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Qualifying Activities and Excluded Activities for the Purposes of Federal Decree-Law No. 47 of 2022 on the Taxation of Corporations and Businesses

Ministerial Decision No. 229 of 2025 - Issued 28 August 2025 - (Effective from 1 June 2023)

Minister of State for Financial Affairs has decided:

- Having reviewed the Constitution,
- Federal Law No. 1 of 1972 on the Competencies of Ministries and Powers of the Ministers, and its amendments,
- Federal Decree-Law No. 13 of 2016 on the Establishment of the Federal Tax Authority, and its amendments,
- Federal Decree-Law No. 8 of 2017 on Value Added Tax, and its amendments,
- Federal Decree-Law No. 14 of 2018 Regarding the Central Bank and Organization of Financial Institutions and Activities, and its amendments,
- Federal Decree-Law No. 28 of 2022 on Tax Procedures, and its amendments,
- Federal Decree-Law No. 47 of 2022 on the Taxation of Corporations and Businesses, and its amendments,
- Federal Decree-Law No. 48 of 2023 on the Regulation of Insurance Activities,
- Cabinet Decision No. 59 of 2017 on Designated Zones for the Purposes of the Federal Decree-Law No. 8 of 2017 on Value Added Tax, and its amendments,



- Cabinet Decision No. 100 of 2023 on Determining Qualifying Income for the Qualifying Free Zone Person for the Purposes of Federal Decree Law No. 47 of 2022 on the Taxation of Corporations and Businesses,
- Cabinet Decision No. 119 of 2024 Approving the Schedule of the Integrated Customs Tariff in Accordance to the Harmonized System of Classification and Coding of Goods for the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf (2022) and its updates,
- Ministerial Decision No. 265 of 2023 Regarding Qualifying Activities and Excluded Activities for the Purposes of Federal Decree Law No. 47 of 2022 on the Taxation of Corporations and Businesses,
- Ministerial Decision No. 84 of 2025 on Audited Financial Statements for the Purposes of Federal Decree-Law No. 47 of 2022 on the Taxation of Corporations and Businesses.

Article 1 – Definitions

Definitions in Federal Decree-Law No. 47 of 2022 and Cabinet Decision No. 100 of 2023 referred to above shall apply to this Decision, otherwise the following words and expressions shall have the meaning assigned against each, unless the context requires otherwise.

Qualifying Commodities : Means the following commodities provided a Quoted Price for such commodities exists:

1. Metals, minerals, industrial chemicals, energy and agriculture commodities and Associated By-products, excluding products packaged for retail sale and any other products specified in a decision issued by the Minister.



2. Environmental commodities, being tradeable assets that represent a specific environmental benefit, such as carbon credits or renewable energy certificates.

- Recognised Commodities Exchange Market** : Any commodities exchange market established in the State that is licensed and regulated by the relevant Competent Authority, or any commodities exchange market established and recognised outside the State that are licensed and regulated by the relevant foreign authority in the jurisdiction of establishment, or any commodities exchange market as specified in a decision issued by the Minister.
- Ship** : Any structure normally operating, or set for operating in maritime navigation regardless of its power and tonnage.
- Aircraft** : Any machine that can derive support in the atmosphere from the reactions of the air other than the reactions of the air against the surface of the earth.
- Competent Authority** : The Central Bank of the United Arab Emirates, the Dubai Financial Services Authority of the Dubai International Financial Centre, the Financial Services Regulatory Authority of the Abu Dhabi Global Market, the Securities and Commodities Authority, or any other entity as determined by the Minister, as applicable.
- Quoted Price** : Price of the Qualifying Commodity or a Related Commodity specified by a Recognised Commodity Exchange Market or a



recognised price reporting agency specified by a decision issued by the Minister.

- Associated By-product** : An incidental or secondary product made during the production or extraction of the metal, mineral, industrial chemical, energy and agricultural commodity.
- Related Commodity** : Any commodity that is listed in the same chapter in the Common Schedule for Classification and Coding of Goods as a Qualifying Commodity that has a Quoted Price.
- Common Schedule for Classification and Coding of Goods** : Means the Common Schedule for the Classification and Coding of Goods for the Gulf Cooperation Council Countries adopted pursuant to Cabinet Decision No. 119 of 2024 referred to above or any legislation that amends or replaces it.
- Corporate Tax Law** : Federal Decree-Law No. 47 of 2022 referred to above.

Article 2 – Qualifying Activities and Excluded Activities

1. For the purposes of Cabinet Decision No. 100 of 2023 referred to above, and subject to Clauses (2) and (3) of this Article, the following activities conducted by a Qualifying Free Zone Person shall be considered Qualifying Activities:
 - a. Manufacturing of goods or materials.
 - b. Processing of goods or materials.
 - c. Trading of Qualifying Commodities.
 - d. Holding of shares and other securities for investment purposes.
 - e. Ownership, management and operation of Ships.



- f. Reinsurance services.
 - g. Fund management services.
 - h. Wealth and investment management services.
 - i. Headquarter services to Related Parties.
 - j. Treasury and financing services to Related Parties or for its own account.
 - k. Financing and leasing of Aircrafts.
 - l. Distribution of goods or materials in or from a Designated Zone.
 - m. Logistics services.
 - n. Any activities that are ancillary to the Qualifying Activities specified in paragraphs (a) to (m) of this Clause.
2. For the purposes of Cabinet Decision No. 100 of 2023 referred to above, the following activities shall be considered Excluded Activities:
- a. Any transactions with natural persons, except transactions in relation to the Qualifying Activities specified under paragraphs (e), (g), (h) and (k) of Clause (1) of this Article.
 - b. Banking activities.
 - c. Insurance activities, without prejudice to the Qualifying Activities specified under paragraphs (f) and (i) of Clause (1) of this Article.
 - d. Finance and leasing activities without prejudice to the Qualifying Activities specified in paragraphs (c), (e), (j) and (k) of Clause (1) of this Article.
 - e. Ownership or exploitation of immovable property, other than Commercial Property located in a Free Zone where the transaction in respect of such Commercial Property is conducted with a Free Zone Person.
 - f. Any activities that are ancillary to the Excluded Activities specified in paragraphs (a) to (e) of this Clause.



3. For the purposes of Clauses (1) and (2) of this Article, the following shall apply:
- a. Manufacturing of goods or materials includes the production, improvement or assembly of products and materials from raw materials or components.
 - b. Processing of goods or materials includes the preparation, treatment, transformation or conversion of goods or materials into another form of good or material for commercial or industrial use or sale.
 - c. Trading of Qualifying Commodities means the physical trading of Qualifying Commodities, associated financial derivatives trading used to hedge against risks involved in such activities and associated structured commodity financing activity, provided that this activity is not conducted by a Qualifying Free Zone Person whose Revenue from distribution, warehousing, logistics or inventory management functions constitutes 51% (fifty one percent) or more of their Revenue for the relevant Tax Period.

For the purposes of the preceding paragraph, structured commodity financing activity shall include prepayment, factoring, forfaiting, countertrade, warehouse receipt financing, export receivable financing, project finance, Islamic trade finance and streaming financing.

- d. Holding of shares and other securities for investment purposes includes the holding of the following:
 - 1) Shares of any class in the share capital of another juridical person or other types of equitable interests that entitle the holder to receive profits and liquidation proceeds, whether as a legal or beneficial owner.
 - 2) Negotiable or non-negotiable financial instruments, including, derivative instruments, financial commodities, and other investment instruments that are or can be traded in a public or private market or that are convertible or exchangeable into a



security or which confer a right to purchase a security, with the exception of the holding of financial or investment instruments that are issued pursuant to a securitization of receivables from a non-financial asset.

Shares and other securities are deemed to be held for investment purposes when held for an uninterrupted period of at least (12) twelve months.

- e. Ownership, management and operation of Ships includes the ownership, management and operation of Ships used in the international transportation of passengers, goods or livestock, towing activities and the provision of general assistance to Ships at sea, dredging activities at sea, and leasing and chartering of Ships on a bareboat basis used in the international transportation of passengers, goods or livestock. This activity shall not include Ships used for local transportation or leisure or recreational purposes, or as floating hotels, restaurants or casinos.
- f. Reinsurance services means reinsurance operations that are regulated under Federal Decree-Law No. 48 of 2023 referred to above and any law that amends or replaces it.
- g. Fund management services includes the activities of portfolio management, risk management, discretionary and non-discretionary fund management services and other services relating to the day-to-day management and operation of an investment fund by a fund manager that is appointed by the fund or its investors, including those activities that are delegated by an investment fund or its fund manager to an investment advisor or sub-advisor, that are subject to the regulatory oversight of the Competent Authority in the State.
- h. Wealth and investment management services includes the activities of providing discretionary and non-discretionary investment management and advisory services,



portfolio management and wealth and investment advisory services, that are subject to the regulatory oversight of the Competent Authority in the State.

- i. Headquarter services to Related Parties includes the administering, overseeing and managing of Business Activities of Related Parties, including the provision of senior and general management, captive insurance services, administrative services, procurement services, business planning and development, risk management, coordination of group activities, and in general incurring expenditures on behalf of Related Parties and providing other support services to Related Parties.
- j. Treasury and financing services to Related Parties or for its own account includes the provision of cash and liquidity management, financing, debt management, and financial risk management and related advisory services, including centralised payment and collection activities.
- k. Financing and leasing of Aircraft includes the financing, leasing and securitisation of the financing and leasing of Aircraft, Aircraft engines or rotatable components, granting the right to use Aircraft, Aircraft engines or rotatable components in exchange for rental or other consideration pursuant to a finance lease, operating lease or other arrangement and related advisory and agency services for the procurement, sale or leasing of Aircraft, Aircraft engines or rotatable components undertaken by the Qualifying Free Zone Person.
- l. Distribution of goods or materials in or from a Designated Zone, includes the buying and selling of goods, materials, component parts or any other items that are tangible or movable and may include the importation, storage, inventory management, handling, transportation and exportation of such goods or materials or parts thereof, provided that such activities are conducted in or from a Designated Zone, and the goods or materials



entering the State are imported through the Designated Zone, and the goods or materials are supplied to any of the following:

- 1) A customer who resells, processes or alters such goods or materials, or parts thereof for the purposes of sale or resale.
 - 2) A public benefit entity.
- m. Logistics services includes the storage and transportation of goods or materials on behalf of another Person without taking title to the good or material of that other Person, including cargo handling, warehousing, container storage, transport agency services, customs brokerage services, order and inventory management, freight forwarding and brokerage services, document preparation, packing and unpacking and other related services.
- n. Banking activities means the regulated financial activities specified under Federal Decree-Law No. 14 of 2018 referred to above and any law that amends or replaces it.
- o. Insurance activities means insurance operations that are regulated under Federal Decree-Law No. 48 of 2023 referred to above and any law that amends or replaces it.
- p. Finance and leasing activities means the provision of credit or financing for any kind of consideration, and the letting or otherwise granting the right to use an asset in exchange for rental or other consideration pursuant to a finance lease, operating lease or other arrangement, that are subject to the regulatory oversight of the Competent Authority in the State.
4. For the purposes of paragraph (n) of Clause (1) and paragraph (f) of Clause (2) of this Article, an activity shall be considered ancillary where it is necessary for the performance of the main activity or where it makes a minor contribution to it and is so closely related to the main activity that it should not be regarded as a separate activity.



Article 3 – De Minimis Requirements

For the purposes of Article (4) of Cabinet Decision No. 100 of 2023 referred to above, the de minimis requirements shall be considered satisfied where the non-qualifying Revenue derived by the Qualifying Free Zone Person in a Tax Period does not exceed 5% (five percent) of the total Revenue of the Qualifying Free Zone Person in that Tax Period or AED 5,000,000 (five million dirhams), whichever is lower.

Article 4 - Income Derived from Qualifying Intellectual Property

1. For the purposes of Clause (1) of Article (7) of Cabinet Decision No. 100 of 2023 referred to above, subject to the application of Clause (3) of this Article, the Qualifying Income shall be determined as follows:

$$\text{Qualifying Income} = \frac{\text{Qualifying Expenditures} + \text{Up-lift Expenditures}}{\text{Overall Expenditures}} \times \text{Overall Income}$$

2. For the purpose of Clause (1) of this Article the following provisions shall apply:
 - a. 'Qualifying Expenditures' means expenditures incurred to fund research and development activities, conducted either by the Qualifying Free Zone Person or outsourced to any Person in the State or any Person outside the State that is not a Related Party, directly connected with the creation, invention or significant development of the Qualifying Intellectual Property.
 - b. 'Overall Expenditures' means total expenditures incurred to fund research and development activities, conducted either by the Qualifying Free Zone Person or outsourced to any Person, directly connected with the creation, invention or significant



development of the Qualifying Intellectual Property, including acquisition costs of the Qualifying Intellectual Property.

- c. 'Overall Income' means royalties or any other income derived from Qualifying Intellectual Property as determined according to the provisions of the Corporate Tax Law, including embedded intellectual property income derived from the sale of products and the use of processes directly related to the Qualifying Intellectual Property as determined in accordance with the arm's length principle under Article (34) of the Corporate Tax Law.
 - d. 'Up-lift Expenditures' means 30% (thirty percent) of the Qualifying Expenditure, subject to the application of Clause (3) of this Article.
3. The Up-lift Expenditures shall be applicable only to the extent that Qualifying Expenditures, after being up-lifted is less than or equal to Overall Expenditures.
4. For the purposes of determining what income from Qualifying Intellectual Property is to be considered Qualifying Income, the Qualifying Free Zone Person must maintain all records, books and documents that prove the following and make them available to the Authority:
- a. Ownership and the right to exploit the Qualifying Intellectual Property.
 - b. Qualifying Expenditures and Overall Expenditures incurred.
 - c. Overall Income derived from the Qualifying Intellectual Property.
 - d. The link between Qualifying Expenditures and Overall Income derived from Qualifying Intellectual Property.

Article 5 - Other Conditions

1. In addition to the conditions set out in Clause (1) of Article (18) of the Corporate Tax Law, a Qualifying Free Zone Person must meet the following two conditions:



- a. Its non-qualifying Revenue does not exceed the de minimis requirements set out in Article (3) of this Decision.
 - b. It prepares audited financial statements in accordance with Ministerial Decision No. 84 of 2025 referred to above and any decision that amends or replaces it.
2. A Qualifying Free Zone Person that at any particular time during a Tax Period fails to meet any of the conditions set out in Clause (1) of Article (18) of the Corporate Tax Law and this Decision and any other conditions prescribed by the Minister shall cease to be a Qualifying Free Zone Person from the beginning of the relevant Tax Period and for the subsequent (4) four Tax Periods.

Article 6 - Repeals

Ministerial Decision 265 of 2023 referred to above shall be repealed.

Article 7 - Publication and Application of this Decision

This decision shall be published and shall come into effect on 1 June 2023.