

TAX FLASH NEWS

7 July 2021

CBDT further extends time limit for filing Forms 15CA/15CB manually

As per the Income-tax Act, 1961 (the Act), the taxpayer required to furnish Form 15CA/15CB electronically. Presently, the taxpayers are required to upload Form 15CA, along with the Chartered Accountant Certificate in Form 15CB, wherever applicable, on the e-filing portal, before submitting the copy to the authorised dealer for any foreign remittance.

However, the taxpayers have been facing difficulties in electronic filing of Income tax forms 15CA/15CB on the new income tax portal. Therefore, the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) has provided a relief to the taxpayers to submit Forms 15CA/15CB in a manual format to the authorised dealer till 30 June 2021.

CBDT Press Release¹

Recently, CBDT has issued a press release (dated 5 July 2021) further extending the time limit to submit the said Forms in a manual format to the authorised dealers till 15 July 2021.

CBDT stated that the authorised dealers are advised to accept such Forms till 15 July 2021 for the purpose of foreign remittances. A facility will be provided on the new e-filing portal to upload these forms at a later date for the purpose of generation of the Document Identification Number (DIN).

Our comments

Recently, the government has launched new e-filing portal with an aim to make e-filing process easy for taxpayers. However, there are technical glitches in the portal which are giving a tough time to taxpayers since most of the tasks on the website are not working properly. A simple login is taking at least 10-15 minutes and even after that the pages are getting stuck. Most of the taxpayers are not able file Form

15CA/15CB which are required for foreign remittances as the link is not opening. This issue impacted payments to non-residents as these forms are required to be filed **before** releasing payments to non-residents.

In view of such difficulties faced by taxpayers in filing of forms online on the new e-filing portal, earlier, CBDT had allowed the taxpayers to file forms 15CA and 15CB in a manual format to the authorised dealers till 30 June 2021.

However, the new e-filing portal has not been functioning smoothly and users are still facing technical glitches. Thus this extension by CBDT till 15 July is a welcome move and it will provide relief to the taxpayers.

Since the filing of 15CA / 15CB forms are essential part of foreign trade and remittances, technical glitches in filing the same has been impacting Indian businesses badly. This has created a significant hardship for businessmen who want to make payment outside India for placing orders or for obtaining licenses or meeting their commercial obligations, etc. Thus, the issue with respect to online filing of Forms 15CA/15CB should be resolved as soon as possible.

¹ CBDT Press Release, dated 5 July 2021

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