

01 December 2021

Bahrain

National Bureau for Revenue (NBR) updates Change of VAT Return Filing Frequency Manual

The NBR has recently updated the Change of VAT Return Filing Frequency Manual which outlines the process for change in the VAT return filing frequency for taxpayers in Bahrain to either monthly, quarterly or yearly based on the value of annual supplies.

Click [here](#) to access the updated manual.

NBR publishes Q3 2021 results

The NBR has recently published the statistics for the third quarter of year 2021 on their website.

Click [here](#) to view results

Bahrain Country by Country (CbC) Reporting (CbCR) requirements

CbC notification and reporting applies to all businesses that have a legal entity or branch in Bahrain and are members of a Multinational Enterprise (MNE) group with annual consolidated revenue of at least BHD342m (USD906m). For MNE groups with a financial year end of 31 December 2021, the first Bahrain CbC notification deadline is 31 December 2021.

The National Bureau for Revenue (Bahrain tax authority) is yet to release the form for the notification but it is likely to be online through their [International Tax Information Exchange System portal](#).

You can find out more by clicking on the [FAQs](#) and a [flowchart](#) on CbC filing requirements in Bahrain.

Bahrain VAT rate increase

The National Bureau for Revenue (NBR) is yet to issue transitional rules for the VAT rate increase. However, with less than 30 working days to the proposed increase of the VAT rate to 10% effective 1 January 2022, business can already take steps to ensure they are prepared well before the effective date. KPMG Bahrain conducted a webinar in October on what businesses should be doing - click [here](#) to access the recording of the webinar as well as the presentation.

Businesses may have taken VAT costs less seriously as errors at 5% or the inability to claim input VAT may have not had a material impact on their finances. However, with the rate set to double, VAT should become a material consideration for most businesses because errors and the inability to claim input VAT is likely to have a significant impact. Whilst we await the transitional rules from the NBR, the KPMG Bahrain tax team have prepared a number of Tax Insights to assist Bahrain businesses as they prepare for the VAT rate increase:

- [Key issues for businesses to consider as a result of the VAT rate change](#)
- [Transitional VAT treatments and invoicing](#)

Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA)

Zakat, Tax and Customs Authority (ZATCA) publishes compliant QR code development guidelines

ZATCA has recently published the guidelines for development of QR codes compliant with the e-invoicing regulations.

Click [here](#) to access the guidelines.

ZATCA conducts fourth virtual e-invoicing workshop

ZATCA concluded its fourth virtual workshop on e-invoicing on 30 November 2021. The workshop largely covered QR code for e-invoicing including how to build the QR code, how to validate the QR code with code samples of multiple programming languages.

ZATCA prevents smuggling attempts of pills and liquor

ZATCA recently prevented 7 attempts to smuggle more than 2.1 million captagon pills through Haditha port and an attempt to smuggle 3,612 bottles of liquor through Jeddah Islamic port.

Click [here](#) to read more.

ZATCA shares infographics on social media platforms

ZATCA has recently shared infographics regarding the method of calculating Zakat, customs duties on vehicles where fees have been paid in one of the GCC countries etc

United Arab Emirates (UAE)

Federal Tax Authority (FTA) shares a number of infographics on its social media platforms

The FTA shared infographics the digital tax stamps request service for importers and manufacturers, procedures on issuance of special VAT certificates, steps on registering excise goods etc.

FTA urges taxpayers to beware of phishing emails

The FTA on its social media platforms has recently stressed on the importance of security and privacy of taxpayers and warned from fishing emails and calls. The FTA urged taxpayers to beware of phishing emails with subject line 'you have a refund from the Federal Tax Authority'.

Oman

Meeting held between Oman Tax Authority (OTA) and National Center for Statistics and Information (NCSI) representatives

OTA recently conducted a coordination meeting with representatives from NCSI on how to benefit from tax data in statistics related to national accounts and foreign investments in Oman.

Qatar

Qatar extends list of treaties to be covered by Multilateral Instrument (MLI)

Qatar recently issued a notification extending the list of treaties to be covered by the MLI. Qatar added its bilateral treaties with Georgia, Kazakhstan and Tunisia as affected treaties by the MLI.

The above is for general information only and is not intended to address the circumstances of any particular scenario. Please seek professional advice in relation to your particular circumstances.

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

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