



# **ROYAL MALAYSIAN CUSTOMS**

## **GOODS AND SERVICES TAX**

### **GUIDE ON PAWNBROKING**

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## INTRODUCTION

1. This industry guide is prepared to assist businesses in understanding matters with regards to Goods and Services Tax (GST) treatment on pawnbroking.

### Overview of Goods and Services Tax (GST)

2. Goods and Services Tax (GST) is a multi-stage tax on domestic consumption. GST is charged on all taxable supplies of goods and services in Malaysia except those specifically exempted. GST is also charged on importation of goods and services into Malaysia.

3. Payment of tax is made in stages by the intermediaries in the production and distribution process. Although the tax would be paid throughout the production and distribution chain, only the value added at each stage is taxed thus avoiding double taxation.

4. In Malaysia, a person who is registered under the Goods and Services Tax Act 2014 is known as a “registered person”. A registered person is required to charge GST (output tax) on his taxable supply of goods and services made to his customers. He is allowed to claim back any GST incurred on his purchases (input tax) which are inputs to his business. Therefore, the tax itself is not a cost to the intermediaries and does not appear as an expense item in their financial statements.

## GST TREATMENT ON PAWNBROKING

### Provision of Pledge

5. The provision of the pledge by the pawner to a pawnbroker / *Ar-Rahnu* operator and the compensation made by the pawnbroker / *Ar-Rahnu* operator to the pawner in the event the pledge is destroyed, damaged, stolen or other acts of negligence by the pawnbroker / *Ar-Rahnu* operator is not a supply and is not subject to GST. In addition, the provision of the loan by the pawnbroker / *Ar-Rahnu* operator is an exempt supply.



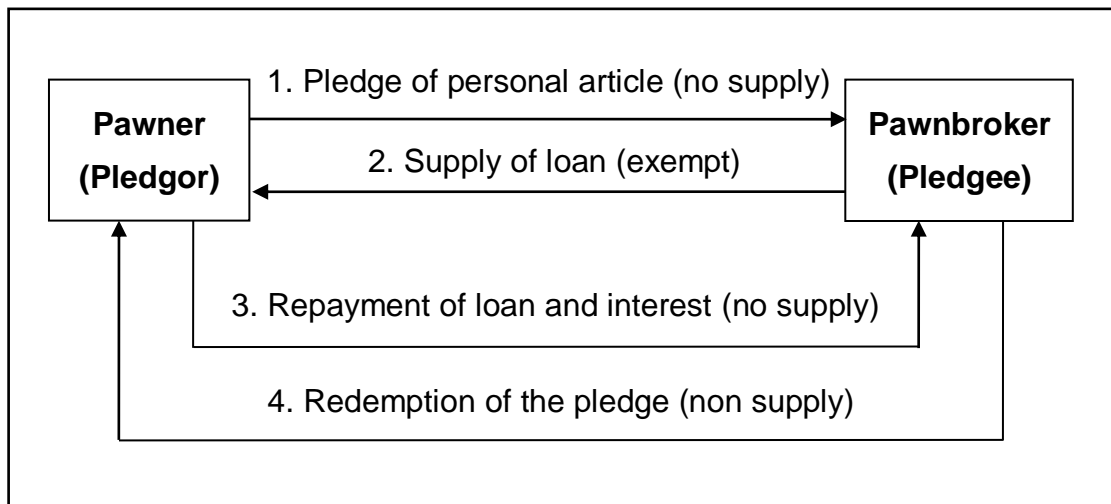
## Accounting for GST on sale of pledges in conventional pawnbroking

6. The GST implication on the transactions involving a redeemed pledge and an unredeemed pledge is as follows:

(a) **Redeemed pledge**

The usual redemption period is within six (6) months from the date of pawning or within such longer period as may be agreed upon by the pawnbroker and the pawner. Should the pawner recover the goods or redeems a pledge within the agreed redemption period, this operation would not trigger GST implications because there is no official transfer of ownership. A pawnbroker is not making a supply and should not account GST on the redemption.

**Figure 1: Illustration of Pawning and Redemption**



(b) **Unredeemed pledge**

For unredeemed pledge, the GST treatment is as follows:

(i) Pawn not exceeding RM200.00

If the pledge is not redeemed within the redemption period, the pledge automatically becomes the property of the pawnbroker. The GST implication here is:

- The transfer of the pledge from the pawner to the pawnbroker is not a supply for GST purposes.

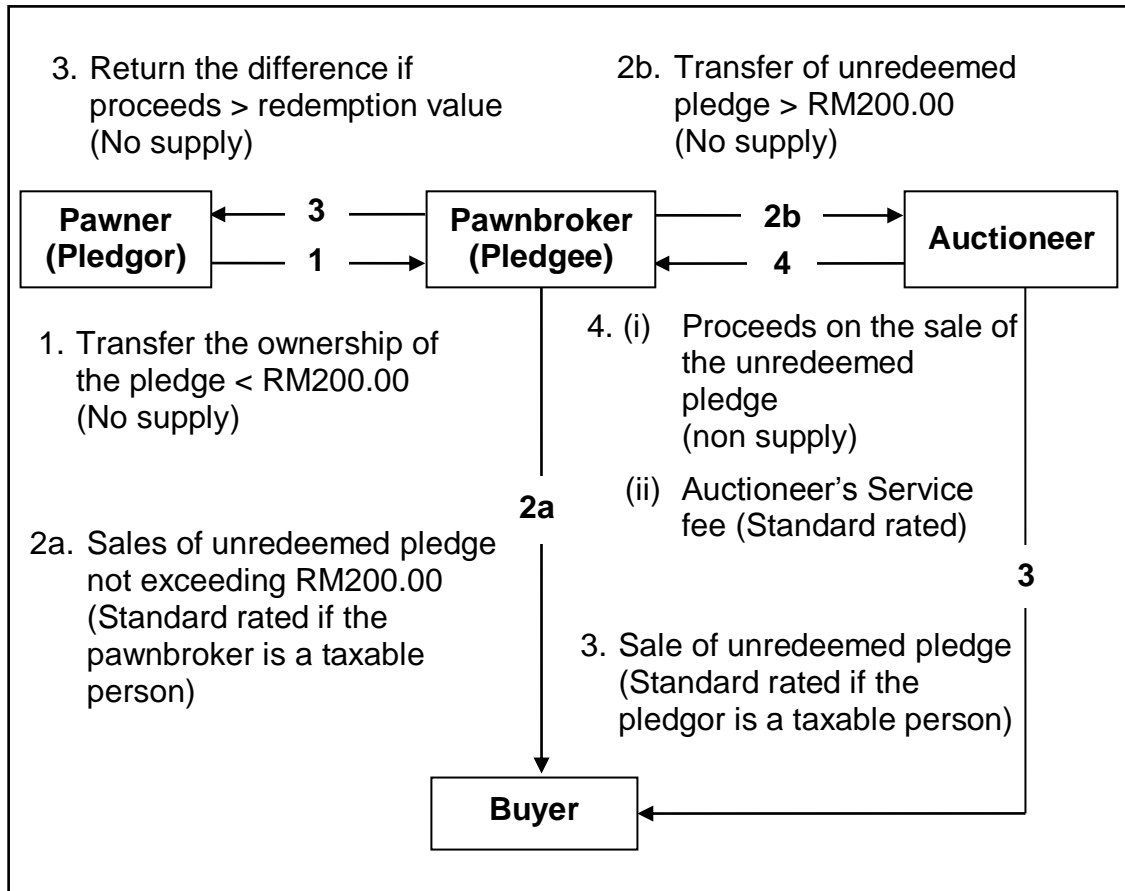
- If the pawnbroker disposes the pledged goods to a third party (e.g. goldsmith), the pawnbroker is making a taxable supply. The pawnbroker must account for GST on the sale if the pawnbroker is a taxable person.

(ii) Pawn exceeding RM200.00

If the pledge is not redeemed within the redemption period, the pledge will be transferred to the auctioneer who will auction the unredeemed goods. The transfer of the unredeemed pledge to the auctioneer is not a supply and therefore he does not need to account for GST.

When the auctioneer auctions the unredeemed goods, the sale of the unredeemed goods is regarded as a supply made by the pawner. The auctioneer should charge and account for GST on the sale of the unredeemed goods provided that the pawner is a registered person. If the pawner is not a registered person, GST is not charged on the sale of the unredeemed goods. If the auctioneer is a taxable person, the auctioneer will charge GST on his services to the pawnbroker.

**Figure 2: Illustration of Unredeemed Pledge**



### Islamic Pawnbroking

7. Pawnbroking under Islamic financing is known as *Ar-Rahnu*. It means “to put something (gold articles of purity exceeding 18 carat)” as a collateral to secure a loan and the collateral is used to pay the loan when the borrower does not pay his loan at the end of the agreed redemption period. The collateral entrusted to the lender and the subsequent return of the collateral upon repayment by the borrower is not a supply. The loan to the borrower is an exempt supply and not subject to tax.

8. Unlike the conventional pawnbroking, there is no interest element on the loan, but there is a **safe keeping fee** where lender is allowed to charge a reasonable fee for keeping the pawned items safe and in good condition. The fee is charged at a fixed rate on the value of the pledge. This safe keeping fee is exempted from tax. If the safe keeping fee is charged to the pledge where no loan was secured by the pledgee, the fee will also not be subject to GST. However, if the lender fails to keep

the agreement, he will be responsible to replace the missing or stolen items to the owner. The replacement of collateral by the lender is not a supply for GST purposes.

9. Under *Ar-Rahnu*, the initial redemption period is 6 months. However, it can be extended to a period to be determined by the pledgee. After the maximum extended period, the unredeemed pledge will be disposed by the *Ar-Rahnu* operator on behalf of the pawner through an open auction which is treated as a taxable supply under GST. Hence, the operator needs to account for GST on the sale of the unredeemed goods.

10. Expenses such as takaful, transport charges and security services on the pledges borne by the operator for the auction exercise, the input taxes incurred are claimable by the operator.

11. Net sales proceeds on the auction of the pledges returned to the pledgee or his beneficiary by the pawnbroker is not a supply made by the *Ar-Rahnu* operator and hence the proceeds is not subject to tax. However, the auction services are a taxable supply by the auctioneer and are subject to GST at a standard rate.

### **Accounting For GST On Sale Of Unredeemed Pledges In Islamic Pawnbroking**

12. Suppose the value of the item pawned is worth RM1,666.00, and the bank (pawn broker) will only release a maximum loan of RM1,000.00 with repayment period of six month. If the fee for safekeeping is 65 cent for every RM100.00, then the fees will be RM10.83 per month or RM64.97 for six months. If the item is not redeemed and later auctioned at the value of RM1,666.00, the bank will subtract RM1,000.00 for the loan, RM97.46 for safekeeping fees (9 months) and administration fees for the auction RM50.00, and then the balance will be returned to the customer.

The illustration below will show you the transactions subject to GST.

Value of pledge by pawner (registrant)			1,666.00
GST (6%)			99.96
Sale value of pledge			<b>1,765.96</b>
Pawner accounts for tax			<b>99.96</b>
Loan unpaid	1,000.00		
Safekeeping fee		97.46	
*Administrative Fee	50.00		
GST (6%)	<u>03.00</u>	53.00	1,150.46
Balance returned to customer			<b><u>515.54</u></b>

\*If the auctioneer is a registrant, he will charge GST for his services to the pawner.

### Rates and Charges

13. Generally the treatment of GST on the rates and charges below are as follows:

- (a) Not subject to GST:
  - (i) Interest / Safe keeping fee;
  - (ii) Search fee @4.00;
  - (iii) Licence Fee;
  - (iv) Advertising permit;
  - (v) Surplus paid to pawner when pawnbroker sell his pledge;
  - (vi) Disposal of unclaimed pledge to Accountant General.
- (b) Subject to GST at a standard rate:
  - (i) Pawn ticket fee;
  - (ii) Handling charges;
  - (iii) Insurance (Acquisition).





## **Input Tax Credit (ITC)**

14. Input taxes are incurred on expenses such as insurance/takaful, transport charges and security services for the pledges under safe keeping or for an auction exercise. Since a pawnbroker / *Ar-Rahnu* operator is making both taxable supply and exempt supply, he is entitled to claim input tax incurred on input that are directly attributable to taxable supply. For the residual inputs such as electricity and insurance premium, he can claim ITC based on the apportionment rules. Please refer to the General Guide on Input Tax Credit.

## **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

### **Registration**

**Q1: What are the taxable supplies do I take into account for the purpose of GST registration?**

A1: The supplies are:

- (a) Sales of unredeemed article
- (b) Handling/administration charges
- (c) Other taxable supplies.

### **Input Tax Credit**

**Q2: I incur expenses on repairs and cleaning of broken unredeemed goods before I sell them. Can I claim GST on the expenses incurred on the sales of these unredeemed goods?**

A2: Yes, you can claim the GST in full as input tax credit because the inputs are directly attributable to the sales of unredeemed goods (standard rated supply).

**Q3: What about overhead expenses incurred such as electricity and office rental?**

A3: Since electricity and office rental are residual inputs, you need to apportion these expenses by using the turnover method because as pawnbrokers, you

are supplying both exempt and taxable supplies. Residual inputs are inputs which you cannot directly attribute to either taxable or exempt supplies.

**Q4: The pawnbroker incurs GST on auctioneer's service fee. Can the pawnbroker claim input tax credit on this service fee?**

A4: No, the pawnbroker is not allowed to claim GST incurred on the auctioneer's service fee because the auctioneer sold the unredeemed pledge on behalf of the pawner who is the owner of the article.

### **Handling Charges**

**Q5: A pawnbroker charges RM0.50 per ticket as handling fees. Is the fee subject to GST?**

A5: Yes, it is subject to GST at a standard rate.

**Q6: Are the cleaning services incurred on the pledges provided by the pawner to the pledgee subject to GST?**

A6: Yes, the supply is a standard rated supply.

### **Disposal on Imitation Items**

**Q7: Sometimes the pawnbroker without knowledge accepts an imitation item as pledge from the pawner. When the pawnbroker sells the imitation item and subsequently suffers losses, is this sale subject to GST?**

A7: The disposal of any unredeemed article whether genuine or imitation is a taxable supply. Therefore, you must charge GST on such sales.

### **Loss on Disposal**

**Q8: Sometimes the sales proceed of the unredeemed pledge does not cover the value of the loan and interest, and subsequently the pawnbroker suffers a loss. Can the loss be exempted from GST?**

A8: Any disposal of an unredeemed pledge is a taxable supply irrespective of whether there is profit or loss. Therefore the sale will be subjected to GST and no exemption will be given.

### **Disposal of Pledge through Open Tender/Auction under Ar-Rahnu**

**Q9: I dispose unredeemed pledge through a tender exercise. In the tender process, I sell tender forms to the public. Is the sale of the tender form subject to GST?**

A9: Yes, the sale is subject to GST at the standard rate.

**Q10: I charge a service charge of 1% on the sales price for a disposal of a pledge. Is the service charge subject to GST?**

A10: Yes, it is subject to GST at the standard rate.

### **Unredeemed pledge under conventional pawnbroking**

**Q11: When a pledge valued at RM150.00 is not redeemed after the redemption period, the ownership of the goods is transferred to the pawnbroker. Is the transfer a supply of goods from the pawner to the pawnbroker?**

A11: The ownership transferred is a result of a default in repayment of the loan and the goods were confiscated. Hence, no supply is made when the goods is not redeemed.

### **Relief for second-hand goods**

**Q12: Can a pawnbroker secure a reduction on the tax charged i.e. relief for second-hand goods, when he disposes an unredeemed pledge?**

A12: No, such reduction is not allowed in your business as it only applies to disposal of motor vehicles (cars, motorcycles, buses, etc.) and real estate properties. Please refer to the GST General Guide for further details of the scheme.

### **FEEDBACK OR COMMENTS**

15. Any feedback or comments will be greatly appreciated. Please email your feedback or comments to either Rozila Binti Saad (rozila.saad@customs.gov.my) or Navukarasu A/L Ganesan (navukarasu.ganesan@customs.gov.my).



## FURTHER ASSISTANCE AND INFORMATION

16. Further information can be obtained from:

- (a) GST Website: [www.gst.customs.gov.my](http://www.gst.customs.gov.my)
- (b) GST Hotline: 03-88822111
- (c) Customs Call Centre:
  - Tel : 03-78067200/ 1-300-888-500
  - Fax : 03-78067599
  - E-mail : [ccc@customs.gov.my](mailto:ccc@customs.gov.my)



## AMENDMENTS

No.	Date	Heading/Subheading/Paragraph	Description
1.	14.07.2014	Paragraph 12	Corrections on calculation.
2.	11.09.2014	Sub-Paragraph 6(b)(i)	The transfer of the pledge from the pawner to the pawnbroker is not a supply for GST purposes.

