



- 1. Seminar / Annual Dinner UAE
- ⇒ Participation International Universities and Professional Institutes in ICPAP Seminar (UAE)
- 2. Award Ceremony UAE Chapter
- 3. Articles:
- ⇒ VAT Implementation in UAE
- 4. Date Sheet winter exam Dec.2017 Announced
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# Highlights of the CPA-Pakistan Seminar:

Institute of Certified Public Accountants of Pakistan (A Professional wing of Pakistan Association Dubai) celebrate its 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in United Arab Emirates in its Annual Dinner at Four



points by Sheraton @ Bur Dubai on October 3,2017.

Standing
Evasion
for the
Honorable
Guests

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H.E. Suhail Mohammad Al Zarooni, (Guinness World Record Holder, Chairman Al Zarooni Foundation & Emirati after the Royal family UAE to be awarded twice with the Guinness World Record certificate) attend the ceremony as a Chief Guest.



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- A formal presentation was given by a member of the institutes on value added tax implementation in UAE followed by the informative panel discussion and delicious dinner. Institutional bodies participated in panel discussion were
- Institute of Chartered Accountants of India
- Institute of Certified Management Accountants of India
- Grant Thornton
- Bolton University
- City University College of Ajman
- Bright future academy
- Leads academy
- Iqra Group
- Arab Institute for Accountants & Legal
- Annual dinner were sponsored by NUF Chartered Accountants and Tally software

Mr. Shafiq Ur Rehman President-UAE Chapter thanked all the guests, partners, Associates and members of the Institute for their participation in the Ceremony

# New VAT law in the UAE:

# All your questions answered Article By : Michael Patchett-Joyce

To avoid any confusion ahead of the implementation on January 1, 2018, read our guide on the new law which has been passed by Sheikh Khalifa.

#### What is it? And where can I find it?

The official title is Federal Decree-Law No.(8) of 2017, on Value Added Tax. An English version is available on the UAE Ministry of Finance website (www.mof.gov.ae).

#### Does it tell me all I need to know?

It tells you a lot, but not everything. VAT is complex and much more detail will become available in a yet-to-be-published Executive Regulation.

#### What will be in the Executive Regulation?

The Regulation is referenced over 60 times in the VAT law, so a complete answer would be too long. It will contain important information on essentials like who must register for VAT and when, details about tax periods and the submission of tax returns, when and how tax must be paid, what records must be kept and for how long, and what data must be included in a tax invoice.

## VAT puts a standard rate of tax (5%) on goods and services – why is it complex?

Several reasons: 1 - Not everything will be taxed.

- 2 There are new legal concepts (and a bit of jargon) to understand.
- 3 Some things like the place of supply of electronic services can be quite difficult to define (think about it!).
- 4 The GCC is a customs union so, implementing national VAT laws and keeping the benefits of a transnational economic bloc can be a challenge (ask the EU).
- 5 Some GCC states (like the UAE) are further ahead than others, so all GCC states may not implement VAT on January 1, 2018.

### **UAE** tax authority launches new website to help prepare businesses for VAT

The UAE's Federal Tax Authority (FTA) has launched a new website designed to help businesses prepare for the upcoming introduction of excise and value added tax (VAT).

The FTA's new website, www.tax.gov.ae, contains information on the published legislation related to excise and VAT, advice and guidance for businesses on the new taxes, a series of frequently asked questions, as well as details on training sessions and webinars conducted by the FTA for businesses around the UAE.

Business owners will be able to pre-register their companies for excise tax and VAT on the website from the middle of September.

#### VAT and small businesses - what are the implications?

On 1 January 2018, value-added tax (VAT) will come into effect for the first time in UAE. Here, Aaron White of Sage Middle East, offers some insights on the implications for small businesses.

Naturally, small businesses are concerned about the financial and operational impacts of VAT compliance, especially since they are used to operating in a low-tax business environment.

While there will be implications for systems, infrastructure, skills and training, there are a number of benefits to the new tax system on businesses and the economy.

## **Economic pressures**

But first, let's take a step back to understand why VAT is being implemented in the first place.

For decades, the economies of the GCC countries have benefited from high oil prices. However, a drop in demand, increased global competition, and a substantial decrease in the price of crude oil per barrel - from a peak of US\$147 in 2008 to about \$50 today - has forced GCC countries to look for other sources of revenue to diversify their economies and remain globally competitive.

VAT is one such revenue source, and because tax is an unfamiliar topic in the GCC, you might have some questions about how it will impact small and medium businesses.

#### What is VAT?

VAT is a tax on the consumption of goods and services and has been set at 5 per cent across GCC countries. This rate is among the lowest in the world, with some countries charging VAT of more than 20 per cent.

# Why isn't everything taxed?

There main reasons:

- 1 Some goods and services (eg education and healthcare) provide social benefits, so the government doesn't want to make them more costly than necessary.
- 2 A few things like "bare" land cannot be consumed (and VAT is a tax on consumption).
- 3 Some things (eg some financial services) are too difficult to tax.

Various goods and services are not taxed because they are exempt; others are not (in effect) taxed because the tax is 0% (zero-rated supplies). All such supplies are VAT-free to the consumer, but whether the supply is exempt or zero-rated will make a big difference to the taxable entity making the supply.

## Tax in the UAE: Everything you need to know about VAT and a little bit more

#### **UAE's VAT to be added onto shelf prices and not at checkouts**

The UAE's new valued added tax will be included in price stickers and advertised prices - not as extras at the checkouts - experts have said at they responded to the landmark law issued this week.

The model will follow the system seen in Europe and in contrast to the United States, where shoppers are hit with the tax at the point of purchase.

"Consumers will be happy to hear that prices displayed are deemed to include VAT, like the United Kingdom and unlike the USA," said David Daly, a chartered accounted in the UAE and the UK.

He said the so-called Executive Regulations that will set out in further detail in the coming weeks "will address any exceptions".

Financial experts still await clarity on how VAT will be implemented in the country's free zones.

On Sunday, the President, Sheikh Khalifa, approved the main VAT tax law that sets out the legal framework for the collection of tax from January 1, 2018.

Stuart Halstead, indirect tax director at Deloitte Middle East, said there should be few surprises for consumers, given that consumers will not pay tax on education, basic healthcare and rent.

"No - there are no surprises; much of this has been well-advertised by the Ministry of Finance and Federal Tax Authority in advance," said Mr Halstead.

"It is nevertheless tremendous to see the law issued. The associated regulations, which will contain more information, will I am sure be awaited eagerly now.

"It's an example of a broad-based, low-rate VAT design and in that respect is an excellent platform for the future. Many legacy economies struggle to achieve these design parameters; the UAE is very much amongst the most advanced VAT jurisdictions in this respect."

## New VAT law: housing exempt and education at 0%

The landmark law paving the way for the introduction of VAT from January next year has been approved by the President, Sheikh Khalifa.

The law states that goods and services are subject to value added tax at a standard rate of 5 per cent – and outlines a -series of exclusions.

The details of the law as released yesterday, which have been much anticipated, confirm the status of key goods and services, including the following:

- Pre-school and school education and basic and preventative health care will be zero rated, that is, a rate of 0 per cent. That also means businesses can reclaim any tax they pay suppliers, which is not the case when a sector is exempt from VAT.
- Government-owned or government-funded higher education is zero rated.
- Goods and services being exported outside of the GCC are zero rated.
- International air passenger transfers through the UAE will be zero rated, as will international flights from the UAE.
- Gold and other precious metals for investment will be subject to the zero rate.
- Residential property rented or for sale is entirely exempt from VAT.

Local passenger transport services – such as taxis and the metro – are also exempt.

More details will be forthcoming in Executive Regulations that will set out which financial services and healthcare services will be exempt from VAT.

Certain government services will also be exempt as directed by the Cabinet.

## How VAT will be applied to UAE free zones is yet to be decided by the new law

Articles 50 to 52 of the freshly released decree that is the UAE VAT Law covers free zones under Designated Zones.

A decision on these has been delegated to the Executive Regulations, which will probably appear in the fourth quarter of 2017

Free zones in the UAE have been an extraordinary success. The concept has encouraged a substantial migration of commercial skills into the country and complimented the exploitation of the region's natural resources. It has also brought a balance to the economy that has supported the development of the broader onshore economy.

That the UAE experiences the same peaks and troughs that are ubiquitous in older economies is testament to the normal functioning of local markets. More prevalent than the turning of the wheels of the economic cycle is change, which is coming in the form of VAT. While the treatment of free zones is undoubtedly a contentious issue, today, using the example of a coffee shop, I want to present some options that might resolve a key element bedeviling the finalization of the national VAT Law.

## What concepts/jargon might businesses encounter?

A number of businesses will need to know about "concerned goods/services", the "reverse charge" and "deemed supply", to name but three. They might also need to know about "VAT groups". All those matters are for taxable traders; consumers won't need to be concerned.

#### Why might "place of supply" be difficult for businesses?

It's usually easier to identify the place of supply for goods than services. Even with goods, there are special rules if the supply involves export or import. It may also depend on whether the supply is to an ultimate consumer or not, whether or not the supply is to a registered recipient, whether the recipient is resident or non-resident, whether the export/import is within or outside the GCC, whether – even within the GCC – the other state has implemented a VAT law or not. Special rules apply for water and energy.

All of those variables might affect how a supply is treated to tax, and quite a lot of the detail needed to find out has been held over to the Executive Regulation.

#### How are free zones affected?

Some will be treated as "outside the State" and, therefore, outside the scope of the VAT Law. The details will be in the Executive Regulation. In particular, it remains to be seen how financial free zones, like the ADGM and the DIFC, will be treated. They might be treated differently from other free zones.

VAT in the GCC will be charged at 5 per cent. Small businesses need to be prepared well in advance of its January 1 implementation.

Are prices VAT-inclusive or not? "Advertised" prices must include VAT. That means shop prices will be VAT-inclusive, providing clarity and certainty for the consumer – there won't be an extra 5% added to the sticker price at the till. Other instances, where the price might not include the tax (eg to wholesalers), will be explained in the Executive Regulation,

#### Will tourists be able to reclaim VAT?

The VAT Law says that the Executive Regulation may contain conditions for the return of tax paid by a non-resident for goods supplied in the UAE that will be exported. So, the answer is "quite possibly".

#### What else does the new VAT Law cover?

There are provisions about the tax treatment of capital assets, tax adjustments for errors in tax returns and bad debts, apportionment measures, tax on samples and commercial gifts, and on supplies between related parties. If you invoice in a currency other than the UAE Dirham, you'll have to convert it. Tax evasion gets a mention, too. Remember, Federal Law No. (7) of 2017 on Tax Procedures contains more about tax evasion (which is a criminal offence), and the imposition of Penalty Assessments (which is an administrative measure).

#### What should businesses be aware of now?

Obviously, businesses should be familiarizing themselves with what the VAT Law says, and how it will apply to their business. Given that the start date for VAT is January 1, 2018, businesses should look, in particular, at the Transitional Rules (Article 80).

Please note that if a contract entered into in 2017 for a supply to be made in 2018 does not contain express provisions about tax on that supply, the price will be considered to include VAT if chargeable, whether or not the tax liability has been taken into account in determining the price.

Unwary businesses could be bitten hard by that. So, start making express provision for VAT in future supply contracts now.



# CPA New Member's List Oct,2017

Student Name	Membership No.	Student Name	Membership No.	Student Name	Membership No.
Muhammad Yawar	1881	Faizan Ahmed	1882	Ehsan ul Haq	1883
Muhammad Hasibullah Sharif	1884	Shabi ul Hassan	1885	Tahir Mansoor	1886
Wasim Iftikhar	1887	Fahad Khan Orkazai	1888	Irfan Ishaq	1889
Adeel Zulfiqar Bhatti	1890	Jawad ul Hassan	1891	Muhammad Usman Ibrahim	1892
Samad	1893	Rashid Nadeem	1894	Rehan Ahmed Usmani	1895
Muhammad Ismail	1896	Ali Asghar Mazahir	1897	Sohail Anjum	1898
Hamad Raza	1899	Victor Lahai Amara	1900		

#### Date Sheet winter Exam Dec,2017

From 18 Dec,2017 we are running for winter exam session of year at all our exam national and international centers in December.

This means you'll have even greater flexibility and choice when planning your studies and our exam planner will help you do just that.

The new exam calendar provides you with more opportunities to:

 Spread your workload and maximize the chances of success so you can always take advantage of the cheapest



#### **Examination Enrollment Last Date**

Examination enrollment for December, 2017 session of examinations last date for submission of examination form 15th November, 2017

Late fee is admissible after 15th November, 2017) last date for submission of examination form (with late fee) 30 November, 2017

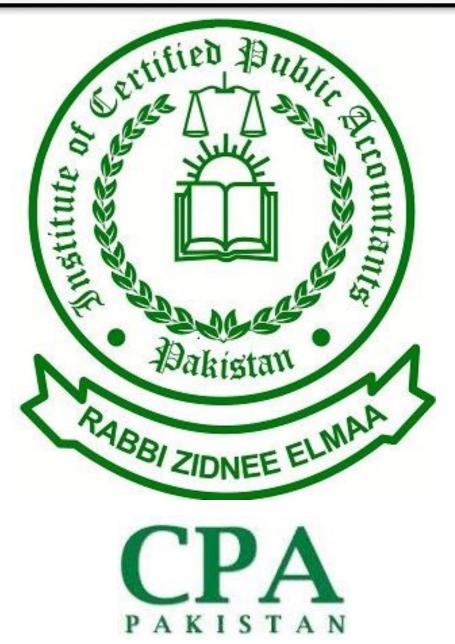
Students will not be allowed to submit examination form after 30th November, 2017)

Please submit the examination form well in advance. Please refrain from delaying the submission of the examination form till the last minutes to avoid complications/ inconvenience

Students may contact the institute through.

CALL CENTRE (051-2853018 ) www.icpap.com.pk info@icpap.com.pk

	Institu	Institute of Certified Public Accountants of Pakistan  Date Sheet Winter (Dec 2017)  CPA									
Comment to Ball				Date /Day P A K			ISTAN				
Module	Monday 18/12/2017	Tuesday 19/12/2017	Wednesday 20/12/2017	Thursday 21/12/2017	Friday 22/12/2017	Saturday 23/12/2017	Time				
Specializatio n Module-6	Advance Taxation						2:00 to 5:00 PM				
		Auditing and Assurance					2:00 to 5:00 PM				
			Advance Financial Management				2:00 to 5:00 PM				
Professional Module-5		-		Law & Governance			2:00 to 5:00 PM				
					Advance Performance Management		2:30 to 5:30 PM				
						Manageme nt Accounting	2:00 to 5:00 PM				
Skill Module-4	Taxation Laws	Business Analysis & decision Making	Financial and Corporate Reporting				2:00 to 5:00 PM				
Essential Module-3		32. 3	200	IT.Manageme nt Audit &			2:00 to 5:00 PM				
Specializatio n Sp-611-612- 613	Forensic Accounting	Fraud Investigation and Audit	Anti Money Laundering Measures & Business				2:00 to 5:00 PM				



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