

M/s. A V Cargo Migrators LLP

Authority for Advance Ruling — Tamil Nadu

Advance Ruling No. 20/ARA/2026

Dated **05.03.2026**

Q Questions Before the Authority

- Whether the applicant satisfies the definition of an E-commerce operator or do they satisfy the definition of Goods Transport Agency?
- What is the taxability of services provided by the applicant?

F Facts

The applicant operates an e-commerce platform that connects vehicle owners or transporters with customers requiring transportation services for their goods. The applicant generates revenue by charging a commission on freight charges, either deducted from deposits or collected directly from customers. The applicant does not engage in the physical transportation of goods nor does it issue consignment notes.

H Ruling

Classification as E-commerce operator vs GTA

Satisfies the definition of an electronic commerce operator and does not satisfy the definition of a Goods Transport Agency

Based on the fact that the applicant does not issue consignment notes or engage in physical transportation

Taxability of services

Liable to pay GST on commission received and must follow all provisions of Section 52

Must collect tax at source on the net value of taxable supplies made through the platform

The authority ruled that the applicant qualifies as an electronic commerce operator and does not meet the definition of a Goods Transport Agency. Consequently, the applicant is liable to pay GST on the commission received and must comply with the provisions of Section 52 of the Act regarding the collection of tax at source.

R Reasoning

The authority determined that the applicant is not a Goods Transport Agency because it does not provide services in relation to the transport of goods by road nor does it issue consignment notes as required by the definition in Notification No. 12/2017-Central Tax (Rate). Instead, the applicant operates a digital platform connecting service providers and customers, which fits the definition of an electronic commerce operator under Section 2(45) of the CGST Act. As an e-commerce operator, the applicant is mandated to collect tax at source under Section 52 of the

Act and is liable to pay GST on the commission earned from its services. The applicant's claim of being a pure agent was rejected due to the absence of a contractual agreement and failure to meet the conditions specified in Rule 33 of the CGST Rules.

P Provisions Relied On

Section 9(5) of the CGST Act

Section 52 of the CGST Act

Section 2(44) of the CGST Act

Section 2(45) of the CGST Act

Rule 33 of the CGST Rules, 2017

Notification No. 12/2017-Central Tax (Rate) dated 28.06.2017

! For the Practitioner

This ruling clarifies that digital platforms facilitating transportation without issuing consignment notes are **classified as e-commerce operators** rather than Goods Transport Agencies. Practitioners should note that such entities are subject to **TCS obligations under Section 52** and must pay GST on their commission income. It does not provide relief for platforms seeking to avoid e-commerce operator status if they facilitate the supply of taxable services.

Source

Summary prepared from the published order, which is a scanned document. It is a reading aid and not the authority: where the two differ, the order governs. Verify every provision against the original before relying on it.

Original order: www.gstcouncil.gov.in -> 5-a v cargo aar order.pdf

Prepared 12-10-2026.

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