

# Maintenance of Proper Books of Accounts and Other Records

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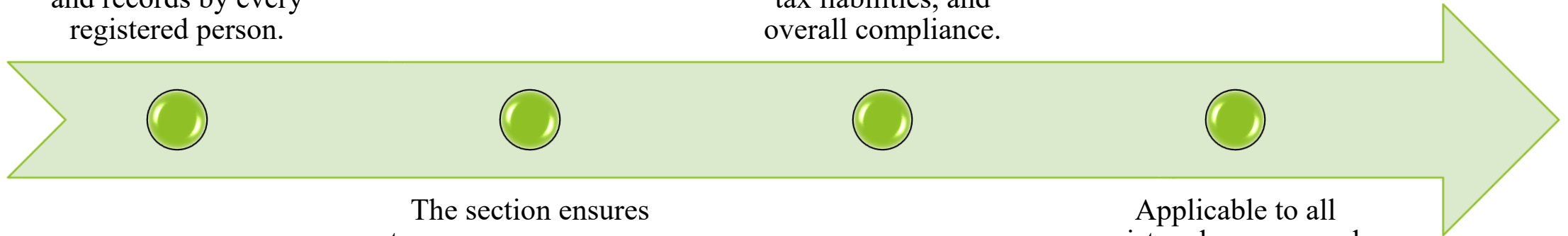
# Overview of Section 35

Section 35 of the CGST Act, 2017, specifies the requirements for maintaining accounts and records by every registered person.

These records form the foundation for verifying input tax credits, output tax liabilities, and overall compliance.

The section ensures transparency, accuracy, and traceability in tax compliance.

Applicable to all registered persons under GST including manufacturers, traders, service providers, and e-commerce operators.



# Section 35 Of CGST ACT 2017

(1) Every registered person shall keep and maintain, at his principal place of business, as mentioned in the certificate of registration, a true and correct account of-

(a) production or manufacture of goods

(b) inward and outward supply of goods or services or both;

(c) stock of goods;

(d) input tax credit availed;

(e) output tax payable and paid; and

(f) such other particulars as may be prescribed:

**Provided** that where more than one place of business is specified in the certificate of registration, the accounts relating to each place of business shall be kept at such places of business:

**Provided** further that the registered person may keep and maintain such accounts and other particulars in electronic form in such manner as may be prescribed.

(2) Every owner or operator of warehouse or godown or any other place used for storage of goods and every transporter, irrespective of whether he is a registered person or not, shall maintain records of the consigner, consignee and other relevant details of the goods in such manner as may be prescribed.

(3) The Commissioner may notify a class of taxable persons to maintain additional accounts or documents for such purpose as may be specified therein.

(4) Where the Commissioner considers that any class of taxable person is not in a position to keep and maintain accounts in accordance with the provisions of this section, he may, for reasons to be recorded in writing, permit such class of taxable persons to maintain accounts in such manner as may be prescribed.

(6) Subject to the provisions of clause (h) of sub-section (5) of [section 17](#), where the registered person fails to account for the goods or services or both in accordance with the provisions of sub-section (1), the proper officer shall determine the amount of tax payable on the goods or services or both that are not accounted for, as if such goods or services or both had been supplied by such person and the provisions of [section 73](#) or [section 74](#) <sup>2</sup>[or section 74A], as the case may be, shall, *mutatis mutandis*, apply for determination of such tax.

 Enforced from July, 2017.

1. Omitted -(5) Every registered person whose turnover during a financial year exceeds the prescribed limit shall get his accounts audited by a chartered accountant or a cost accountant and shall submit a copy of the audited annual accounts, the reconciliation statement under sub-section

(2) of section 44 and such other documents in such form and manner as may be prescribed.

Provided that nothing contained in this sub-section shall apply to any department of the Central Government or a State Government or a local authority, whose books of account are subject to audit by the Comptroller and Auditor-General of India or an auditor appointed for auditing the accounts of local authorities under any law for the time being in force.

By s. 110 of The Finance Act, 2021 (No. 13 of 2021). Brought into force with effect from 01.08.2021 vide Notification no.29/2021- C.T. dated 30th July, 2021.

2. Inserted by section 123 of The Finance Act (No. 2) Act, 2024 No. 15 of 2024 dated 16.08.2024.

**Rule 56 - Maintenance of accounts by registered persons**  
**Central Goods and Services Tax Rules, 2017**

## Maintenance of accounts by registered persons.-

(1) Every registered person shall keep and maintain, in addition to the particulars mentioned in sub-section (1) of section 35, a true and correct account of the goods or services imported or exported or of supplies attracting payment of tax on reverse charge along with the relevant documents, including invoices, bills of supply, delivery challans, credit notes, debit notes, receipt vouchers, payment vouchers and refund vouchers.

(2) Every registered person, other than a person paying tax under section 10, shall maintain the accounts of stock in respect of goods received and supplied by him, and such accounts shall contain particulars of the opening balance, receipt, supply, goods lost, stolen, destroyed, written off or disposed of by way of gift or free sample and the balance of stock including raw materials, finished goods, scrap and wastage thereof.

(3) Every registered person shall keep and maintain a separate account of advances received, paid and adjustments made thereto.

(4) Every registered person, other than a person paying tax under section 10, shall keep and maintain an account, containing the details of tax payable (including tax payable in accordance with the provisions of sub-section (3) and sub-section (4) of section 9), tax collected and paid, input tax, input tax credit claimed, together with a register of tax invoice, credit notes, debit notes, delivery challan issued or received during any tax period.

(5) Every registered person shall keep the particulars of -

(a) names and complete addresses of suppliers from whom he has received the goods or services chargeable to tax under the Act;

(b) names and complete addresses of the persons to whom he has supplied goods or services, where required under the provisions of this Chapter;

(c) the complete address of the premises where goods are stored by him, including goods stored during transit along with the particulars of the stock stored therein.

(6) If any taxable goods are found to be stored at any place(s) other than those declared under sub-rule (5) without the cover of any valid documents, the proper officer shall determine the amount of tax payable on such goods as if such goods have been supplied by the registered person.

(7) Every registered person shall keep the books of account at the principal place of business and books of account relating to additional place of business mentioned in his certificate of registration and such books of account shall include any electronic form of data stored on any electronic device.

(8) Any entry in registers, accounts and documents shall not be erased, effaced or overwritten, and all incorrect entries, otherwise than those of clerical nature, shall be scored out under attestation and thereafter, the correct entry shall be recorded and where the registers and other documents are maintained electronically, a log of every entry edited or deleted shall be maintained.

(9) Each volume of books of account maintained manually by the registered person shall be serially numbered.

(10) Unless proved otherwise, if any documents, registers, or any books of account belonging to a registered person are found at any premises other than those mentioned in the certificate of registration, they shall be presumed to be maintained by the said registered person.

(11) Every agent referred to in clause (5) of section 2 shall maintain accounts depicting the,-

(a) particulars of authorisation received by him from each principal to receive or supply goods or services on behalf of such principal separately;

(b) particulars including description, value and quantity (wherever applicable) of goods or services received on behalf of every principal;

(c) particulars including description, value and quantity (wherever applicable) of goods or services supplied on behalf of every principal;

(d) details of accounts furnished to every principal; and

(e) tax paid on receipts or on supply of goods or services effected on behalf of every principal.

(12) Every registered person manufacturing goods shall maintain monthly production accounts showing quantitative details of raw materials or services used in the manufacture and quantitative details of the goods so manufactured including the waste and by products thereof.

(13) Every registered person supplying services shall maintain the accounts showing quantitative details of goods used in the provision of services, details of input services utilised and the services supplied.

(14) Every registered person executing works contract shall keep separate accounts for works contract showing -

- (a) the names and addresses of the persons on whose behalf the works contract is executed;
- (b) description, value and quantity (wherever applicable) of goods or services received for the execution of works contract;
- (c) description, value and quantity (wherever applicable) of goods or services utilized in the execution of works contract;
- (d) the details of payment received in respect of each works contract; and
- (e) the names and addresses of suppliers from whom he received goods or services.

(15) The records under the provisions of this Chapter may be maintained in electronic form and the record so maintained shall be authenticated by means of a digital signature.

(16) Accounts maintained by the registered person together with all the invoices, bills of supply, credit and debit notes, and delivery challans relating to stocks, deliveries, inward supply and outward supply shall be preserved for the period as provided in section 36 and shall, where such accounts and documents are maintained manually, be kept at every related place of business mentioned in the certificate of registration and shall be accessible at every related place of business where such accounts and documents are maintained digitally.

(17) Any person having custody over the goods in the capacity of a carrier or a clearing and forwarding agent for delivery or dispatch thereof to a recipient on behalf of any registered person shall maintain true and correct records in respect of such goods handled by him on behalf of such registered person and shall produce the details thereof as and when required by the proper officer.

(18) Every registered person shall, on demand, produce the books of accounts which he is required to maintain under any law for the time being in force.

**Rule 57 - Generation and maintenance of electronic records**

**Central Goods and Services Tax Rules, 2017**

## 57. Generation and maintenance of electronic records.-



(1) Proper electronic back-up of records shall be maintained and preserved in such manner that, in the event of destruction of such records due to accidents or natural causes, the information can be restored within a reasonable period of time.



(2) The registered person maintaining electronic records shall produce, on demand, the relevant records or documents, duly authenticated by him, in hard copy or in any electronically readable format.



(3) Where the accounts and records are stored electronically by any registered person, he shall, on demand, provide the details of such files, passwords of such files and explanation for codes used, where necessary, for access and any other information which is required for such access along with a sample copy in print form of the information stored in such files.

**Rule 58 - Records to be maintained by owner or operator of godown or warehouse and transporters  
Central Goods and Services Tax Rules, 2017**

**58. Records to be maintained by owner or operator of godown or warehouse and transporters.-**

(1) Every person required to maintain records and accounts in accordance with the provisions of sub-section(2) of section 35, if not already registered under the Act, shall submit the details regarding his business electronically on the common portal in **FORM GST ENR-01**, either directly or through a Facilitation Centre notified by the Commissioner and, upon validation of the details furnished, a unique enrolment number shall be generated and communicated to the said person.

1[(1A) For the purposes of Chapter XVI of these rules, a transporter who is registered in more than one Stator Union Territory having the same Permanent Account Number, he may apply for a unique common enrolment number by submitting the details in **FORM GST ENR-02** using any one of his Goods and Services Tax Identification Numbers, and upon validation of the details furnished, a unique common enrolment number shall be generated and communicated to the said transporter:

Provided that where the said transporter has obtained a unique common enrolment number, he shall not be eligible to use any of the Goods and Services Tax Identification Numbers for the purposes of the said ChapterXVI.]

(2) The person enrolled under sub-rule (1) as aforesaid in any other State or Union territory shall be deemed to be enrolled in the State or Union territory.

(3) Every person who is enrolled under sub-rule (1) shall, where required, amend the details furnished in **FORM GST ENR-01** electronically on the common portal either directly or through a Facilitation Centre notified by the Commissioner.

(4) Subject to the provisions of rule 56,-

- (a) any person engaged in the business of transporting goods shall maintain records of goods transported, delivered and goods stored in transit by him along with the Goods and Services Tax Identification Number of the registered consigner and consignee for each of his branches.
- (b) every owner or operator of a warehouse or godown shall maintain books of accounts with respect to the period for which particular goods remain in the warehouse, including the particulars relating to dispatch, movement, receipt and disposal of such goods.

(5) The owner or the operator of the godown shall store the goods in such manner that they can be identified item-wise and owner-wise and shall facilitate any physical verification or inspection by the proper officer OnDemand.