

Bahrain

National Bureau for Revenue (NBR) launches e-service for registration and appointment of VAT agents and representatives

On 5 May 2021, a press release by the NBR announced its launch of a new e-service for registering and appointing a VAT agent or representative. The NBR has also confirmed that the launch of the e-service is in accordance with the legislative framework for VAT and is aimed at facilitating procedures for taxpayers.

Click [here](#) to read more.

NBR updates the excise goods list

The NBR has recently updated the list of goods subject to excise tax in Bahrain. The updated list has been published on NBR's website.

Click [here](#) to access the updated list.

NBR reminds tax payers to submit their April 2021 VAT returns

The NBR has reminded taxpayers to submit their April 2021 VAT returns and make payment of VAT, where due, by 31 May 2021.

Click [here](#) to access the announcement.

Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Tourism (MoICT) announces suspension of Economic Substance Return (ESR) submission until end of May 2021

The MoICT has announced that ESR submission service has been suspended until end of May 2021 for modifications to the ESR template. Covered entities who have already filed their 2020 ESR through the MoICT portal will need to re-file again when the modified ES return template becomes available.

NBR signs contract with De La Rue for innovative digital solutions to authenticate excise products

On 19 May 2021, the NBR announced that it has entered into a strategic project with a leading corporation in the digital stamp industry worldwide, De La Rue.

The project will offer an advanced technology of digital stamps on a number of excise goods in Bahrain and it will particularly cover all tobacco products including cigarettes, shisha and other tobacco products.

Click [here](#) to read more.

FAQs on Country-by-Country Reporting (CbCR) requirements for Bahrain

Experts at KPMG's Tax and Corporate Services team have prepared a list of FAQs regarding the recently introduced Country-by-Country (CbC) Reporting requirements.

Click [here](#) to read our Tax Alert.

Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA)

General Authority of Zakat and Tax (GAZT) merged with Saudi Customs

GAZT and Saudi Customs has now merged to form a single body called the Zakat, Tax and Customs Authority (ZTCA).

Click [here](#) to read more (in Arabic). Click [here](#) to access the relevant Official Gazette.

ZTCA reminds taxpayers to file their excise tax, withholding tax and VAT returns

Taxpayers subject to excise tax in KSA should submit their excise tax returns for March 2021 and April 2021 latest by 15 May 2021. Click [here](#) to read more (in Arabic).

Taxpayers subject to withholding tax in KSA should submit their withholding tax returns for the month of April 2021 latest by 10 May 2021. Click [here](#) to read more (in Arabic).

Taxpayers subject to VAT should submit their VAT returns for the month of April 2021 latest by 31 May 2021. Click [here](#) to read more (in Arabic).

United Arab Emirates (UAE)

New cabinet resolution reduces tax penalties

New cabinet resolution No. 49 of 2021 has been introduced to amend the previous resolution No. 40 of 2017 regarding tax penalties. The following are the key changes:

- Tax payers that currently have tax penalties pending will be reduced to 30% of the penalty, provided they settle them before 31 December 2021.
- Late payment penalties reduced from 1% per day to 4% per month. However, 300% cap still applies.
- The new provisions will be applicable 60 days as from 28 April 2021.

Federal Tax Authority (FTA) conducts 2,707 field inspection visits aimed at protecting consumer rights and combating tax evasion

On 26 April 2021, the FTA announced that it has conducted more than 2,707 field inspection visits in cooperation with the competent authorities through 35 inspection campaigns across UAE markets in Q1 2021.

Click [here](#) to read more.

FTA releases decision on mechanism for calculating the average retail selling price of excise goods

On 28 April 2021, FTA has released decision No.1 of 2021 on the Mechanism for calculating the average retail selling price of excise goods in the market.

This decision shall be implemented as on the date of its issuance.

Click [here](#) to access decision No. 1 of 2021.

FTA updates guide on VAT refund for business visitors

On 19 April 2021, FTA updated the VAT guide regarding refund for business visitors. Click [here](#) to access it.

Uruguayan Senate approves Investment Protection Agreement (IPA) with UAE

On 11 May 2021, the Uruguayan Senate approved the IPA with UAE which was signed on 24 October 2018. The IPA has now been sent to the Executive Power for further approval.

Oman

Oman Tax Authority (OTA) reminds taxpayers to register and report financial information of the year 2020

The OTA has reminded taxpayers to register for an account under the automatic exchange of financial account information, and report the financial information for the year 2020 through the OTA AEOI portal latest by 31 May 2021.

Click [here](#) to read more.

OTA releases a statement outlining the procedures for the application of VAT in Special Zones

The OTA has released a statement outlining the procedures for the application of VAT in Special Zones - Special Economic Zones and Free Zones.

Click [here](#) to access the statement.

Kuwait

Kuwait and South Africa sign Protocol to tax treaty

On 1 April 2021, Kuwait and South Africa signed an amending protocol to update the Kuwait - South Africa Income Tax Treaty of 2004.

Qatar

General Tax Authority (GTA) issues frequently asked questions (FAQs) regarding transfer pricing documentation

GTA has recently issued FAQs that provided further clarity on issues regarding transfer pricing compliance and documentation requirements. The FAQs also reiterate that the first filing deadline will be 30 June 2021 for taxpayers with 31 December 2020 financial year end.

2021 KPMG Virtual MESA Tax Summit



As we continue into 2021 with growing optimism, the summit will bring together a fascinating mix of speakers sharing their perspectives on emerging tax and business considerations, unbundling some of the challenges facing organizations in the post-Covid era, and highlighting bright spot opportunities for tax leaders and their teams to consider as tax departments work to evolve in 2021 and beyond.

In the absence of being able to come together in person, we are excited to bring you this virtual summit with distinguished speakers, sharing diverse perspectives on a range of issues that matter.

The panel discussions will focus on the below topics:

- The changing tax, regulatory and economic landscape in the new reality
- International transfer pricing developments and their impact on the region
- The tax function of the future

Click [here](#) to register for the event.

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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Setting up a new business? Expanding or restructuring an existing one?

KPMG can assist with selecting the most suitable legal entity and support you with all required regulatory approvals and licenses. We provide commercially focused regulatory and business advice for organizations to maintain compliance with the Bahrain Commercial Companies Law, Central Bank of Bahrain rulebook, other local regulations and leading industry practices.

Click [here](#) to learn more about KPMG Corporate Services

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