

[TO BE PUBLISHED IN THE GAZETTE OF INDIA, EXTRAORDINARY, PART II,
SECTION 3, SUB-SECTION (i)]

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF FINANCE
(Department of Revenue)
Notification No. 8/2021-Central Tax (Rate)

New Delhi, the 30th September, 2021

G.S.R.(E).- In exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (1) of section 9 and sub-section (5) of section 15 of the Central Goods and Services Tax Act, 2017 (12 of 2017), the Central Government, on the recommendations of the Council, hereby makes the following further amendments in the notification of the Government of India in the Ministry of Finance (Department of Revenue), No.1/2017-Central Tax (Rate), dated the 28th June, 2017, published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 3, Sub-section (i), *vide* number G.S.R. 673(E)., dated the 28th June, 2017, namely:-

In the said notification, -

(a) in Schedule I – 2.5%, -

(i) after S. No. 71 and the entries relating thereto, the following S. No. and entries shall be inserted, namely: -

“71A	1209	Tamarind seeds meant for any use other than sowing”;
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(ii) S. Nos. 138 to 148 and the entries relating thereto shall be omitted;

(iii) after S. No. 186 and the entries relating thereto, the following S. No. and entries shall be inserted, namely: -

“186A	3826	Bio-diesel supplied to Oil Marketing Companies for blending with High Speed Diesel”;
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(iv) S. No. 187A and the entries relating thereto shall be omitted;

(v) S. No. 234 and the entries relating thereto shall be omitted;

(vi) in List 1, after item number 231 and the entries relating thereto, the following shall be inserted, namely: -

“(232) Pembrolizumab (Keytruda)”;

(vii) in List 3, after item number (B) (2) and the entries relating thereto, the following shall be inserted, namely: -

" (3) Retro fitment kits for vehicles used by the disabled”;

(b) in Schedule II – 6%, -

(i) against S. No. 80A, in column (3), for the entry, the following entry shall be substituted, namely: -

“Bio-diesel (other than bio-diesel supplied to Oil Marketing Companies for blending with High Speed Diesel)”;

(ii) S. No. 122 and the entries relating thereto shall be omitted;

(iii) S. Nos. 127 to 132 and the entries relating thereto shall be omitted;

(iv) after S. No. 201 and the entries relating thereto, the following S. No. and entries shall be inserted, namely: -

“201A	84, 85 or 94	Following renewable energy devices and parts for their manufacture:- (a) Bio-gas plant; (b) Solar power based devices; (c) Solar power generator; (d) Wind mills, Wind Operated Electricity Generator (WOEG); (e) Waste to energy plants / devices; (f) Solar lantern / solar lamp; (g) Ocean waves/tidal waves energy devices/plants; (h) Photo voltaic cells, whether or not assembled in modules or made up into panels. Explanation:- If the goods specified in this entry are
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		supplied, by a supplier, along with supplies of other goods and services, one of which being a taxable service specified in the entry at S. No. 38 of the Table mentioned in the notification No. 11/2017-Central Tax (Rate), dated 28 th June, 2017 [G.S.R. 690(E)], the value of supply of goods for the purposes of this entry shall be deemed as seventy per cent. of the gross consideration charged for all such supplies, and the remaining thirty per cent. of the gross consideration charged shall be deemed as value of the said taxable service.”;
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(v) S. Nos. 205A to 205H and the entries relating thereto shall be omitted;

(vi) S. No. 232 and the entries relating thereto shall be omitted;

(c) in Schedule III – 9%, -

(i) after S. No. 26B and the entries relating thereto, the following S. No. and entries shall be inserted, namely: -

“26C	2601	Iron ores and concentrates, including roasted iron pyrites.
26D	2602	Manganese ores and concentrates, including ferruginous manganese ores and concentrates with a manganese content of 20% or more, calculated on the dry weight.
26E	2603	Copper ores and concentrates.
26F	2604	Nickel ores and concentrates.
26G	2605	Cobalt ores and concentrates.
26H	2606	Aluminium ores and concentrates.
26I	2607	Lead ores and concentrates.
26J	2608	Zinc ores and concentrates.
26K	2609	Tin ores and concentrates.

26L	2610	Chromium ores and concentrates.”;
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(ii) after S. No. 101 and the entries relating thereto, the following S. No. and entries shall be inserted, namely: -

“101A	3915	Waste, Parings and Scrap, of Plastics.”;
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(iii) for S. No. 153A and the entries relating thereto, the following S. No. and the entries shall be substituted, namely: -

“153A.	4819	Cartons, boxes, cases, bags and other packing containers, of paper, paperboard, cellulose wadding or webs of cellulose fibres; box files, letter trays, and similar articles, of paper or paperboard of a kind used in offices, shops or the like.”;
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(iv) after S. No. 157 and the entries relating thereto, the following S. No. and entries shall be inserted, namely: -

“157A.	4906 00 00	Plans and drawings for architectural, engineering, industrial, commercial, topographical or similar purposes, being originals drawn by hand; hand-written texts; photographic reproductions on sensitised paper and carbon copies of the foregoing.
157B.	4907	Unused postage, revenue or similar stamps of current or new issue in the country in which they have, or will have, a recognised face value; stamp-impressed paper; banknotes; cheque forms; stock, share or bond certificates and similar documents of title (other than Duty Credit Scrips).
157C.	4908	Transfers (decalcomanias).
157D.	4909	Printed or illustrated postcards; printed cards bearing personal greetings, messages or announcements, whether or not illustrated, with or without envelopes or trimmings.
157E.	4910	Calendars of any kind, printed, including calendar blocks.
157F.	4911	Other printed matter, including printed pictures and photographs; such as Trade advertising material, Commercial catalogues and the like, printed Posters, Commercial catalogues, Printed inlay

		cards, Pictures, designs and photographs, Plan and drawings for architectural engineering, industrial, commercial, topographical or similar purposes reproduced with the aid of computer or any other devices.”;
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(v) after S. No. 398 and the entries relating thereto, the following S. No. and entries shall be inserted, namely: -

“398A	8601	Rail locomotives powered from an external source of electricity or by electric accumulators.
398B	8602	Other rail locomotives; locomotive tenders; such as Diesel electric locomotives, Steam locomotives and tenders thereof.
398C	8603	Self-propelled railway or tramway coaches, vans and trucks, other than those of heading 8604.
398D	8604	Railway or tramway maintenance or service vehicles, whether or not self-propelled (for example, workshops, cranes, ballast tampers, track liners, testing coaches and track inspection vehicles).
398E	8605	Railway or tramway passenger coaches, not self-propelled; luggage vans, post office coaches and other special purpose railway or tramway coaches, not self-propelled (excluding those of heading 8604).
398F	8606	Railway or tramway goods vans and wagons, not self-propelled.
398G	8607	Parts of railway or tramway locomotives or rolling-stock; such as Bogies, bissel-bogies, axles and wheels, and parts thereof.
398H	8608	Railway or tramway track fixtures and fittings; mechanical (including electro-mechanical) signalling, safety or traffic control equipment for railways, tramways, roads, inland waterways, parking facilities, port installations or airfields; parts of the foregoing.”;

(vi) against S. No. 447, in column (3), for the entry, the entry “Ball point pens; felt tipped and other porous-tipped pens and markers; fountain pens; stylograph pens and

other pens; duplicating stylos; pen holders, pencil holders and similar holders; parts (including caps and clips) of the foregoing articles, other than those of heading 9609.”, shall be substituted;

(d) in Schedule IV – 14%, -

(i) after S. No. 12A and the entries relating thereto, the following S. No. and entries shall be inserted, namely: -

“12B	2202	Carbonated Beverages of Fruit Drink or Carbonated Beverages with Fruit Juice.”;
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2. This notification shall come into force on the 1st day of October, 2021.

[F.No.190354/206/2021-TRU]

(Rajeev Ranjan)

Under Secretary to the Government of India

Note: - The principal notification No.1/2017-Central Tax (Rate), dated the 28th June, 2017, was published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 3, Sub-section (i), *vide* number G.S.R. 673(E), dated the 28th June, 2017, and was last amended by notification No. 01/2021 – Central Tax (Rate), dated the 2nd June, 2021, published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 3, Sub-section (i) *vide* number G.S.R. 374(E), dated the 2nd June, 2021.

F.No. CBIC-20001/8/2021-GST
Government of India
Ministry of Finance
Department of Revenue
Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs
GST Policy Wing

New Delhi, dated the 20th September, 2021

To,

The Principal Chief Commissioners/ Chief Commissioners/ Principal Commissioners/
Commissioners of Central Tax (All)

The Principal Directors General/ Directors General (All)

Madam/Sir,

Subject: Clarification on doubts related to scope of “Intermediary”–reg.

Representations have been received citing ambiguity caused in interpretation of the scope of “Intermediary services” in the GST Law. The matter has been examined. In view of the difficulties being faced by the trade and industry and to ensure uniformity in the implementation of the provisions of the law across field formations, the Board, in exercise of its powers conferred by section 168 (1) of the Central Goods and Services Tax Act, 2017 (hereinafter referred to as “CGST Act”), hereby clarifies the issues in succeeding paragraphs.

2. Scope of Intermediary services

2.1 ‘Intermediary’ has been defined in the sub-section (13) of section 2 of the Integrated Goods and Services Tax Act, 2017 (hereinafter referred to as “IGST” Act) as under–

“Intermediary means a broker, an agent or any other person, by whatever name called, who arranges or facilitates the supply of goods or services or both, or securities, between two or more persons, but does not include a person who supplies such goods or services or both or securities on his own account.”

2.2 The concept of ‘intermediary’ was borrowed in GST from the Service Tax Regime. The definition of ‘intermediary’ in the Service Tax law as given in Rule 2(f) of Place of Provision of Services Rules, 2012 issued vide notification No. 28/2012-ST, dated 20-6-2012 was as follows:

“intermediary” means a broker, an agent or any other person, by whatever name called, who arranges or facilitates a provision of a service (hereinafter called the ‘main’ service) or a

supply of goods, between two or more persons, but does not include a person who provides the main service or supplies the goods on his account;”

2.3 From the perusal of the definition of “intermediary” under IGST Act as well as under Service Tax law, it is evident that there is broadly no change in the scope of intermediary services in the GST regime vis-à-vis the Service Tax regime, except addition of supply of securities in the definition of intermediary in the GST Law.

3. Primary Requirements for intermediary services

The concept of intermediary services, as defined above, requires some basic pre-requisites, which are discussed below:

3.1 Minimum of Three Parties: By definition, an intermediary is someone who arranges or facilitates the supplies of goods or services or securities between two or more persons. It is thus a natural corollary that the arrangement requires a minimum of three parties, two of them transacting in the supply of goods or services or securities (the main supply) and one arranging or facilitating (the ancillary supply) the said main supply. An activity between only two parties can, therefore, NOT be considered as an intermediary service. An intermediary essentially “arranges or facilitates” another supply (the “main supply”) between two or more other persons and, does not himself provide the main supply.

3.2 Two distinct supplies: As discussed above, there are two distinct supplies in case of provision of intermediary services;

(1) Main supply, between the two principals, which can be a supply of goods or services or securities;

(2) Ancillary supply, which is the service of facilitating or arranging the main supply between the two principals. This ancillary supply is supply of intermediary service and is clearly identifiable and distinguished from the main supply.

A person involved in supply of main supply on principal to principal basis to another person cannot be considered as supplier of intermediary service.

3.3 Intermediary service provider to have the character of an agent, broker or any other similar person: The definition of “intermediary” itself provides that intermediary service provider *means a broker, an agent or any other person, by whatever name called....*”. This part of the definition is not inclusive but uses the expression “means” and does not expand the definition by any known expression of expansion such as “and includes”. The use of the expression “arranges or facilitates” in the definition of “intermediary” suggests a subsidiary role for the intermediary. It must arrange or facilitate some other supply, which is the main supply, and does not himself provides the main supply. Thus, the role of intermediary is only supportive.

3.4 Does not include a person who supplies such goods or services or both or securities on his own account: The definition of intermediary services specifically mentions

that intermediary “does not include a person who supplies **such** goods or services or both or securities on his own account”. Use of word “**such**” in the definition with reference to supply of goods or services refers to the main supply of goods or services or both, or securities, between two or more persons, which are arranged or facilitated by the intermediary. It implies that in cases wherein the person supplies the main supply, either fully or partly, on principal to principal basis, the said supply cannot be covered under the scope of “intermediary”.

3.5 Sub-contracting for a service is not an intermediary service: An important exclusion from intermediary is sub-contracting. The supplier of main service may decide to outsource the supply of the main service, either fully or partly, to one or more sub-contractors. Such sub-contractor provides the main supply, either fully or a part thereof, and does not merely arrange or facilitate the main supply between the principal supplier and his customers, and therefore, clearly is not an intermediary. For instance, ‘A’ and ‘B’ have entered into a contract as per which ‘A’ needs to provide a service of, say, Annual Maintenance of tools and machinery to ‘B’. ‘A’ subcontracts a part or whole of it to ‘C’. Accordingly, ‘C’ provides the service of annual maintenance to ‘A’ as part of such sub-contract, by providing annual maintenance of tools and machinery to the customer of ‘A’, i.e. to ‘B’ on behalf of ‘A’. Though ‘C’ is dealing with the customer of ‘A’, but ‘C’ is providing main supply of Annual Maintenance Service to ‘A’ on his own account, i.e. on principal to principal basis. In this case, ‘A’ is providing supply of Annual Maintenance Service to ‘B’, whereas ‘C’ is supplying the same service to ‘A’. Thus, supply of service by ‘C’ in this case will not be considered as an intermediary.

3.6 The specific provision of place of supply of ‘intermediary services’ under section 13 of the IGST Act shall be invoked **only when** either the location of supplier of intermediary services or location of the recipient of intermediary services is outside India.

4. Applying the abovementioned guiding principles, the issue of intermediary services is clarified through the following illustrations:

Illustration 1

‘A’ is a manufacturer and supplier of a machine. ‘C’ helps ‘A’ in selling the machine by identifying client ‘B’ who wants to purchase this machine and helps in finalizing the contract of supply of machine by ‘A’ to ‘B’. ‘C’ charges ‘A’ for his services of locating ‘B’ and helping in finalizing the sale of machine between ‘A’ and ‘B’, for which ‘C’ invoices ‘A’ and is paid by ‘A’ for the same. While ‘A’ and ‘B’ are involved in the main supply of the machinery, ‘C’, is facilitating the supply of machine between ‘A’ and ‘B’. In this arrangement, ‘C’ is providing the ancillary supply of arranging or facilitating the ‘main supply’ of machinery between ‘A’ and ‘B’ and therefore, ‘C’ is an intermediary and is providing intermediary service to ‘A’.

Illustration 2

‘A’ is a software company which develops software for the clients as per their requirement. ‘A’ has a contract with ‘B’ for providing some customized software for its business operations.

‘A’ outsources the task of design and development of a particular module of the software to ‘C’, for which ‘C’ may have to interact with ‘B’, to know their specific requirements. In this case, ‘C’ is providing main supply of service of design and development of software to ‘A’, and thus, ‘C’ is not an intermediary in this case.

Illustration 3

An insurance company ‘P’, located outside India, requires to process insurance claims of its clients in respect of the insurance service being provided by ‘P’ to the clients. For processing insurance claims, ‘P’ decides to outsource this work to some other firm. For this purpose, he approaches ‘Q’, located in India, for arranging insurance claims processing service from other service providers in India. ‘Q’ contacts ‘R’, who is in business of providing such insurance claims processing service, and arranges supply of insurance claims processing service by ‘R’ to ‘P’. ‘Q’ charges P a commission or service charge of 1% of the contract value of insurance claims processing service provided by ‘R’ to ‘P’. In such a case, main supply of insurance claims processing service is between ‘P’ and ‘R’, while ‘Q’ is merely arranging or facilitating the supply of services between ‘P’ and ‘R’, and not himself providing the main supply of services. Accordingly, in this case, ‘Q’ acts as an intermediary as per definition of sub-section (13) of section 2 of the IGST Act.

Illustration 4

‘A’ is a manufacturer and supplier of computers based in USA and supplies its goods all over the world. As a part of this supply, ‘A’ is also required to provide customer care service to its customers to address their queries and complains related to the said supply of computers. ‘A’ decides to outsource the task of providing customer care services to a BPO firm, ‘B’. ‘B’ provides customer care service to ‘A’ by interacting with the customers of ‘A’ and addressing / processing their queries / complains. ‘B’ charges ‘A’ for this service. ‘B’ is involved in supply of main service ‘customer care service’ to ‘A’, and therefore, ‘B’ is not an intermediary.

5. The illustrations given in para 4 above are only indicative and not exhaustive. The illustrations are also generic in nature and should not be interpreted to mean that the service categories mentioned therein are inherently either intermediary services or otherwise. Whether or not, a specific service would fall under intermediary services within the meaning of sub-section (13) of section 2 of the IGST Act, would depend upon the facts of the specific case. While examining the facts of the case and the terms of contract, the basic characteristics of intermediary services, as discussed in para 3 above, should be kept in consideration.

6. It is requested that suitable trade notices may be issued to publicize the contents of this Circular.

7. Difficulty, if any, in the implementation of this Circular may be brought to the notice of the Board. Hindi version will follow.

(Sanjay Mangal)
Principal Commissioner (GST)