



Bahrain & GCC Tax News

Bahrain

The NBR clarifies that certain expenses incurred prior to obtaining a new building permit may be zero-rated

In Bahrain, new building construction services are zero rated. To apply the zero rate, contractors and sub-contractors must obtain a certificate (or a certified copy of the original certificate) prepared by the main contractor or the property owner that the building meets the criteria to be a new building.

The NBR has updated the VAT Real Estate Guide to clarify that expenses incurred for obtaining a building permit (for a new building) from the Ministry of Works, Municipalities, and Urban Planning will be subject to VAT at the zero-rate without the possession of a new building certificate. The NBR has provided the following list of such expenses:

- Provision of an original survey certificate and a layout plan certificate
- Engineering drawings of the plan
- Engineering drawings of the fronts and section
- Construction drawings of the foundations

Where there are any further amendments or additions to be made to the application, the expenses on such amendments and additions will also be subject to VAT at the zero-rate even in cases where the application for the building permit is rejected or the building has not been constructed after issuance of building permit. VAT at the standard rate of 5% will apply on drawings which are not required by the Municipality.

The above will be effective from 1 October 2020.

Click [here](#) to read the updated NBR VAT Real Estate Guide.

Saudi Arabia

The GAZT has reminded taxpayers to submit their excise tax returns for the month of July and August

With only 1 day left, the General Authority of Zakat & Tax ('GAZT') has reminded taxpayers to submit their excise tax returns for the months of July and August, no later than 15 September 2020. Click [here](#) to read more.

GAZT's call center received more than 107,000 calls for the month of August, as it continues its inspections of businesses to identify non-compliance with tax obligations

GAZT is continuing its inspections of businesses to identify non-compliance with tax obligations. 3,459 offences have been registered and were mostly in relation to non-compliance with tax invoice requirements and the absence of tax stamps on tobacco products.

In addition, GAZT reported that they have received more than 107,000 calls from taxpayers in the month of August apart from requests from other channels like Twitter. Click [here](#) to read more.

United Arab Emirates

The FTA has published Basic Tax Information Bulletins for the Education Sector

The FTA has published two basic tax information bulletins for the education sector - one for nurseries, pre-schools, and schools and the other for universities and other higher education institutions.

In the said bulletins, the FTA has highlighted the general VAT treatment of supply of educational services, supply of goods and services directly related to educational services, supply of reading material, supply of transportation services for students etc.

The FTA has also addressed various education sector specific FAQs in the bulletins.

Click [here](#) to read the basic tax information bulletin for nurseries, pre-schools, and schools.

Click [here](#) to read the basic tax information bulletin for universities and other higher education institutions.

Qatar

GTA reminds taxpayer to register on Dhareeba portal before 30 September 2020

The General Tax Authority ('GTA') in Qatar has reminded all taxpayers to register on the new tax portal "Dareeba" by 30 September 2020 to comply with the new regulations. Taxpayers can register through the website "www.dhareeba.gov.qa"

Transfer of a going concern

In this edition of KPMG Tax Insights, we discuss in detail the Bahrain VAT treatment of the transfer of a business as a going concern and various aspects to be considered by both the transferor and the transferee.

Click [here](#) to read the KPMG Tax Insights on Bahrain VAT treatment of transfer of a going concern.

For a detailed discussion on how the above updates may impact your business, [contact us](#).

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