



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 : 20230764SW0000222D5E

स्पीड पोस्ट

- क फाइल संख्या : File No : GAPPL/COM/STP/1585/2023 / 1508-4022
- ख अपील आदेश संख्या Order-In-Appeal No. AHM-EXCUS-001-APP-73/2023-24
दिनांक Date : 28-07-2023 जारी करने की तारीख Date of Issue 31.07.2023
आयुक्त (अपील) द्वारा पारित
Passed by Shri Shiv Pratap Singh, Commissioner (Appeals)
- ग Arising out of OIO No. 158/WS08/AC/KSZ/2022-23 दिनांक: 16.12.2022 passed by Assistant Commissioner, CGST, Division-VIII, Ahmedabad South
- ध अपीलकर्ता का नाम एवं पता Name & Address

Appellant

M/s Spectra Technovision (India) Pvt Ltd
707-708, Venus Atlantis Corporate,
Prahlanagar Road, Satellite,
Ahmedabad - 380015

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) 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।

(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 प्रकिया 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.

69प 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.

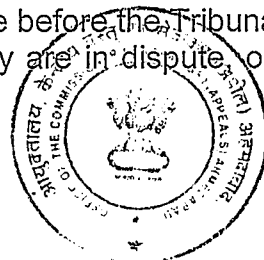
For an appeal to be filed before the CESTAT, 10% of the Duty & Penalty confirmed by the Appellate Commissioner would have to be pre-deposited, provided that the pre-deposit amount shall not exceed Rs.10 Crores. It may be noted that the pre-deposit is a mandatory condition for filing appeal before CESTAT.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

- (lxxiii) amount determined under Section 11 D;
(lxxiv) amount of erroneous Cenvat Credit taken;
(lxxv) 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 मांग 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. Spectra Technovision (India) Private Limited, 707-708, Venus Atlantis Corporate, Prahaladnagar Road, Satellite, Ahmedabad – 380015 (hereinafter referred to as “the appellant”) against Order-in-Original No. 158/WS08/AC/KSZ/22-23 dated 16.12.2022 (hereinafter referred to as “the impugned order”) passed by the Assistant Commissioner, Central GST, Division-VIII, Ahmedabad South (hereinafter referred to as “the adjudicating authority”).

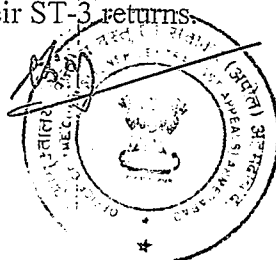
2. Briefly stated, the facts of the case are that the appellant were holding Service Tax Registration No. AAICS3704JST001. On scrutiny of the data received from the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) for the Financial Year 2015-16, it was noticed that there is difference of value of service amounting to Rs. 17,41,351/- 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. 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/WS0802/O&A/TPD(15-16)AAICS3704J/2020-21 dated 21.12.2020 demanding Service Tax amounting to Rs. 2,52,495/- 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.

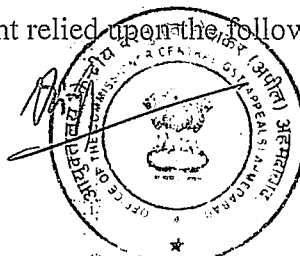
2.2 The Show Cause Notice was adjudicated, ex-parte, vide the impugned order by the adjudicating authority wherein the demand of Service Tax amounting to Rs. 2,52,495/- was confirmed under proviso to Sub-Section (1) of Section 73 of the Finance Act, 1994 along with Interest under Section 75 of the Finance Act, 1994 for the period from FY 2014-15. Further, (i) Penalty of Rs. 2,52,495/- 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 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 appellant is engaged in providing maintenance services of machines and were registered with service tax department holding Service Tax Registration No. AAICS3704JST001 and regularly filed their ST-3 returns.



- The appellant was also subjected to Service Tax Departmental Audit for the period FY 2014-2015 till FY 2017-2018 (Q1) and the said audit was concluded after several visits on 02.07.2019, 03.07.2019 & 11.07.2019 and at later stage on 28.08.2019 the department have also issued Final Audit Report No. 61/20192020 (F.No. VI/1(B)-141/C-I/Audit/AP-22/Ahmd/18-19). The appellant submitted the copy of the FAR along with appeal memorandum.
- The appellant submitted that the FAR No. 61/2019-2020 issued for the period FY 2014-2015 to FY 2017-2018 (Q1) and in which FY 2015-16 is covered, wherein under the officer on duty have verified all the details of the Income reflected in their books of accounts, ITR, 26AS and ST-3 return and was satisfied that there is no amount left to be declared in ST-3 returns on which the appellant was liable to pay service tax.
- Accordingly, the appellant contend that the adjudicating authority had ignored the audit report or has never bothered to verify the same before issuance of this alleged SCN as the copy of the said final audit report is also send to jurisdictional office of the adjudicating authority.
- The appellant submitted that there cannot, be duplication of verification from the adjudicating authority as the same is already been verified and in this relation the demand deserved to be dropped.
- The difference as per alleged SCN is due to brought forward and carry forward of provisional income in the ledger for Annual Maintenance Contract (AMC) for FY 2015-2016, which was already explained to the audit officers. They have also submitted reconciliation again along with appeal memorandum with copy of relevant documents.
- The issuance of show cause notice is without any verification of facts with regard to taxability on the activities of the appellant does not have any locus standi.
- The appellant submitted that they have not received any of the communication referred in the impugned order and therefore could not produce the required details. Before the case is adjudicated, the adjudicating authority has not bothered to verify as to whether any of the communication referred in the order was acknowledged by the appellant or not. In this regard the appellant relied upon the following case laws:



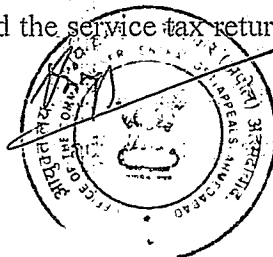
- a) Ashesh Goradia vs Commissioner of Central Excise, Mumbai-III reported at 2013 (295) E.L.T. 547 (Tri.Mumbai)
- b) V.K. Thampi vs Collector of Customs and Central Excise, Cochin reported at 1988 (33) E.L.T. 424 (Tribunal)

- o The appellant submitted that as entire details before the department and the same is also verified by audit section and have also issued audit report on 28.09.2019 covering FY 2015-2016 and all the details were already in knowledge of authorities. Thus, the alleged SCN is otherwise time barred as being issued on 21.12.2020 and benefit of extended period is not available to the department.
- o As submitted and contended above, the demand of Rs. 2,52,495/- is not sustainable on merit, no interest is recoverable and no penalty is imposable from the appellant, the confirmation of the same vide impugned order is not legal and correct.

4. Personal hearing in the case was held on 14.07.2023. Shri Pravin Dhandharia, Chartered Accountant, appeared on behalf of the appellant for personal hearing and reiterated the submission made in the appeal. He submitted that the Show Cause Notice was issued without any verification, merely on the basis of income tax data, which is violation of the master circular and rulings by Tribunal and bad in law. He, further, submitted that the difference in the income as per IT data and the service tax return filed by them was on account of pre-receipt AMC income for which service tax was paid in the previous year and unbilled AMC income being credited ST payable on invoicing. He, further, submitted that the adjudicating authority has ignored departmental audit report for the period 2014-15 till first quarter of 2017-18, in which the period under dispute is already covered. After the said audit, no service tax amount was payable by them. Apart from the above, show cause notice is also time barred. He requested to set aside the impugned order.

5. I have carefully gone through the facts of the case, grounds of appeal, submissions made in the Appeal Memorandum, additional written submission, during the course of personal hearing 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 in the appeal memorandum are that (i) that the adjudicating authority has ignored departmental audit report for the period 2014-15 till first quarter of 2017-18, in which the period under dispute is already covered; and (ii) the difference in the income as per IT data and the service tax return filed by them was on



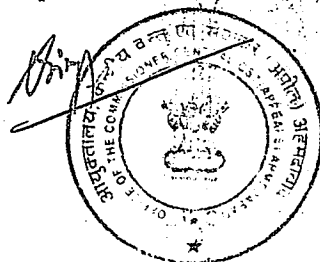
account of pre-receipt AMC income for which service tax was paid in the previous year and unbilled AMC income being credited ST payable on invoicing. It is also observed that the adjudicating authority has confirmed the demand of service tax in the impugned order passed ex-parte.

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, when the appellant already registered with the service tax department and filed their ST-3 Returns from time to time and audit of their financial records for the period from April-2014 to June-2017 has been already concluded by the audit department and Final Audit Report No. 51/2019-20-Service Tax dated 28.08.2019 issued.



8. On verification of the Final Audit Report No. 61/2019-20-Service Tax dated 28.08.2019, I find that the audit officer conducted audit for the period from April-2014 to June-2017 and total three Revenue Para raised in the said FAR. All the three observation made by the audit accepted by the appellant and required tax along with interest and penalty has been paid by the appellant and thus FAR found to be concluded.

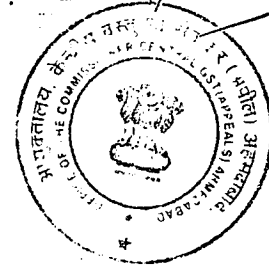
9. In view of the above, I am of the considered view that when the audit of the financial records of the appellant has already been conducted for the period under dispute and the appellant had paid the required service tax for the said period and also the appellant had paid short payment of tax, interest and penalty during the audit, on the objections raised by the audit officers, the present show cause notice is not legally sustainable and is required to be concluded as the same period already covered under the audit. 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.

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

11. 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)

Date : 28-7-23



Attested

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

By RPAD / SPEED POST

To,
M/s. Spectra Technovision (India) Private Limited,
707-708, Venus Atlantis Corporate,
Praladnagar Road, Satellite,
Ahmedabad – 380015

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

Appellant

Respondent

Copy to :

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

- 5) Guard File
- 6) PA file

