

19 January 2022

Bahrain

National Bureau for Revenue (NBR) is now accepting non-resident refund applications for FY 2021

The non-resident refund applications for VAT incurred by non-resident entities in Bahrain during FY 2021 must be submitted to the NBR along with the supporting documents by 31 March 2022.

For assistance with the Bahrain VAT non-resident refund application, please contact us for further guidance.

Bahrain Country by Country (CbC) notification and reporting update

The Ministry of Industry Commerce and Tourism (MoICT) has sent an email to Bahrain companies on their CbC notification and reporting obligations indicating that the filing window will be open until 28 February 2022. Ministerial Order (MO) No. (28) of (2021) concerning the Country by Country (CbC) Reporting issued in early 2021 states that CbC obligations apply for financial years commencing **from** 1 January 2021 with the first notification due at the end of December 2021, which now appears to be extended to 28 February 2022.

However, recent correspondence from the MoICT has stated that they consider the first reporting year to be 2020 (ie the CbC information that needs to be reported by the 28 February 2022 deadline is for the year ending 31 December 2020). The MoICT has also stated that they have directly approached the entities that have to file the CbC notification and report. We make the following observations:

1. Under Article 2 of the MO the first reporting year is 31 December 2021 **not** the financial year ended 2020.
2. Under Article 3(a) of the MO the CbC **notification** deadline for the year ended 31 December 2021 was 31 December 2021 (which now appears to be extended to 28 February 2022).
3. Under Article 4 of the MO, the CbC **reporting** deadline for the year ended 31 December 2021 is 31 December 2022 – we assume this remains unchanged.
4. The NBR is yet to release any information on the specific requirements for CbC notifications through their [International Tax Information Exchange System \(ITIES\) portal](#). The ITIES portal through which the CbC notifications and reporting is to be done allows only for reporting but does not seem to allow entities only wishing to make a notification.
5. The NBR page on CbC reporting still states 'coming soon'. When you log into the NBR ITIES portal a new [CbC reporting guide](#) is available - however the guide is still unclear on whether notifications will still be required for Bahrain CEs of MNE groups headquartered outside Bahrain.

For entities that have received the email from the MoICT in relation to their CbC obligations, please contact us for further guidance.

NBR shares multiple infographics on its website

The NBR has recently shared a number of infographics on its website including the following:

- NBR contact channels
- Addition of imported livestock to the list of basic food items subject to zero-rate

Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA)

Zakat, Tax and Customs Authority (ZATCA) shares Zakat provisions e-platform

ZATCA has recently shared the link to Zakat provisions platform which is a tool that enables taxpayers to search for and access zakat legislation.

Click [here](#) to access the Zakat provisions platform.

ZATCA conducts a virtual workshop on Zakat

On 18 January 2022, ZATCA conducted a virtual workshop aimed at raising awareness about Zakat with a view to ensure compliance.

ZATCA stops two attempts to smuggle 8.3 million captagon pills

ZATCA recently intercepted and stopped two attempts to smuggle 8.3 million captagon pills through the Jeddah Islamic port.

France publishes synthesized text of France - KSA tax treaty

The French government has recently published the French synthesized text of the France - KSA Income, Capital and Inheritance Tax Treaty 1982, as amended by the 1991 and 2011 protocols, displaying the modifications made to the treaty by the Multi-Lateral Instrument (MLI).

United Arab Emirates (UAE)

Federal Tax Authority (FTA) shares multiple infographics

The FTA has recently shared a number of infographics on its social media platforms including the following:

- Timeline for applying for the VAT refund request for UAE home owners
- Documents required for excise tax registration
- Steps for tax deregistration
- Procedures and steps for warehouse registration service

Dubai Customs authority receives representatives from Bahrain

Dubai Customs recently received representatives from Bahrain on a visit to exchange information and discuss the best practices applied in the department for the benefit of both agencies.

Tax treaty updates and developments

The UAE Cabinet has recently authorized the signing of the following:

- Revision to tax treaty with Algeria
- Revision to tax treaty with Finland
- Tax treaty with Dominica
- Tax treaty with Guyana

Oman Tax Authority (OTA) publishes notice on taxable supplies made to government bodies

The OTA published a notice on its website on the applicability of VAT on supplies made to government bodies.

Click [here](#) to read to notice

France publishes synthesized text of France - Oman tax treaty

The French government recently published the French synthesized text of the France - Oman Income and Inheritance Tax Treaty 1989, as amended by the 1996 and 2012 protocols, displaying the modifications made to the treaty 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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