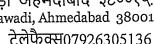


आयुक्त (अपील) का कार्यालय, Office of the Commissioner (Appeal),

केंद्रीय जीएसटी, अपील आयुक्तालय, अहमदाबाद

Central GST, Appeal Commissionerate, Ahmedabad जीएसटी भवन, राजस्व मार्ग, अम्बावाड़ी अहमदाबाद ३८००१५. CGST Bhavan, Revenue Marg, Ambawadi, Ahmedabad 380015





DIN:20230264SW0000018806

स्पीड पोस्ट

- फाइल संख्या : File No : GAPPL/COM/STP/2226/2022-APPEAL 6361-65
- अपील आदेश संख्या Order-In-Appeal Nos. AHM-EXCUS-002-APP-152/2022-23 रव दिनाँक Date : 10-02-2023 जारी करने की तारीख Date of Issue 15.02.2023 आयुक्त (अपील) द्वारा पारित Passed by Shri Akhilesh Kumar, Commissioner (Appeals)
- Arising out of Order-in-Original No. CGST/WT07/RAJ/47/2022-23 दिनाँक: 27.04.2022, ग issued by Deputy/Assistant Commissioner, CGST, Division-VII, Ahmedabad-North
- अपीलकर्ता का नाम एवं पता Name & Address ध

07926305065-

1. Appellant

M/s One Click IT Consultancy Private Limited, 407-412, President Plaza, S. G. Highway, Thaltej, Ahmedabad-380054

The Deputy/ Assistant Commissioner, CGST, Division-VII, Ahmedabad North , 4th Floor, Shahjanand Arcade, Memnagar, Ahmedabad - 380052

कोई व्यक्ति इस अपील आदेश से असंतोष अनुभव करता है तो वह इस आदेश के प्रति यथास्थिति नीचे बताए गए सक्षम अधिकारी को अपील या पुनरीक्षण आवेदन प्रस्तुत कर 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:

- 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
- 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 :
- यदि माल की हानि के मामले में जब ऐसी हानि कारखाने 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 में हो माल की प्रकिया के दौरान हुई हो।
- (ii) In case of any loss of goods where loss occur in transit from a factory to a warehouse or to another factory or form one warehouse to another during the course of processing of the goods in a warehouse.

- (क) भारत के बाहर किसी राष्ट्र या प्रदेश में निर्यातित माल पर या माल के विनिर्माण में उपयोग शुल्क कच्चे माल पर क उत्पादन शुल्क के रिबेट के मामलें में जो भारत के बाहर किसी राष्ट्र या प्रदेश में निर्यातित है।
- (A) 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.
- (ख) यदि शुल्क का भुगतान किए बिना भारत के बाहर (नेपाल या भूटान को) निर्यात किया गया माल हो।
- (B) In case of goods exported outside India export to Nepal or Bhutan, without payment of duty.

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।

- (c) 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.
- (1) 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 भीतर मूल–आदेश एवं अपील आदेश की दो–दो प्रतियों के साथ उचित आवेदन किया जाना चाहिए। उसके साथ खाता इ. का मुख्यशीर्ष के अंतर्गत धारा 35–इ में निर्धारित फी के भुगतान के सबूत के साथ टीआए–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.

(2) रिविजन आवेदन के साथ जहाँ संलग्न रकम एक लाख रूपये या उससे कम हो तो रूपये 200/— फीस भुगतान की जाए और जहाँ संलग्न रकम 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 सेवाकर अपीलीय न्यायाधिकरण के प्रति अपील:— 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 :-

- (क) उक्तलिखित परिच्छेद २ (1) क में बताए अनुसार के अलावा की अपील, अपीलो 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
- (a) To the west regional bench of Customs, Excise & Service Tax Appellate Tribunal (CESTAT) at 2nd floor, Bahumali Bhawan, Asarwa, Girdhar Nagar, Ahmedabad: 380004. in case of appeals other than as mentioned in para-2(i) (a) above.

The appeal to the Appellate Tribunal shall be filed in quadruplicate in form EA-3 as prescribed under Rule 6 of Central Excise(Appeal) Rules, 2001 and shall be accompanied 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 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 संशोधित की अनुसूचि—1 के अंतर्गत निर्धारित किए अनुसार उक्त आवेदन या मूल आदेश यथास्थिति निर्णयन प्राधिकारी के आदेश में से प्रत्येक की एक प्रति पर 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.

(7) सीमा शुल्क, केन्द्रीय उत्पादन शुल्क एवं सेवाकर अपीलीय न्यायाधिकरण (सिस्टेट), के प्रति अपीलो के मामले में कर्तव्य मांग (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 सेवा कर के अंतर्गत, शामिल होगा "कर्तव्य की मांग"(Duty Demanded) -

- (i) (Section) खंड 11D के तहत निर्धारित राशि;
- (ii) लिया गलत सेनवैट क्रेडिट की राशि;
- (iii) सेनवैट क्रेडिट नियमों के नियम 6 के तहत देय राशि.
- ⇒ यह पूर्व जमा 'लंबित अपील' में पहले पूर्व जमा की तुलना में, 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.

्रिकेंद्रिश्रुके प्रति अपील प्राधिकरण के समक्ष जहाँ शुल्क अथवा शुल्क या दण्ड विवादित हो तो माँग किए गए शुल्क 10% भूगतान पर और जहाँ केवल दण्ड विवादित हो तब दण्ड के 10% भुगतान पर की जा सकती हैं।

payment of 10% of the duty demanded where duty or duty and penalty are in dispute, or penalty, where penalty alone is in dispute."

ORDER-IN-APPEAL

The present appeal has been filed by M/s. One Click IT Consultancy Private Limited, 407-412, President Plaza, S.G. Highway, Thaltej, Ahmedabad – 380054 (hereinafter referred to as "the appellant") against Order-in-Original No. CGST/WT07/RAJ/47/2022-23 dated 27.04.2022 (hereinafter referred to as "the impugned order") passed by the Deputy Commissioner, Central GST, Division VII, Ahmedabad North (hereinafter referred to as "the adjudicating authority").

- 2. Briefly stated, the facts of the case are that the appellant is holding PAN No. AABCO6556B. On scrutiny of the data received from the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) for the Financial Year 2014-15, it was noticed that the appellant had earned an income of Rs. 41,63,795/- during the FY 2014-15, which was reflected under the heads "Sales / Gross Receipts from Services (Value from ITR)" or "Total amount paid / credited under Section 194C, 194I, 194H, 194J (Value from Form 26AS)" provided by the Income Tax department. Accordingly, it appeared that the appellant had earned the said substantial income by way of providing taxable services but has neither obtained Service Tax Registration nor paid the applicable service tax thereon. The appellant was called upon to submit copies of Balance Sheet, Profit & Loss Account, Income Tax Return, Form 26AS, for the said period. However, they had not responded to the letters issued by the department.
- Subsequently, the appellant was issued a Show Cause Notice No. CGST/AR-I/Div-VII/A'bad North/TPD/40/2020-21 dated 26.09.2020 demanding Service Tax amounting to Rs. 5,14,645/- for the period FY 2014-15, under proviso to Sub-Section (1) of Section 73 of the Finance Act, 1994. The SCN also proposed recovery of interest under Section 75 of the Finance Act, 1994; and imposition of penalties under Section 77(1)(a), Section 77(1)(c), and Section 77(2) & Section 78 of the Finance Act, 1994. The SCN also proposed recovery of un-quantified amount of Service Tax for the period from FY 2015-16 to FY 2017-18 (up to Jun-17).
- 2.2 The Show Cause Notice was adjudicated ex-parte vide the impugned order by the adjudicating authority wherein the demand of Service Tax amounting to Rs. 5,14,645/- was confirmed under proviso to Sub-Section (1) of Section 73 of the Finance Act, 1994 along with Interest under Section 75 of the Finance Act, 1994 for the period from FY 2014-15. Further (i) Penalty of Rs. 5,14,645/- was also imposed on the appellant under Section 78 of the Finance Act, 1994; (ii) Penalty of Rs. 10,000/- was imposed on the appellant under Section 77(1)(a) & Section 77(1)(c) of the Finance Act, 1994; and (iii) Penalty of Rs. 10,000/- was imposed on the appellant under Section 77(2) of the Finance Act, 1994 for not submitting documents to the department, when salled for.

- 3. Being aggrieved with the impugned order, the appellant have preferred the present appeal on the following grounds:
 - The appellant is a private limited company incorporated under the Companies Act, 1956 with CIN: U72900PN2011PTC141730 engaged in the business of IT Consulting and Software Development.
 - Since incorporation of the company, the aggregate taxable turnover of the appellant did not exceed in any of the financial year till FY 2014-15, the limit of Rs. 10 lacs. Total turnover is more than 10 lacs on account of export services of the company, which were exempt from levy of service tax. However, the appellant had decided to take voluntary registration in June-2015 due to expectations of domestic turnover exceeding specified limit of 10 Lakhs during the year. The appellant had filed all their returns required under Finance Act, 1994 (ST-3) till Jun-2017 before migration to GST.
 - The appellant was carrying out its operation from A-302, Titanium Square, Thaltej, Ahmedabad 380054 at the time of registration and continued till Sept, 2017. The appellant had shifted its office to 406, Sarthik-II, Opp Rajpath Club, Bodakdev, S.G. Highway, Ahmedabad-380054 afterwards and ultimately moved to its present address 407-412, President Plaza, S.G. Highway, Thaltej, Ahmedabad 380054 on 1st June, 2021. The changes in the address were updated on GSTN portal as and when required. Present address of company is also updated on GSTN portal and it is reflected in the GST certificate as after 01.07.2017, service tax is converted into GST and the changes in address that took place in year 2017 and 2021 were updated in GST portal at both the times.
 - When the adjudicating authority issued first letter on 25.07.2020 as mentioned in para 3 of the impugned order, the appellant had shifted to its address 406, Sarthik-II, Opp Raj path Club, Bodakdev, S.G. Highway, Ahmedabad-380054 and hence they did not receive the letter and consequently they were unable to respond. Similarly, the appellant did not receive summons dated 18.08.2020 and Personal Hearing letter dated 07.04.2022 as mentioned in the impugned order. Appellant became aware of such notices issued by department very recently on 09.06.2022 when their old landlord communicated about receipt of order issued by the adjudicating authority dated 27.04.2022. The appellant did not respond to any letter since they were not aware of such letters issued by the department.
 - The adjudicating authority has erred in holding that proviso to section 73(1) for extended period of five years for issue of notice can be invoked due to non-compliance of notices by appellant, however, as mentioned in statement of facts, appellant's failure to respond



was on account of non-service of notice on updated address. Hence the notice issued for adjudication itself is time barred and invalid as it was issued after 30 months of relevant date for FY 2014-15.

- The adjudicating authority has erred in holding that the total taxable turnover of the appellant has exceed the exempt limit assuming total turnover as taxable turnover and failed to appreciate that the total turnover of Rs. 41,63,795/- was inclusive of export turnover of Rs. 39,38,545/- of the services income from export business.
- The adjudicating authority has erred in adopting the total turnover of Rs. 41,63,795/from Income Tax Return as taxable turnover, and ignore the fact that the above turnover
 is inclusive of the export turnover of Rs. 39,38,545/- as per abstract of the ledger
 accounts from the books of the appellant, copies of invoice and schedule of audit report
 indicating the export turnover and domestic turnover separately are submitted by the
 appellant along with appeal memorandum.
- The adjudicating authority has further erred in making ex-party assessment by not providing any opportunity by serving notices at the new address of the appellant which was also uploaded on GST Portal at relevant time.
- The adjudicating authority has also further erred in levying penalty of Rs.10,000/- under section 77(1)(a) & 77(1)(c) of the Finance Act, 1994.
- On the basis of above grounds, the appellants requested that the impugned order confirming demand of service tax, interest thereon and imposing penalties be quashed and set aside.
- 4. Personal hearing in the case was held on 08.02.2023. Shri Niket K. Modi, Chartered Accountant, appeared on behalf of the appellant for personal hearing. He reiterated submission made in appeal memorandum. He stated that he would submit bank statement as part of additional written submission.
- 5. I have carefully gone through the facts of the case, grounds of appeal, submissions made in the Appeal Memorandum and documents available on record. The issue to be decided in the present appeal is whether the impugned order passed by the adjudicating authority, confirming the demand against the appellant along with interest and penalty, in the facts and circumstance of the case is legal and proper or otherwise. The demand pertains to the period FY 2014-15.

find that in the SCN in question, the demand has been raised for the period FY 2014-15 the Income Tax Returns filed by the appellant. Except for the value of "Sales of

Services under Sales / Gross Receipts from Services" provided by the Income Tax Department, no other cogent reason or justification is forthcoming from the SCN for raising the demand against the appellant. It is also not specified as to under which category of service the non-levy of service tax is alleged against the appellant. Merely because the appellant had reported receipts from services, the same cannot form the basis for arriving at the conclusion that the respondent was liable to pay service tax, which was not paid by them. In this regard, I find that CBEC had, vide Instruction dated 26.10.2021, directed that:

"It was further reiterated that demand notices may not be issued indiscriminately based on the difference between the ITR-TDS taxable value and the taxable value in Service Tax Returns."

- 3. It is once again reiterated that instructions of the Board to issue show cause notices based on the difference in ITR-TDS data and service tax returns only after proper verification of facts, may be followed diligently. Pr. Chief Commissioner /Chief Commissioner (s) may devise a suitable mechanism to monitor and prevent issue of indiscriminate show cause notices. Needless to mention that in all such cases where the notices have already been issued, adjudicating authorities are expected to pass a judicious order after proper appreciation of facts and submission of the noticee."
- 6.1 In the present case, I find that letters were issued to the appellant seeking details and documents, which were allegedly not submitted by them. However, without any further inquiry or investigation, the SCN has been issued only on the basis of details received from the Income Tax department, without even specifying the category of service in respect of which service tax is sought to be levied and collected. This, in my considered view, is not a proper ground for raising of demand of service tax and SCN is vague in nature.
- As regard, the contention of the appellant that the impugned order was issued without conducting personal hearing, I find that the adjudicating authority has scheduled personal hearing by specifying 3 (three) different dates i.e. 19.04.2022, 21.04.2022 and 25.04.2022 in the single letter / notice dated 07.04.2022. The appellant have contended that due to change of their office address, the said letter was received by him after long time and, therefore, could not attend the personal hearing. In this regard, I find that the adjudicating authority given three dates of personal hearing in one notice and has considered the same as three opportunities. I also find that there is no mention about any adjournment sought by the appellant.
- 7.1 As per Section 33A(2) of the Central Excise Act, 1944, as made applicable to Service Tax vide Section 83 of the Finance Act, 1994, when a personal hearing is fixed, it is open to a party to seek time by showing sufficient cause and in such case, the adjudicating authority may repart time and adjourn the personal hearing by recording the reason in writing. Not more than

three such adjournments can be granted. Since such adjournments are limited to three, the hearing would be required to be fixed on each such occasion and on every occasion when time is sought and sufficient cause is made out, the case would be adjourned to another date. However, the adjudicating authority is required to give one date a time and record his reasons for granting adjournment on each occasion. It is not permissible for the adjudicating authority to issue one consolidated notice fixing three dates of hearing, whether or not the party asks for time, as has been done in the present case.

- 7.2 It is further observed that by giving notice for personal hearing on three dates in single letter and absence of the appellant on those dates appears to have been considered as grant of three adjournments by the adjudicating authority. In this regard, I find that the Section 33A(2) of the Central Excise Act, 1944 provides for grant of not more than 3 adjournments, which would envisage four dates of personal hearing and not three dates. The similar view has been taken by the Hon'ble High Court of Gujarat in the case of Regent Overseas Private Limited and others Vs. Union of India and others reported in 2017 (3) TMI 557 Gujarat High Court.
- 7.3 In view of the above, I find that the adjudicating authority was required to give adequate and ample opportunity to the appellant for personal hearing and it is only thereafter, he was required to be pass the order. Thus, it is held that the impugned order passed by the adjudicating authority is clearly in breach of the principles of natural justice and is legally unsustainable.
- 8. As regards the merits of the case, I find that the main contention of the appellant are that the total taxable turnover of Rs. 41,63,795/- was inclusive of export turnover of Rs. 39,38,545/- in respect of the services income from export business and exempted from the service tax and remaining income was below the threshold limit of exemption. The appellant have also submitted copies of Audit Report (along with Balance Sheet and Profit & Loss account); income ledger, copy of invoices, etc., which were not submitted to the adjudicating authority, due to non-receipt of SCN or PH letter by the appellant as they have changed their office.
- 8.1 Considering the facts of the case as discussed hereinabove and in the interest of justice, I am of the considered view that the case is required to be remanded back to the adjudicating authority to consider the claim of the appellant for exemption of Service Tax being export of services and decide the case accordingly. The appellant is directed to submit all the records and documents in support of their claim for exemption from service tax due to export of service before the adjudicating authority within 15 days of the receipt of this order. The adjudicating authority shall after considering the records and documents submitted by the appellant decide the case afresh by following the principles of natural justice.

- In view of the above discussion, I allow the appeal filed by the appellant by way of remand to the adjudicating authority to reconsider the issue a fresh and pass a speaking order after following the principles of natural justice.
- अपील कर्ता 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.

Commissioner (Appeals)

Date:10.02.2023

Atteste(

Superintendent(Appeals), CGST, Ahmedabad

By RPAD / SPEED POST

To,

M/s. One Click IT Consultancy Private Limited,

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S.G. Highway, Thaltej,

Ahmedabad – 380054

Appellant

Respondent

The Deputy Commissioner,

CGST, Division-VII,

Ahmedabad North

Copy to:

- 1) The Principal Chief Commissioner, Central GST, Ahmedabad Zone
- 2) The Commissioner, CGST, Ahmedabad North
- 3) The Deputy Commissioner, CGST, Division VII, Ahmedabad North
- 4) The Assistant Commissioner (HQ System), CGST, Ahmedabad North

(for uploading the OIA)

- -Guard File
- 6) PA file



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