



VAT Communicator

– a UVS Quarterly Newsletter

VAT – Gulf Countries

- * For the first time in history, some Persian Gulf States are implementing VAT. The first to implement the Tax have been the United Arab Emirates and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
- * While we are not sure as yet whether Saudi Arabia will refund VAT, the UAE has indicated they will refund. At the current moment, we are however unsure what the VAT refund process, documentation and deadlines will be. We will keep our clients and readers posted as and when the refund process in the Country becomes clearer.
- * **UVS Website** – UVS is in the process of rebranding their website. If there is anything you would like to see more clearly described on the website, please do let one of us know.



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Submission Deadline

Submission deadlines come and go. Some of our clients are very good with deadlines. Some others could do with a little bit of fine tuning of internal processes and allocation of responsibilities. The next major deadline applicable to all countries except the United Kingdom for the 13th Directive, is now about 5 months away. It would be splendid if we receive your invoices by the end of March 2018. That will give us adequate time to followup on some invoices that may not be compliant, or on certain documentation that may be needed for the filing. Here below is a table with some Standard VAT Rates. We hope it will encourage you to take advantage of VAT Refunds.

Country	Tax	Rate	Country	Tax	Rate
Austria	MwST	20%	Italy	IVA	22%
Belgium	MwST	21%	Japan	C. Tax	8%
Canada	GST	13%	Netherlands	BTW	21%
Croatia	PDV	23%	Norway	MVA	25%
Denmark	MOMS	25%	S. Korea	VAT	10%
Finland	ALV	24%	Spain	IVA	21%
France	TVA	20%	Sweden	MOMS	25%
Germany	MwST	19%	Switzerland	MwST	8%
Ireland	VAT	23%	United Kingdom	VAT	20%

Paperless Environments and VAT Recovery

More and more businesses are making the decision to move to paperless environments. Of course it is totally in sync corporate social responsibility and in particular, with environment friendliness. When it comes to VAT Recovery however, there are several governments and their VAT institutions that continue to deal with paper. They insist on receiving the original paper invoice. For some VAT Authorities, it is the best way for them to avoid VAT refund fraud. They refund an original paper invoice, stamp it as refunded and that's that. The invoice in question can never again resurface for a refund.

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Switzerland

With regard to Swiss VAT refunds please be aware that the company name is important on invoices. We have had rejections of refund applications because the company names were missing. It would be good to have the company address on the invoice as well, but that is not mandatory and as important as the name of companies on invoices.

At 3.8% Swiss VAT is not huge. Do however remember that the Country refunds on hotel expenses and Car Rentals. We know that every refund counts and adds up to making VAT recovery a decent avenue for saving on Travel and Entertainment Budgets.

Message from Raj Shah, President UVS - "Please do not leave your VAT money on the table. That is what you will do if you do not recover your VAT. Do please remember that VAT recovery has an expiry date . If you miss the deadline, your invoices will have to remain as paper, and you would have lost a good opportunity to convert paper to cash!"

Paperless Environment (Contd.)

If you are a corporate entity, that recovers its VAT and have gone paperless, how will you manage to continue recovering your VAT when you have no original invoices to give UVS? We have a simple solution. Ask your Travel Management Company or your Travel Agent, for a Hotel Booking Report from the Global Distribution System (GDS) — the system they use to make your airline and hotel bookings. They can get it for you with just a few entries on their computer keyboards. Just make sure they have the hotel name, address and the reservation confirmation number. It is best done every quarter. Once you have the Report, just email it to UVS. We will then contact every hotel on the report and ask them for the original invoice or a certified copy from their folios. Once we have the invoices and they are compliant to the requirements of the specific VAT authority, we will be able to file for and obtain the VAT refund. This process now works mainly for the UK.

UVS Online Reports

We find that many of our clients do not seem to be using the UVS online reports. These are made available to clients with specific user names and passwords. Using the reports accessible through the UVS Website, it is possible to see what refunds have been submitted, what has been refunded, what is in the pipeline and country-wise refund details. It is also possible to drill down for additional information. If you have misplaced your log-in credentials, email Ms. Deepa Kumar at deepac@universalsvatservices.com for a new password.

Canada – Refund Of GST/HST

Do you have a subsidiary in Canada? We can help recover GST/HST on your Canadian domestic expenses including domestic airline tickets, transaction fee paid to Travel Management Companies and also VAT refunds on European Union expenses. Do contact us for more information on Canadian GST/HST refunds.

VAT Recovery – United Kingdom

Scrutiny of VAT invoices submitted to the United Kingdom is becoming increasingly stringent. For example, we have had cases where extended business trips to the UK have been queried. An average business trip to the UK does not exceed three or four nights. We have however in some cases, had to provide reasons for trips that involved a fortnight or more. This also indicates that VAT Authorities in the UK are checking invoices more thoroughly before approving refunds.