

Bahrain

National Bureau for Revenue (NBR) updates its VAT General Guide

NBR has updated the VAT General Guide and released version 1.5. The following updates have been made:

- New sub-section regarding assessment review requests has been added
- Fee for appeals to the VAT Appeals Review Committee has been specified
- Mechanism for issuance of VAT certificates upon request and payment of the specified fee introduced
- Changes have been made to the section on VAT agents and representatives. Fee for becoming an authorized agent or representative has been specified
- Further details regarding the place most closely connected with a supply have been added

Our focused Tax Alert regarding the updated VAT General Guide will follow.

Click [here](#) to access the updated VAT General Guide.

Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA)

Amendments to Real Estate Transaction Tax (RETT) implementing regulations approved

The Board of Directors of the General Authority of Zakat and Tax (GAZT) has approved the amendments to Article 3 of the RETT Implementing Regulations.

The amendments are aimed at extending the scope of application of the RETT exemption. The amendments came into force on 22 January 2021.

Click [here](#) to read the official announcement (in Arabic).

Tax amnesty scheme extended for additional six months

GAZT has announced the extension of its tax amnesty scheme for an additional six months. The deadline has now been extended to 30 June 2021.

The updated amnesty program is subject to the condition that the principal tax due in relation to the tax returns are paid in full as follows:

<u>Payment of tax due</u>	<u>Percentage of penalty waiver</u>
Between January 2021 – March 2021	100%
Between April 2021 – May 2021	75%
During the month of June 2021	50%

Click [here](#) to read more (in Arabic).

GAZT reminds taxpayers to file their VAT returns by 31 January 2021

GAZT has reminded taxpayers subject to VAT to file the following VAT returns no later than 31 January 2021 to avoid any late payment and filing penalties:

- 1 October 2020 – 31 December 2020 (quarterly)
- 1 December 2020 – 31 December 2020 (monthly)

Click [here](#) to read more (in Arabic).

GAZT has disbursed incentive bonuses to 529 informants during the past 4 months

GAZT has affirmed that engaging with the general public in curbing improper tax practices in the markets and shops has shown a high-level interaction from both taxpayers and consumers.

In the past four months, GAZT received 12,424 reports from consumers through official reporting channels. This included reports for tax evasion, VAT collection higher or lower than 15%, collection of VAT by non-registered vendors and non-compliant tax invoices.

GAZT has also revealed that it had disbursed incentive bonuses to 529 informants after verifying the validity of the reports they submitted.

Click [here](#) to read more (in Arabic).

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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