



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

केंद्रीय जीएसटी, अपील आयुक्तालय, अहमदाबाद
Central GST, Appeal Commissionerate, Ahmedabad
जीएसटी भवन, राजस्वमार्ग, अम्बावाड़ी अहमदाबाद ३८००१५.
CGST Bhavan, Revenue Marg, Ambawadi, Ahmedabad 380015
07926305065 - टेलिफैक्स 07926305136



DIN: 20230864SW0000111D8B

स्पीड पोस्ट

- क फाइल संख्या : File No : GAPPL/COM/STP/2542/2023 / 5005 - 5009
- ख अपील आदेश संख्या Order-In-Appeal No. AHM-EXCUS-001-APP-100/2023-24
दिनांक Date : 28-08-2023 जारी करने की तारीख Date of Issue 29.08.2023
आयुक्त (अपील) द्वारा पारित
Passed by Shri Shiv Pratap Singh, Commissioner (Appeals)
- ग Arising out of OIO No. 137/WSO8/AC/KSZ/2022-23 दिनांक: 15.12.2022 passed by Assistant Commissioner, CGST, Division VIII, Ahmedabad South.
- घ अपीलकर्ता का नाम एवं पता Name & Address

Appellant

M/s. Solid Tech India Computer Service Private Limited,
Block-A, Office No. 324, Shreya Amalga,
Opp. Avon Hotel, Off Sindhu Bhavan,
Thaltej, Ahmedabad-380059.

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:

(1) केंद्रीय 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।

(i) 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 :

(ii) 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 में हो माल की प्रक्रिया के दौरान हुई हो।

(ii) In case of any loss of goods where the loss occur in transit from a factory to a warehouse 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.



(क) 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 मामलों 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 ड्यूटी क्रेडिट 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 दिनांक 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.

(2) रिविजन आवेदन के साथ जहाँ संलग्न रकम एक लाख रुपये या उससे कम होतो रुपये 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 सेवा कर 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 2 (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. Registrar 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 आदेश 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 है।

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 शुल्कअधिनियम 1970 यथासंशोधित की अनुसूचि-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 कान्यायालय 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 is invited to the rules covering these and other related matter contended in the Customs, Excise & Service Tax Appellate Tribunal (Procedure) Rules, 1982.

17 सीमा शुल्क, केन्द्रीय उत्पादन शुल्क एवं सेवाकर अपीलीय न्यायाधिकरण(सिस्टेट),के प्रतिअपीलो 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)-

- a. (Section) खंड 11D के तहत निर्धारित राशि;
इण लिया गलत सेनवैट क्रेडिट की राशि;
बण 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.

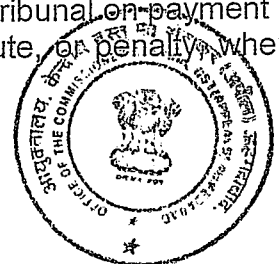
For an appeal to be filed before the CESTAT, 10% of the Duty & Penalty confirmed by the Appellate Commissioner would have to be pre-deposited, provided that the pre-deposit amount shall not exceed Rs.10 Crores. It may be noted that the pre-deposit is a mandatory condition for filing appeal before CESTAT. (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.

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 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. Solid Tech India Computer Services Private Limited, Block-A, Office No. 324, Shreeya Amalga, Opp. Avon Hotel, Off Sindhu Bhavan, Thaltej, Ahmedabad – 380059 (hereinafter referred to as “the appellant”) against Order-in-Original No. 137/WS08/AC/KSZ/2022-23 dated 15.12.2022 issued on 16.12.2022 (hereinafter referred to as “the impugned order”) passed by the Assistant Commissioner, Central GST, Division II, Ahmedabad South (hereinafter referred to as “the adjudicating authority”).

2. Briefly stated, the facts of the case are that the appellant were holding Service Tax Registration No. AAOCS3034KSD001. On scrutiny of the data received from the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) for the Financial Year 2015-16, it was noticed that there is difference of value of service amounting to Rs. 1,08,61,070/- between the gross value of service provided in the said data and the gross value of service shown in Service Tax return filed by the appellant for the FY 2015-16. Accordingly, it appeared that the appellant had earned the said substantial income by way of providing taxable services but not paid the applicable service tax thereon. The appellant were called upon to submit clarification for difference along with supporting documents, for the said period. However, the appellant had not responded to the letters issued by the department.

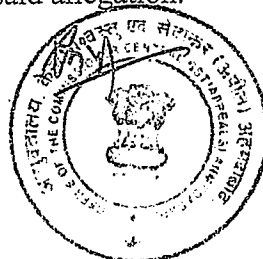
2.1 Subsequently, the appellant were issued Show Cause Notice No. CGST/WS0801/O&A/TPD(15-16)/AAOCS3034K/2020-21/5353 dated 21.12.2020 demanding Service Tax amounting to Rs. 15,74,855/- for the period FY 2015-16, under proviso to Sub-Section (1) of Section 73 of the Finance Act, 1994. The SCN also proposed recovery of interest under Section 75 of the Finance Act, 1994; and imposition of penalties under Section 77 and Section 78 of the Finance Act, 1994.

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. 15,74,855/- 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 FY 2015-16. Further (i) Penalty of Rs. 15,74,855/- was imposed on the appellant under Section 78 of the Finance Act, 1994; and (ii) Penalty of Rs. 10,000/- was imposed on the appellant under Section 77(2) of the Finance Act, 1994.

3. Being aggrieved with the impugned order passed by the adjudicating authority, the appellant have preferred the present appeal, inter alia, on the following grounds:



- The company is engaged in computer services business and holding Service Tax Registration No. AAOCS3034KSD001 and filed their ST-3 returns regularly.
- The books of accounts of the company was audited as per company act. As per the company act the income is recorded on actual billing basis. At the end of the year, the service income is bifurcated on the basis of the period of service i.e. current financial year and next financial year. The total service income for the current financial year is shown in the current financial year by reducing the next financial year period amount and shown as current liabilities in the balance sheet. The same amount was shown in the next financial year as Service income of the company. A computation/reconciliation sheet for the financial year 2013-14, 2014-15 and 2015-16 is attached along with appeal memorandum.
- The company has paid service-tax as per Invoice issued without considering the income bifurcated on the basis of period. In the ST-3 the opening amount of the Service income and closing amount of the service income calculated as per period of the service are not considered. The difference between ST-3 and Income shown in the Audited Profit & Loss account is done and same calculation is shown in the sheet.
- The appellant further submitted that the Service-tax Audit for the FY 2015-16 was completed by Assistant commissioner CGST Audit, Circle-IV, Ahmedabad and the same Final Audit Report No. 99/2017-18-Service Tax is not taken into consideration by the adjudicating authority. As per the Audit report the demand of Rs. 4520/- made and which is paid by them.
- Neither appellant has been granted sufficient time for filing of reply to the show cause notice nor any opportunity of personal hearing was granted to the appellant before adjudication of the matter violating the Principles of Natural Justice. Consequently impugned order has been passed without considering submissions made by the appellant towards allegations made in the show cause notice.
- The extended period can only be invoked in terms of proviso to section 73(1) of finance Act,1994 i.e. only in cases where ingredient of fraud, collusion, willful misstatement, suppression of facts etc. with an intent to evade tax are present. There is no evidence adduced on record to prove the aforesaid allegation.



- The point of taxation rule, 2011 the general rule of determining the time of provision of service will be the date of issue of invoice or date of receipt of payment whichever is earliest. As per rules Service tax paid in advance receipt not to be collected again at time of issue of invoice.
- No interest can be charged under section 75 of the Finance Act, 1994 since the service tax itself is not payable. Penalty under section 78 of act is not leviable as appellant had not contravened any of the provision of act or rules made there under. There is no mens rea, no deliberate/guilt intention or dishonesty on the part of appellant and the appellant acted in good faith. Thus, penalty under section 78 of act cannot be imposed in present case.

4. Personal hearing in the case was held on 21.08.2023. Shri Ramesh K. Ladumor, Finance Head, appeared on behalf of the appellant for personal hearing and reiterated submissions made in appeal memorandum. He submitted copy of Order-in-Original No. 412 dated 17.03.2023 passed by the Deputy Commissioner, Technical, Ahmedabad South Commissionerate, vide which proceeding initiated for the same period i.e. FY 2015-16 under another show cause notice have been dropped base on final audit report dated 03.0.2017, covering the period of financial year 2015-16. Therefore, he requested to set aside the impugned order which has been passed ex-parte without any verification.

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 of service tax 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 2015-16.

6. It is observed that the main contentions of the appellant is that when the department had already conducted service tax audit of the year 2015-16, the demand of service tax for the impugned period on the basis of income tax return data is not sustainable.

6.1 It is also observed that the adjudicating authority has confirmed the demand of service tax vide the impugned order passed ex-parte.

7. I find that in the SCN in question, the demand has been raised for the period FY 2015-16 based on 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 CBIC had, vide Instruction dated 26.10.2021, directed that:

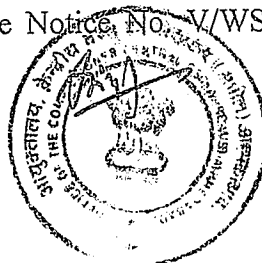
"It was further reiterated that demand notices may not be issued indiscriminately based on the difference between the ITR-TDS taxable value and the taxable value in Service Tax Returns.

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."

7.1 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 valid ground for raising of demand of service tax, specifically in the present case, where the appellant is already registered with the service tax department, filed their ST-3 Returns regularly and Audit of the books of account of the appellant already concluded by the departmental audit officer for the relevant period.

8. On verification of the Final Audit Report No. 99/2017-18-Service Tax dated 31.09.2017, I find that the audit of the books of account of the appellant already conducted and concluded for the period FY 2015-16. I also find that there are only one Revenue Para in the said FAR. The appellant agreed with the said objection and paid the amount detected by the audit along with interest during the course of audit. Thus, the said para also settled by the audit.

9. On verification of the documents submitted by the appellant during the course of personal hearing, I also find that one more Show Cause Notice No. V/WS06/O&A/SCN-

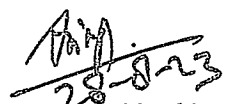


523/2020-21 dated 26.12.2020 also issued to the appellant for the same service tax registration number i.e. AAOCS3034KSD001 for the same Financial Year i.e. 2015-16 and demanding service tax on the same differential value i.e. Rs. 1,08,61,070/-. I also find that the said SCN was adjudicated by the Deputy Commissioner (Tech), CGST, Ahmedabad South Commissionerate, vide his Order-in-Original No. 412/DC/SOLID TECH/DIV-6/A'BAD SOUTH/PMT/2022-23 dated 17.03.2023 and dropped proceeding initiated against the appellant vide the SCN No. 26.12.2020 based on the ground that the audit for the relevant period i.e. FY 2015-16 has already been concluded by the department and Final Audit Report No. 99/2017-18-Service Tax dated 03.10.2017 has been issued. Thus, I find that the adjudicating authority has passed the impugned order without verifying the office records and such order issued by him not sustainable.

10. In view of the above, without going in to further discussion, I am of the considered view that when the audit of the financial records of the appellant has already been conducted for the period under dispute and the appellant had paid the required service tax for the FY 2015-16, the present show cause notice for the FY 2015-16 is not legally sustainable and is deemed to be concluded. The impugned order confirming the demand of service tax on the basis of present show cause notice is also required to be set aside. Since the demand of service tax is not sustainable on merits, there does not arise any question of charging interest or imposing penalties in the case.


11. Accordingly, I set aside the impugned order and allow the appeal filed by the appellant.

12. 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.


(Shiv Pratap Singh)
Commissioner (Appeals)

Attested

Date : 28.08.2023


(R. C. Maniyar)
Superintendent(Appeals),
CGST, Ahmedabad



By RPAD / SPEED POST

To,

M/s. Solid Tech India Computer Services Private Limited,
Block-A, Office No. 324, Shreeya Amalga,
Opp. Avon Hotel, Off Sindhu Bhavan,
Thaltej, Ahmedabad – 380059

Appellant

The Assistant Commissioner,
CGST, Division-II,
Ahmedabad South

Respondent

Copy to :

- 1) The Principal Chief Commissioner, Central GST, Ahmedabad Zone
- 2) The Commissioner, CGST, Ahmedabad South
- 3) The Assistant Commissioner, CGST, Division II, Ahmedabad South
- 4) The Assistant Commissioner (HQ System), CGST, Ahmedabad South
(for uploading the OIA)

- 5) Guard File
- 6) PA file

