

GUIDE FOR FOREIGN SUPPLIERS OF DIGITAL AND ELECTRONIC SERVICES



(Effective as from 1 January 2026)
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Introduction

Following amendments made to the Value Added Tax Act by the Finance Act 2025, a new Section 14A has been introduced to bring within the scope of Value Added tax (VAT) the supply of digital and/or electronic services made by foreign suppliers to persons in Mauritius. This obligation will be effective as from 1 January 2026.

The Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA) is responsible for the administration, registration, and collection of VAT from foreign suppliers of digital and/or electronic services.

Foreign suppliers of digital or electronic services in Mauritius are required to compulsorily register for VAT with the MRA, charge and collect VAT on these services, submit monthly or quarterly VAT returns, as applicable, and remit the VAT charged or collected to the MRA. The VAT charged or collected should be remitted to the MRA in US dollar, Euros, GB pounds sterling, Singapore dollars, South African Rands or Swiss francs.

The VAT return with respect to a month or quarter, as applicable, should be submitted electronically to the MRA and the remittance of the VAT, in accordance with the return, should be made electronically to the MRA on or before the end of the following month.

The facilities for registration, submission of VAT returns and payment of VAT in accordance with the returns are available on the MRA website www.mra.mu.

1. Who is a foreign supplier?

A foreign supplier is a person who:

- (a) has no permanent establishment in Mauritius or has his place of abode outside Mauritius; and
- (b) supplies, in the course of his business, digital or electronic services to a person in Mauritius.

2. What are digital or electronic services?

For the purposes of this Guide, digital or electronic services are services which have been specified under Part III of the Tenth Schedule to the VAT Act as follows:

- (a) Supplies of images or texts, such as photographs, screensavers, electronic books and other digitized documents
- (b) Supplies of music, films, television shows, games and programmes on demand
- (c) Supplies of applications, software and software maintenance
- (d) Website supply or web hosting services
- (e) Advertising space on a website
- (f) Online magazines
- (g) Distance maintenance of programmes and equipment

3. Are foreign suppliers required to charge and remit VAT?

Yes. Under Section 14A(1) of the VAT Act, a foreign supplier shall charge VAT on any digital or electronic services supplied to any person in Mauritius in accordance with Sections 9, 10 and 12 of the VAT Act.

This means that when a foreign supplier is supplying a digital or electronic service to persons in Mauritius, the foreign supplier should charge VAT at the rate of 15% on its taxable supplies.

Thereafter, the foreign supplier is required to submit, a monthly or quarterly VAT return, as applicable, within 1 month from the end of the month or quarter and at the same time, remit the VAT, in the applicable currency, in accordance with that return.

4. Who must register for VAT?

A foreign supplier must register for VAT in Mauritius if it supplies digital or electronic services specified at paragraph 2 above, in Mauritius.

Foreign suppliers are informed that VAT registration is compulsory irrespective of their turnover of taxable supplies.

5. How can a foreign supplier register for VAT in Mauritius?

A foreign supplier must register for VAT electronically through the MRA website at www.mra.mu.

The procedure for VAT registration is that the foreign supplier should firstly submit an email on registration@mra.mu together with the following mandatory details:

- **For companies:**

- (i) Certificate of registration from the country of origin;
- (ii) Correspondence address;
- (iii) Phone number; and
- (iv) Email address

- **For individuals:**

- (i) Passport
- (ii) Correspondence address
- (iii) Phone number; and
- (iv) Email address

Once the above details have been duly submitted to the above email address, the foreign supplier will be provided with a Tax Account Number and a password to log in to the simplified VAT registration system which is available on our website as follows:

Once logged in, it will be required to choose the option **“Foreign supplier supplying digital or electronic services”** under the business activity field. Additionally, it will be required to select the digital or electronic services being supplied as per paragraph 2.

Once registered, the MRA will issue a VAT Registration Number and confirmation notice to the foreign supplier or to the appointed tax representative.

6. How should a foreign supplier determine whether a recipient is in Mauritius?

A foreign supplier must treat a recipient of a digital or electronic service as being in Mauritius if any two of the following indicators are non-contradictory and support the conclusion that the recipient is in Mauritius. These indicators include:

- (a) the billing address of the person to whom the supply is made;
- (b) the location of the bank from which the payment for the service to the supplier originates;
- (c) the internet protocol or another geolocation method address of the device used by the person to whom the supply is made;
- (d) the international country code provided by the person to whom the supply is made in his contact details (mobile phone or land-based phone); or
- (e) any commercially relevant information.

7. When should the foreign supplier appoint a tax representative?

As per section 14A(2) of the VAT Act, where the turnover of taxable supplies of a foreign supplier in Mauritius exceeds or is likely to exceed Rs 3 million or its equivalent in foreign currency, it must appoint a tax representative who shall have a permanent establishment in Mauritius.

8. Who can be a tax representative?

The tax representative should be legally authorized to represent the foreign supplier before the MRA and must be a licensed professional or entity with familiarity and/or expertise in Mauritian tax matters, such as:

- Certified Public Accountants
- Tax Advisory Firms
- Legal Firms with expertise in tax law
- Tax Agents or Tax Consultants authorized under the MRA Act;
- Any other person as may be authorized by the MRA.

9. What are the obligations of the tax representative?

The tax representative is responsible for submitting VAT returns, making payments to the MRA, and ensuring that all other obligations under the VAT Act are complied with.

The tax representative is answerable to the MRA for the doing of all such things as are required to be done under the Act.

10. Relationship between the foreign supplier and the tax representative

The relationship between the parties shall be understood as a principal - agent relationship:

- The foreign supplier (**principal**) remains the taxable person and the entity legally responsible for VAT obligations arising from supplies of digital or electronic services to persons in Mauritius. It is the responsibility of the principal to ensure that the appointed

tax representative submits the VAT returns and effect VAT payments on a timely basis within the deadline.

- The tax representative (**agent**) acts on behalf of the foreign supplier for the purpose of fulfilling administrative and compliance duties under the VAT Act.

11. What is the liability of the tax representative?

The tax representative is responsible for administrative compliance on behalf of the foreign supplier. The representative's functions include:

- **Compliance with Tax Obligations:**

Ensure that the foreign supplier complies with local tax laws, including filing tax returns, paying taxes, and responding to any tax audits or inquiries.

- **Acting as the Point of Contact with the MRA:**

The tax representative serves as the official contact between the foreign supplier and the Mauritius Revenue Authority, ensuring smooth communication.

- **Maintaining Records**

The foreign supplier or the tax representative must ensure that accurate records of all transactions are kept in Mauritius.

This provision of a tax representative serves as a safeguard rather than a standard enforcement mechanism. The liability of the representative will only be invoked in cases of persistent non-compliance, intentional non-payment or failure to secure cooperation from the foreign supplier.

The tax representative may, however, be held liable if VAT amounts collected from the foreign supplier are not remitted to the Director-General. In such instances, liability arises from the representative's duty to accurately account for and remit the funds entrusted to them for payment to the MRA. Failure to fulfil this obligation may result in prosecution for neglecting to discharge this responsibility.

12. Is there a registration process for tax representatives?

No separate registration is required for a tax representative with the MRA. Upon the appointment of a tax representative by a foreign supplier, the MRA must be notified in writing. This can be done by sending an email to digital.vat@mra.mu. The notification should include a signed letter of representation which must detail the following information pertaining to the tax representative:

- Date of appointment
- Full name of the tax representative
- TAN or BRN of tax representative
- Office address, email address and phone number of tax representative.

The tax representative must also formally notify the MRA of their acceptance of the appointment.

Any change in tax representatives must be promptly communicated to the MRA in writing.

13. Can the tax representative register on behalf of the foreign supplier?

Yes. Once the credentials for portal access have been generated, the foreign supplier may provide these credentials to the tax representative to facilitate the fulfilment of subsequent VAT obligations.

14. When should VAT be charged be included in a VAT return?

VAT charged or collected should be included in the VAT return for a month or quarter based on the earlier of the dates on which the foreign supplier has issued an invoice or has received payment for the supply made to the person in Mauritius.

15. Should foreign suppliers issue VAT Invoice?

No. Foreign suppliers are not required to issue VAT invoice as per Section 20(7) of the VAT Act.

16. Can local businesses claim VAT on digital or electronic services procured from foreign suppliers even when no VAT invoice is issued by the foreign supplier?

Yes. Credit for input VAT can be claimed by the local business.

17. How should VAT returns be submitted?

A foreign supplier, or its tax representative, is required to submit VAT returns electronically to the MRA after the end of every taxable period, within twenty days or such other time as may be prescribed.

At the time of submitting the return, the foreign supplier must also provide electronically a list of taxable supplies made to any person in Mauritius.

18. Should VAT returns be submitted on a monthly basis or quarterly basis?

A foreign supplier whose annual turnover of taxable supplies in Mauritius exceeds MUR 10 million has the obligation to submit VAT returns on a monthly basis. Where the annual turnover falls below this threshold, the foreign supplier may opt to submit VAT returns on a quarterly basis.

19. How should payments be made?

VAT payments should be made electronically at the time of filing the VAT return.

Where a foreign supplier receives payment in US dollar, Euros, GB pounds sterling, Singapore dollars, South African Rands, Swiss francs or such other foreign currency as may be approved by the Director-General, he shall submit his VAT return under section 22 and pay any tax specified therein in that currency.

Where a foreign supplier receives payment in more than one currency, he shall submit his VAT return under section 22 and pay any tax specified therein in a currency of his choice among the above currencies.

Tax representatives must ensure that direct debit orders are properly submitted to the MRA to facilitate the bank's authorization of the direct debit payment for foreign suppliers.

20. Can input tax be claimed by the foreign supplier?

No. According to Section 21(2)(i) of the VAT Act, no input tax is allowable to a foreign supplier of digital or electronic services.

21. Should a VAT - registered business still apply the reverse charge mechanism when purchasing digital and electronic services even if the foreign supplier is VAT-registered in Mauritius?

No. Once a foreign supplier is VAT registered in Mauritius, the mechanism of VAT reverse charge will no longer be applicable for digital and electronic services. The foreign supplier, now registered for VAT in Mauritius, should charge VAT to the VAT registered business on the above supply and should report all its supplies made in Mauritius.

22. What happens if a foreign supplier fails to register or pay VAT?

A foreign supplier who fails to register for VAT, submit a VAT return, or pay VAT within the prescribed time shall be liable to penalties and interest as provided under the VAT Act.

23. Where can assistance be obtained?

Foreign suppliers and their tax representatives may contact the Mauritius Revenue Authority for any clarification on VAT obligations relating to digital and electronic services. Assistance may be obtained by emailing **digital.vat@mra.mu** or by calling **+230 207 6000** during regular working hours from 08:45 to 16:30.

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