

# Tax brief | Bahrain VAT refunds for non-residents

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Bahrain's tax authority, the National Bureau for Revenue (NBR) has, as outlined in article 90 of the executive regulations, set out how non-residents can recover VAT incurred in Bahrain. Applications to refund VAT incurred in 2020 can be submitted from 1 January 2021. As it may take some time to gather all the evidence required, we recommend applicants act now.

### Who can access the refund scheme?

Applicants who are:

- Not resident in Bahrain
- Not registered (nor required to be registered) for VAT in Bahrain
- Registered for VAT (or a similar tax) in their country of residence
- Resident in a country which has a mechanism to refund VAT to persons in Bahrain

### Is there a value threshold?

Yes – the amount of VAT being reclaimed must be at least BHD200.

### How many refund claims may be submitted annually?

One.

### How do you obtain a refund?

Send the refund application form (and supporting documents) to registration@nbr.gov.bh.

### How will refunds be paid?

By bank transfer.

### What documents do I need to submit?

- Completed application form
- Itemised invoices on the NBR-provided template
- Copies of VAT invoices
- Identification documents
- Confirmation of tax registration in home country
- Confirmation of reciprocal refund arrangement

### How long will refunds take?

The NBR will notify applicants within three months of receiving a completed application.

### When can I apply?

Applications must be submitted in the first quarter of the following year. For 2020, applications must be made between 1 January 2021 and 31 March 2021. As the NBR has not provided any information relating to 2019, refunds may only be processed for, and after, 2020.

**Disclaimer:** This tax alert is based on our interpretation of the NBR's update on its non-resident VAT refund scheme and general VAT leading practice. It is for general information. Seek professional advice in relation to your particular circumstances.