Bahrain & GCC Tax News

12 October 2022

Bahrain

Economic Substance (ES) return for FY 2021 to be submitted by 11 November 2022

In a letter addressed to all entities regulated by the Ministry of Industry and Commerce (MOIC), the MOIC has announced that entities conducting one or more relevant activities for ES purposes will be required to file their ES return for FY 2021 by 11 November 2022. With less than a month available for the filing, Businesses in Bahrain should review the activities undertaken by them (both in form and substance) to confirm if they are carrying out a relevant activity under the Bahrain ES rules and assess whether they will need to file an ES return. Please note that we are currently clarifying with the MOIC if entities that already filed their FY21 ES return will need to refile again.

We have the largest and most experienced team handling ES return engagements in Bahrain. If you require assistance with ES return filing contact us.

National Bureau for Revenue (NBR) reminds excise taxpayers about final phase of digital stamp scheme

The NBR has recently reminded taxpayers subject to excise tax that starting 16 October 2022, trading of tobacco products without digital stamp will not be permitted in local markets.

NBR updates VAT registration guideline

The NBR has recently updated their VAT registration guide.

Click here to view the updated guideline.

NBR issues new decision for the digital stamp scheme

The NBR has recently issued a new excise decision regarding the application of the digital stamp scheme to waterpipe tobacco (hookahs).

Click here to view the excise decision (in Arabic).

Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA)

Tax violations reported by Zakat, Tax, and Customs Authority (ZATCA) as a result of field inspections

ZATCA has recently announced that they have recently carried out over 9,000 inspection visits during September 2022 in various regions of KSA which has resulted in imposition of penalties ranging from SAR 1,000 to SAR 1 million.

Click here to view the press release (in Arabic).

ZATCA Governor meets Secretary-General of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)

ZATCA's Governor, Suhail Abanmi recently met with the Secretary-General of the OECD, Matthias Corman for discussing ways to enhance co-operation between the two organizations.

United Arab Emirates (UAE)

UAE approves Federal General Budget for 2023-2026

The Cabinet of the UAE has approved the Federal General Budget for 2023-2026, with estimated expenditure of AED 252.3 billion and estimated revenues of AED 255.7 billion.

Qatar

National Assembly of Congo approves tax treaty with Qatar

On 28 September 2022, the National Assembly of Congo approved the Congo - Qatar Income Tax Treaty (2021).

For a detailed discussion on how the above updates may impact your business, contact us.

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