



Below are the latest development in tax in the GCC:

UAE

The Federal Tax Authority ('FTA') has amended Clause (3) of Article (66) of the Executive Regulation of the Federal Decree-Law No. 8 of 2017 on Value Added Tax ('VAT'), with Cabinet Decision No. 24 of 2021. FTA has revised the time limit for UAE nationals to submit their new residence special refund application within 12 months (initially 6 months) from the date of residence certified as completed or occupancy of the residence. One of the conditions for recovering input VAT incurred by UAE nationals for their new residence is to submit the refund application within the timeframe mentioned by FTA.

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The FTA has published a new information bulletin on the issues relating to Automotive Sector. Some of the areas covered in the bulletin include :

- VAT treatment of gifts and giveaways;
- Applicability of Profit Margin Scheme;
- VAT impact on repair services and parts provided under warranty.

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FTA replaces VATP023 with VATP025, which set out the initial period of zero-rating of certain Covid-19 personal protective equipment ('PPE'). As per VAT Public Clarification VATP025, the supply or import of certain PPE is zero-rated from 1 September 2020 to 31 December 2021. The initial period of zero-rating was 1 September 2020 to 28 February 2021.

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OMAN

The Oman Tax Authority ('OTA') has published procedures for applying VAT in Special Economic Zones. Special Economy Zone - Duqm and the Free Zone in Salalah, Sohar, and Al Mazyunah have been classified as Special Zones.

The procedures state that the supplies of goods or services to or from the Special Zones, or within them, maybe zero-rated following the condition laid down in Articles of (101) to (107) of VAT Executive Regulation (Decision 53/2021). The VAT registration application may be submitted online through the OTA portal. A copy of the commercial license registration certificate and license certificate must be attached with the VAT registration application.

In all cases, documents proving the transfer of goods to, within, or between the special zones must be kept to be certified by the entity operating and supervising the Special Zone with regard to the supply of goods within the Special Zone.

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Bahrain National Bureau for Revenue ('NBR') has released a dedicated portal for International Tax Information Exchange System ('ITIES'). As per Ministerial Circular No. FAEI/10/HR/2021 dated 29 April 2021, the new portal is now open for businesses to do their submissions related to Economic Substance Regulations ('ESR'), Country by country Reporting etc. The NBR has not yet clarified if the businesses who have already filed ESR reports for Fiscal year 2019 – 2020 should resubmit their reports through the newly launched ITIES portal again.

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The NBR has published a guide on VAT agents / VAT representatives. The guide aims to provide an overview of:

1. The process to obtain NBR authorization as a VAT agent or representative including:
 - a) The rules and procedures for registering as a VAT agent or representative;
 - b) The process for registering as a VAT agent or representative through the NBR's online portal; and
 - c) Functionality available to a VAT agent or representative on the NBR's online portal.

2. The process for a VAT payer to appoint a VAT agent or representative including:
 - a) The rules and procedures relating to the appointment by a VAT payer of a VAT agent or representative; and
 - b) The process to be followed on the NBR's online portal by a VAT payer when appointing a VAT agent or representative.

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Who We Are

Nishe is a boutique professional services firm based in the UAE specialising in the provision of accounting, Value Added Tax (VAT) and other related services to clientele in GCC.

Nishe aspires to work towards uplifting underprivileged women by providing them with the support they require to grow. Nishe is exclusively made up of women professionals who are fiercely determined to make a positive impact on everyone they work with – be it our clients, women who seek our support or anyone else.

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