

Bahrain & GCC Tax News



19 October 2022

Bahrain

VAT field audits in Bahrain

VAT audits by the NBR play a critical role in ensuring compliance with the Bahrain VAT Law and Executive Regulations (Bahrain VAT laws). In addition to requests for information/queries via email or through the taxpayer portal, the NBR also has the right to conduct in person VAT field audits.

In our latest Tax Alert, we have discussed key aspects Bahrain businesses should consider in preparation for a NBR VAT field audit.

Click [here](#) to read our Tax Alert on how to prepare for a NBR field audit.

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](#).

Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA)

Zakat, Tax, and Customs Authority (ZATCA) issues updated user guideline for 'Fatoora' platform

ZATCA has recently issued an updated user guideline for the 'Fatoora' platform for implementation of the second phase of the e-invoicing in KSA.

Click [here](#) to view the updated Fatoora user manual.

ZATCA proposes amendments to VAT Implementing Regulations (IR)

ZATCA has recently proposed amendments to the KSA VAT IR which includes amendments to zero rating provisions for exported services. The proposed amendments have been published for public consultation.

Click [here](#) to view the proposed amendments (in Arabic).

United Arab Emirates (UAE)

Federal Tax Authority (FTA) publishes amended Excise Tax Law

The FTA has recently published the amended Federal Decree-Law No. 17 of 2017 (Decree-Law) on Excise Tax.

Click [here](#) to view the amended Excise Tax Law.

FTA announces launch of 'EmaraTax' platform

The FTA has recently announced that they are set to launch 'EmaraTax', a new integrated platform aimed at enhancing the user experience and improve the online tax administration process.

FTA announces tax workshop for entrepreneurs

The FTA has recently announced that they will host a workshop to raise awareness on tax related topics among entrepreneurs in the UAE on 19 October 2022 at the Sharjah Investors Service Center Sharjah.

UAE tax treaty updates

- The UAE Cabinet approved the tax treaty between Kuwait and the UAE which was signed on 30 August 2022.
- The Chile – UAE Income Tax Treaty (2019) has entered into force.

Oman

Oman publishes amendments to VAT Executive Regulations (ER)

The Oman Tax Authority (OTA) has recently published amendments to the Oman VAT ER.

Click [here](#) to read more about the amendments.

Kenyan government launches public consultation for tax treaty with Oman

On 3 October 2022, the Cabinet Secretary of the Kenyan National Treasury and Planning invited public comments on an income tax treaty with Oman.

Qatar

General Tax Authority (GTA) reminds taxpayers about digital excise stamps for tobacco products

The GTA has reminded taxpayers that import of all types of cigarettes into Qatar without valid digital tax stamps will be prohibited.

Qatar and Ecuador initiate signing of Investment Protection Agreement (IPA)

Qatar and Ecuador have initiated signing of an IPA between the 2 nations. The agreement is now pending signature by both countries and is intended to be valid for 10 years.

Qatar and Kazakhstan sign IPA

According to a press release published on the official website of the office of the president of Kazakhstan, Kazakhstan and Qatar have recently signed an IPA.

Procedure for obtaining tax exemptions during the 2022 FIFA World Cup clarified

The Qatar Ministry of Finance has clarified the procedures for obtaining exemptions from income tax, excise taxes and customs duties for entities and individuals involved in activities related to the 2022 FIFA World Cup to be held in Doha.

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

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