, dismiss the appeal filed by the appellant for non-compliance of the provisions of Section 35F of the Central Excise Act, 1944.
- 13. In view of the above, the appeal filed by the appellant is dismissed for non-compliance of the provisions of Section 35F of the Central Excise Act, 1944 as made applicable to Service Tax vide Sub-section (5) of Section 85 of the Finance Act, 1994.
- 14. अपीलकर्ता द्वारा दर्ज की गई अपील का निपटारा उपरोक्त तरीके से किया जाता है।
 The appeal filed by the appellant stands disposed of in above terms.

(Âkhilesh Kumar)

Commissioner (Appeals)

Date: 21.02.2023

Attested

(Ajay Kumar Agarwal)

Assistant Commissioner [In-situ] (Appeals)

Central Tax, Ahmedabad.

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- 1. The Principal Chief Commissioner, CGST & C.Ex., Ahmedabad Zone.
- 2. The Principal Commissioner, CGST & C.Ex., Commissionerate: Gandhinagar.
- 3. The Deputy/Assistant Commissioner, CGST & C.Ex., Division-Kalol, Commissionerate: Gandhinagar.
- 4. The Superintendent (System), CGST, Appeals, Ahmedabad. (for uploading the OIA).
- 5. Guard File.
 - 6. P.A. File.