

31 August 2022

Bahrain

National Bureau for Revenue (NBR) issues tender for development of e-invoicing framework

The NBR has (through the Bahrain Tender Board) invited service providers to submit proposals for supporting the NBR with the review and enhancement of the legal framework for launch of e-invoicing in Bahrain. Given this development, Bahrain will be following many other countries around the world and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in the region which has recently implemented e-invoicing.

E-invoicing will be a game changer for Bahrain businesses and will require processes and systems to be updated. Keep an eye out for our Tax Alert focusing on what Bahrain businesses need to do to prepare for the introduction of e-invoicing.

Tax violations reported as a result of field inspections

As per local news reports, the NBR, in cooperation with the Ministry of Industry & Commerce (MoIC), recently conducted field inspections of 80 commercial establishments which resulted in detection of 31 VAT violations. Some of these included fines for the common issue of retailers not displaying prices inclusive of VAT.

United Kingdom (UK) and Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) launch stage 1 of free trade negotiations

The GCC and the UK have launched the first stage for negotiations of a UK-GCC Free Trade Agreement. The negotiations are aimed at strengthening the partnership between UK and GCC in economic, trade and investment fields.

Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA)

Updates to legal protocols on tax disputes announced

The General Secretariat of Zakat, Tax and Customs Committees has recently published the updated legal protocols for tax disputes. The list of persons eligible for representing a taxpayer in appeals has been expanded.

ZATCA and MAWANI sign agreement for Jeddah Islamic Port

Zakat, Tax and Customs Authority (ZATCA) has recently announced through a press release the signing of an agreement with MAWANI for regulating of joint activities at the Jeddah Islamic Port.

Click [here](#) to read the press release (in Arabic).

United Arab Emirates (UAE)

Federal Tax Authority (FTA) shuts down tobacco facility due to tax violations

The FTA has recently announced carrying out an inspection campaign in Dubai which has led to the closure of a commercial establishment that was trading tobacco products without digital excise stamps.

Maximum amount of cash refund of VAT for tourists increased

The FTA has recently announced an increase in the VAT maximum cash refund under the Tax Refunds for Tourists Scheme to AED 35,000 (around USD 9,000) per 24 hours. The increase will come into effect on 1 September 2022.

Click [here](#) to view the Cabinet's Decision.

FTA shares infographics

FTA has recently shared multiple infographics and videos on its social media platforms including the following:

- Voluntary registration for VAT
- VAT amendments which do not require FTA approval
- Recent VAT inspection for excise tax products

Kuwait

Kuwait signs Double Tax Treaty (DTT) with UAE

The Kuwait Ministry of Finance announced on 29 August 2022 that they have signed a DTT with UAE. The treaty aims to strengthen cooperation between the two parties for increasing investment opportunities, encouraging trade and promoting economic development. The treaty has not been ratified and has not yet come into effect.

Oman

Oman Tax Authority (OTA) introduces VAT guidelines for e-commerce

The OTA has recently issued a comprehensive VAT guide on e-commerce, focusing on tax obligations under the traditional e-commerce business models - Business-to-Business (B2B), Business-to-Customer (B2C), Customer-to-Customer (C2C), and Customer-to-Business (C2B).

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

Qatar

General Tax Authority (GTA) organizes workshop

The GTA recently organized a workshop, in cooperation with the Institute of Public Administration, an affiliate of the Civil Service and Government Development Bureau, to prepare their implementation plan.

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](#).

Mubeen Khadir

Partner - Head of Tax & Corporate Services

T: +973 3222 6811

E: mubeenkhadir@kpmg.Com

home.kpmg/bh

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