Bahrain & GCC Tax News

2 March 2025

Bahrain

35 new violations reported from inspection visits conducted by the National Bureau for Revenue (NBR) during January 2025

The NBR has announced that 161 inspection visits were conducted during January 2025 leading to the detection of 35 new VAT violations. The reported violations were related to failure to comply with the conditions for issuing VAT invoices, failure to display VAT inclusive prices, and failure to display the VAT certificate in a visible location.

Click here to read the related press release.

NBR issues updated VAT manuals

On 27 February 2025, the NBR published updated versions of the VAT Return Filing manual and the Simplified VAT Return Form manual.

Click here to view the VAT Return Filing manual.
Click here to view the Simplified VAT Return Form manual.

Domestic Minimum Top-Up Tax (DMTT) registration update

Many in-scope MNE groups with Bahrain operations were able to submit their DMTT registration applications successfully within the deadline of 30 January 2025. Their applications are currently being reviewed by the NBR, and applicants must monitor any further information or clarification requests from the NBR in relation to their applications.

MNE groups that have not been able to submit their DMTT registration application within the deadline should do so immediately to minimize the risk of penalties to the extent possible.

For any queries or assistance in relation to the DMTT registrations, please contact us.

Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA)

Zakat, Tax and Customs Authority (ZATCA) determines criteria for selecting taxpayers for 21st wave of e-invoicing integration

ZATCA has recently issued a circular outlining the criteria for selection of taxpayers for the 21st wave of implementation of the e-invoicing integration phase. Taxpayers with taxable revenues exceeding SAR 1.25 million during 2022, 2023, or 2024 will be covered under the 21st wave. Such taxpayers will be required to integrate their e-invoicing solutions with the FATOORA platform from 1 September 2025.

Click here to view the circular.

ZATCA conducts tax and zakat workshops

- On 3 March 2025, ZATCA will conduct a virtual workshop regarding the Zakaty platform, and another workshop regarding the Penalty Exemption Initiative.
- On 5 March 2025, ZATCA will conduct a virtual workshop to discuss the provisions of the Implementing Regulations for Zakat and the persons excluded from Zakat submission for 1445 AH.

Click here to register for upcoming virtual workshops.

United Arab Emirates (UAE)

Federal Tax Authority (FTA) clarifies extensions for tax assessment reviews and reconsideration requests

The FTA has clarified specific circumstances under which the statutory deadlines for submitting a tax assessment review request or a request for reconsideration may be extended. According to the relevant decision, the FTA may approve an extension if a taxpayer is unable to meet the prescribed deadlines due to certain exceptional circumstances.

Tax treaty between UAE and Greece terminated

According to an update from the Greek tax authority, the Greece - UAE Income and Capital Tax Treaty (2010) is now terminated. The treaty remained in force for a period of ten years and ceased to have effect on 18 December 2024.

FTA conducts tax related workshops

- On 25 February 2025, FTA conducted a virtual workshop on the basics of excise tax.
- On 26 February 2025, FTA conducted a virtual workshop on the registration process for corporate tax for natural persons.
- On 27 February 2025, FTA conducted a virtual session to elaborate how to navigate and use the EmaraTax platform.
- On 28 February 2025, FTA collaborated with Microsoft to organize a workshop titled Accelerating Innovation with Artificial Intelligence.

Qatar

The General Tax Authority (GTA) launches the 100% Financial Penalty Exemption Initiative

The GTA has launched a tax penalty waiver initiative to encourage voluntary compliance and enhance trust in the tax system. This initiative grants a 100% waiver on financial penalties under the Income Tax Law and the Excise Tax Law. The scheme will be in effect for 6 months, starting 1 March 2025, allowing eligible taxpayers to regularize their tax status without incurring financial penalties.

Click here to view the details of the initiative.

Oman

Oman Tax Authority (OTA) is now on Tajawob platform for public inquiries

The OTA has announced that its now on the Tajawob platform, which serves as a centralized hub for over 55 government institutions in Oman. The OTA has urged taxpayers and stakeholders to direct all suggestions, complaints, reports, and inquiries through the unified national system.

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

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