

August 2017

CBDT partially modifies instruction no. 1914 of 1996 for stay of demand and increases the payment requirement from 15% to 20%

Background

The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) had earlier *vide* office memorandum dated 29 February, 2016, modified the guidelines for stay of demand at the first appeal stage issued under Instruction No. 1914 of 1996. CBDT made it mandatory for the tax officer (TO) to grant stay of demand once the taxpayer pays 15% of the disputed demand, while the appeal is pending before the Commissioner of Income-tax (Appeals).

However, in certain scenarios, the TO after taking approval from superiors could ask for a higher/ lower payment of the demand before granting the stay for the balance demand.

Modification by CBDT

CBDT *vide* office memorandum dated 31 July, 2017, has further modified Instruction No. 1914 of 1996 and has revised the standard rate prescribed in the office memorandum dated 29 February, 2016, from 15% to 20% for grant of stay at the first appeal stage. CBDT has mentioned that the standard rate of 15% prescribed earlier was found to be on the lower side.

Key takeaways

This increase in the standard rate from 15% to 20% may be linked to the recently released first quarter revenue collections for financial year 2017-18 which have shown growth of 8% in gross revenue collections. This may not be a welcome move for the genuine taxpayers and will definitely increase their burden.

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