

13 April 2022

Bahrain

National Bureau for Revenue (NBR) introduces the digital stamps scheme for tobacco with implementation milestones

The NBR has introduced the digital stamps scheme for tobacco and tobacco products with the following implementation dates:

- Cigarettes products imported at customs must have digital stamps starting from 15 May 2022
- Cigarettes sold in markets must have digital stamps starting from 14 August 2022

Representatives from NBR and Federal Tax Authority (FTA) meet to discuss digital stamps for tobacco products

Representatives from the NBR and FTA recently met virtually to discuss best practices of marking tobacco and tobacco products such as digital tax stamps to prevent tax evasion.

Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Tourism (MoICT) extends Economic Substance (ES) return deadline for certain entities

For entities who did not have their financial statements for FY 2021 audited by 31 March 2022, the MoICT has extended the deadline for ES return submission to mid-August 2022. Further, entities who have submitted their ES returns based on unaudited financial statements may be required to resubmit their ES return based on their audited financial statements.

Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA)

Zakat, Tax and Customs Authority (ZATCA) officially launches the Zakaty application

ZATCA has officially launched the new Zakaty application to simplify Zakat payments for taxpayers. Zakaty allows Zakat payers to choose from beneficiaries registered in social insurance, calculate Zakat and facilitate direct payments.

ZATCA to conduct a virtual workshop Zakat general concept

On 13 April 2022, ZATCA will be conducting a virtual workshop on the general concept of Zakat.

Click [here](#) to register.

ZATCA issues simplified Zakat guidelines for debts

ZATCA has recently issued simplified Zakat guidelines for debts.

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

United Arab Emirates (UAE)

Businesses not in scope of Pillar Two will be taxed at 9%

Following the announcement by the UAE Ministry of Finance (MoF) regarding introduction of corporate income tax in the UAE from June 2023, it has been clarified that businesses not in scope of Pillar Two will be taxed at 9% with a carve-out for free zones.

FTA reaffirms that VAT registered businesses can deal with unregistered businesses

In a post on FTA's social media accounts, the FTA has reaffirmed that some businesses are not required to register for VAT and therefore, businesses registered for VAT may still choose to work with businesses who are not registered for VAT.

Oman

Oman Tax Authority (OTA) conducts introductory seminar on VAT

On 11 April 2022, the OTA and Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry conducted an introductory seminar on VAT in cooperation with the University of Technology and Applied Sciences.

Kuwait

Kuwait exploring excise tax implementation

As per news reports, Kuwait government is looking to implement excise tax prior to VAT. The proposed rate is being studied by the government, currently ranging between 10% and 25% on goods such as:

- Tobacco and tobacco products
- Carbonated and sweetened drinks
- Luxury goods, including jewelry, precious stones, watches, luxury cars and yachts

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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