

# Bahrain & GCC Tax News



11 August 2024

## Bahrain

### **National Bureau for Revenue (NBR) updates VAT Financial Services Guide & VAT General Guide**

On 6 August 2024, the NBR published updated versions of the VAT Financial Services Guide and the General Guide. The updated guides provide further clarification on the VAT treatment of interchange fees and punitive charges.

Click [here](#) to view KPMG Bahrain's recent Tax Alert on this subject.

Click [here](#) to read the updated VAT Financial Services Guide and [here](#) to read the updated VAT General Guide published.

### **Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) and Indonesia to launch Free Trade Agreement negotiations**

On 31 July 2024, the GCC and Indonesia signed a joint statement to launch negotiations for a Free Trade Agreement during a meeting between officials from both sides held in Jakarta. The negotiations are expected to commence sometime during 2024.

## Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA)

### **Zakat, Tax, and Customs Authority (ZATCA) urges taxpayers to benefit from the extension of the exemption of fines initiative**

On 4 August 2024, ZATCA released a press release urging taxpayers to benefit from the cancellation of fines and exemption of penalties initiative, which was recently extended to 31 December 2024.

Click [here](#) to view the related press release.

## United Arab Emirates (UAE)

### **Federal Tax Authority (FTA) updates VAT Charities Guide**

On 5 August 2024, the FTA published an updated version of the VAT Charities Guide that provides guidance on the essential characteristics a charitable organization must have to qualify as a designated charity for VAT purposes in the UAE.

Click [here](#) to view the FTA's VAT Guide VATGCH1.

### **FTA launches new tax group deregistration service**

On 8 August 2024, the FTA announced the launch of the new tax group deregistration service on the EmaraTax platform.

### **UAE signs Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreements (CEPA) with Morocco and Chile**

The UAE recently signed two CEPAs with Morocco and Chile respectively, after concluding negotiations with both nations during the last week of July 2024.

## FTA conducts workshops

- On 7 August 2024, the FTA conducted a virtual workshop regarding the general principles on taxation of free zone entities.
- On 8 August 2024, the FTA conducted a virtual workshop on Corporate Tax (CT) registration, related deadlines and forming CT groups.

## Oman

### Oman Tax Authority (OTA) conducts field inspections in the Dhofar Governorate

The OTA recently announced that as part of the Tax Culture Initiative, they conducted several field inspections in the Dhofar Governorate to ensure tax compliance and to raise awareness regarding tax regulations in Oman.

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

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