Saudi Arabia:
Approved Rules and
Procedures for VAT
recovery by Licensed
Real Estate Developers

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The approved Rules shall be considered as an integral part of provisions of Article 70(14) to the VAT Implementing Regulations and are binding for all relevant stakeholders

In brief

The Board of Directors of Zakat, Tax and Customs Authority ('ZATCA') have approved the new Rules and Procedures ('Rules') related to input VAT recovery by qualified/licensed real estate developers on purchased goods and services in KSA in relation to their exempt supplies of real estate.

The Rules, available only in Arabic at the moment, are published in the official gazette and can be accessed here with an effective date of 29 July 2022.

In detail

In May 2022, a draft of the Rules was released by ZATCA for public consultation on the National Competitiveness Centre platform. The PwC Middle East news alert on this matter can be accessed here.

On 29 July 2022, ZATCA approved the proposed Rules with slight changes by adopting Ministerial decision No. 1754.

The approved Rules shall be considered an integral part of the provisions contained in Article 70(14) of the VAT Implementing Regulations. In the event of conflict with the aforementioned provisions, these provisions shall take precedence.

In summary, the approved Rules contain 18 rules and mainly cover:

- Process of submission of qualified real estate developer application;
- Review and verification of the application by ZATCA and approval by the Minister of Finance;
- Exceptions related to allowing real estate developers to refund input VAT incurred prior to obtaining eligible person status;
- Requirements to file a VAT refund application;
- VAT refund filing frequency;
- Records retention requirement by the qualified/ licensed real estate developer;
- Examination of the status of compliance of the qualified real estate developer with the relevant provisions, etc.

In case you wish to know more about these rules, please contact your regular PwC advisor or one of the PwC contacts mentioned hereafter.

The takeaway

Taxable persons are recommended to review the approved Rules and procedures and ensure implementation readiness from the effective date (29 July 2022).

In addition, the rules and procedures should be carefully considered by qualified/licensed real estate developers while applying for registration as eligible persons or submitting VAT refund applications to ensure compliance with the applicable Regulations.

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Let's talk

For a deeper discussion of how this issue might affect your business, please contact:



Mohammed Yaghmour

Middle East Tax & Legal Services Leader

+966 56 704 9675

mohammed.yaghmour@pwc.com



Mohammed Al-Obaidi

KSA Market Leade

+966 50 525 6796

mohammed.alobaidi@pwc.com



Chadi Abou Chakra

Indirect Taxes Network Leader

+966 56 068 0291

Chadi.Abou-Chakra@pwc.com



Guido Lubbers

Partner - Indirect Tax

+966 54 110 0432

guido.lubbers@pwc.com



Hafez Yamin

Partner, Indirect Tax

+966 54 033 7096

hafez.y.yamin@pwc.com



Mohamad Najjar

Partner, Indirect Tax

+966 56 367 9392

mohamad.x.najjar@pwc.com

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