

Tax periods

VAT — 2022



What is a tax period?

Specific period of time for which payable tax is calculated

→ File VAT return for each tax period

→ Include:

- Supplies made during the tax period (value and output tax – where applicable)
- Supplies received which qualifies for input tax recovery during that tax period

Tax period assigned as part of registration process

→ Reflected on registration certificate

→ Generally 3 month period with exceptions for monthly and 6 monthly tax periods



Standard tax period

- The standard tax period is 3 months
- There are 3 staggers of quarterly registrants.

Stagger	Tax periods	Tax year end
VAT Stagger 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 February – 30 April 1 May – 31 July 1 August – 31 October 1 November – 31 January 	31 January
VAT Stagger 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 March – 31 May 1 June – 31 August 1 September – 30 November 1 December – 28/29 February 	Last day of February
VAT Stagger 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 January – 31 March 1 April – 31 June 1 July – 30 September 1 October – 31 December 	31 March

Monthly periods

Very large businesses, and persons' that requested to have monthly tax periods may be registered under Stagger 4.

→ VAT registration certificate reflects which stagger is applicable to the specific person

Stagger	Tax periods	Tax year end
VAT Stagger 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 January – 31 January • 1 February – 28/29 February • 1 March – 31 March • 1 April – 30 April • 1 May – 31 May • 1 June – 30 June • 1 July – 31 July • 1 August – 31 August • 1 September – 30 September • 1 October – 31 October • 1 November – 30 November • 1 December – 31 December 	31 December

Request to change tax period

Registrants may apply for an administrative exception to change

- The tax period stagger
- The length of their tax period.



Six-monthly tax periods

The registrants may apply for an administrative exception to change the length of their tax periods to 6 months

Category	Description	Required information
Individual	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Property owners and other individuals such as freelancers. The FTA will consider all the supplies made by such persons before arriving at a decision. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Administrative exception application form For the preceding 12 months: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of invoices issued Total tax paid Total value of taxable supplies made
Business in constant refund position	Businesses that were in a refund position in all the tax periods in the preceding 12 months, and expect to remain in a refund position	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Administrative exception application form Supporting evidence on which the expectation is based that the business

Six-monthly tax periods

The following persons may apply for an administrative exception to change the length of their tax periods to 6 months:

Category	Description	Required information
Small & medium enterprises (SMEs) with funding	Registered SMEs which receive official funding approved by the Government.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Administrative exception application form • Total tax paid in the preceding 12 months • Taxable supplies made in the preceding 12 months
SMEs without funding	Registered SMEs which do not receive official funding approved by any Government entity provided the total value of taxable supplies in the preceding 12 months was equal to or less than AED 9 million.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Administrative exception application form • Total tax paid in the preceding 12 months • Taxable supplies made in the preceding 12 months • Whether the registrant has received any penalties in the preceding 12 months

Further guidance

- VAT User Guide - Returns
- VAT Administrative Exceptions Guide – VATGEX1

