

## **CBIC CLARIFIES LATE FEE ON FORM GSTR-9C FILING: WAIVER AVAILABLE UNTIL MARCH 31, 2025**

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The Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) has issued Circular No. 246/03/2025-GST, clarifying the applicability of late fees under Section 47 of the CGST Act, 2017, for delays in filing FORM GSTR-9C (Reconciliation Statement) alongside FORM GSTR-9 (Annual Return).

### **Key Highlights of the Circular:**

1. **Mandatory Filing**: Taxpayers with an aggregate turnover exceeding ₹5 crore must file both FORM GSTR-9C and FORM GSTR-9. Failing to do so will result in an incomplete annual return.
2. **Late Fee Applicability**: Late fees under Section 47(2) of the CGST Act will apply from the due date of FORM GSTR-9 until both GSTR-9 and GSTR-9C are filed
3. **Waiver for Previous Years**: For financial years up to FY 2022-23, any late fees exceeding the standard rate will be waived if FORM GSTR-9C is filed by **March 31, 2025**.
4. **No Refund Policy**: Late fees already paid prior to this circular will not be refunded.

### **What This Means for Businesses:**

- Ensure the timely filing of both GSTR-9 and GSTR-9C to avoid penalties.
- Take advantage of the waiver by filing any outstanding GSTR-9C returns before March 31, 2025.
- Stay compliant with GST filing obligations to avoid unnecessary financial burden.

**Note: The waiver is available only if FORM GSTR-9C is filed by March 31, 2025. If your GSTR-9C is still pending, make sure to file it before the deadline to avail of the waiver.**