KSA VAT Compliance and Tax Dispute Resolution Training Course



27 - 31 Dec 2026

Manama

4400 € (Per Person)

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Course Introduction / Overview:

Navigating the complexities of Value Added Tax (VAT) in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia requires a deep understanding of both the legislative framework and the practical mechanisms for resolving disputes. This comprehensive training course is meticulously designed to provide a complete A to Z guide on KSA VAT, from foundational principles to advanced strategies for managing tax disputes effectively. As the tax landscape evolves under the guidance of the Zakat, Tax and Customs Authority (ZATCA), businesses must be equipped with the knowledge to ensure compliance and protect their financial interests. This program, offered by BIG BEN Training Center, delves into the nuances of the VAT law, its implementing regulations, and the procedural intricacies of tax audits and appeals. Drawing on insights from international tax experts like Michael Keen, whose work on VAT systems is globally recognized, and principles outlined in publications such as the "International VAT/GST Guidelines", this course bridges theoretical knowledge with real-world application. Participants will gain the confidence to handle VAT obligations, manage ZATCA interactions, and strategically navigate the dispute resolution process, from initial objection to litigation before the General Secretariat of Tax Committees (GSTC).

Target Audience / This training course is suitable for:

- Tax Managers and Directors.
- Finance Managers and Controllers.
- Chief Financial Officers (CFOs).
- Accountants and Senior Accountants.
- Internal and External Auditors.
- Legal Counsel and Corporate Lawyers.
- Compliance Officers.
- Business Owners and Entrepreneurs.
- Financial and Tax Consultants.
- Procurement and Supply Chain Managers.

Target Sectors and Industries:

- Financial Services and Banking.
- Real Estate and Construction.
- Retail and Wholesale Trade.
- Manufacturing and Industrial.
- Oil, Gas, and Energy.
- Telecommunications and Technology.
- Professional Services and Consulting.
- Logistics and Transportation.
- Government and Public Sector Entities.
- Healthcare and Pharmaceuticals.
- Hospitality and Tourism.

Target Organizations Departments:

- Finance Department.
- Accounting Department.
- Legal Department.
- Internal Audit Department.
- Compliance and Risk Management Department.
- Procurement and Contracts Department.
- Tax Department.
- Executive Management.

Course Offerings:

By the end of this course, the participants will have able to:

- Interpret the KSA VAT legislation and its implementing regulations with high proficiency.
- Manage the complete VAT compliance cycle, including registration, e-invoicing, and return filing.
- Identify and mitigate common VAT risks and compliance pitfalls in business operations.
- Prepare for and effectively manage ZATCA tax audits and assessments.
- Analyze tax assessment notices and formulate robust grounds for objection.
- Draft and submit formal objections to ZATCA with supporting documentation.
- Understand the structure and procedures of the General Secretariat of Tax Committees (GSTC).
- Develop effective strategies for tax litigation and appeals.
- Evaluate the implications of key tax court precedents in Saudi Arabia.
- Implement proactive tax risk management frameworks within their organization.

Course Methodology:

The training methodology at BIG BEN Training Center is designed to foster a dynamic and interactive learning environment that moves beyond theoretical lectures. This course employs a blended approach, combining expert-led presentations with practical, hands-on learning experiences. A cornerstone of the program is the extensive use of case studies derived from real-world KSA tax dispute scenarios, allowing participants to analyze complex situations and develop strategic solutions. Interactive group discussions and workshops will encourage peer-to-peer learning and the sharing of diverse industry experiences. Participants will engage in practical exercises, such as drafting objection letters and preparing for a mock tax appeal hearing, to build tangible skills. The facilitator will provide continuous feedback and guide participants through the intricacies of ZATCA's procedures and the GSTC's judicial process. This immersive and participatory approach ensures that attendees not only grasp the legal principles of KSA VAT but also acquire the practical competencies needed to confidently manage tax compliance and resolve disputes within their organizations.

Course Agenda (Course Units):

Unit One: Foundations of the KSA VAT Legal Framework

- Introduction to the Unified VAT Agreement for the GCC.
- Overview of the KSA VAT Law and its Implementing Regulations.
- Understanding the role and authority of ZATCA.
- Scope of VAT: Taxable, zero-rated, and exempt supplies.
- Key concepts: Taxable person, place of supply, and date of supply.
- VAT registration, de-registration, and grouping rules.
- Principles of input tax deduction and apportionment.

Unit Two: VAT Compliance, Operations, and E-Invoicing

- Detailed requirements for a valid tax invoice.
- The Fatoorah Project: E-invoicing regulations and implementation phases.
- Managing VAT returns: Preparation, submission, and payment procedures.
- Record-keeping requirements and statutory retention periods.
- Handling VAT on imports and exports.
- Correcting errors and making voluntary disclosures.
- Understanding VAT penalties and fines for non-compliance.

Unit Three: Advanced and Sector-Specific VAT Topics

- VAT treatment in the real estate sector.
- Complexities of VAT in the financial services industry.
- VAT implications for government tenders and contracts.
- Special VAT schemes and provisions.
- Transfer pricing considerations and their interaction with VAT.
- Managing cross-border transactions and reverse charge mechanisms.
- Impact of Double Taxation Agreements on VAT.

Unit Four: Managing ZATCA Audits, Assessments, and Objections

- Understanding the ZATCA tax audit process and taxpayer rights.
- Common triggers for tax audits and how to prepare for them.
- Responding to ZATCA information requests and inquiries.
- Reviewing and analyzing ZATCA tax assessment notices.
- Formulating the legal and factual basis for an objection.
- The process of filing an objection with ZATCA.
- Strategies for negotiating and settling with the tax authority.

Unit Five: The Tax Dispute Resolution and Litigation Process

- Introduction to the General Secretariat of Tax Committees (GSTC).
- The structure of tax committees: Preliminary and Appeal Committees.
- Filing a lawsuit with the Preliminary Committee.
- Preparing case files, evidence, and legal memorandums.
- Procedures for hearings and presenting arguments.
- Appealing decisions to the Appeal Committee and higher courts.
- Strategic case management and litigation best practices.

FAQ:

Qualifications required for registering to this course?

There are no requirements.

How long is each daily session, and what is the total number of training hours for the course?

This training course spans five days, with daily sessions ranging between 4 to 5 hours, including breaks and interactive activities, bringing the total duration to 20 - 25 training hours.

Something to think about:

How might the evolution of digital tax administration and AI-driven audits by ZATCA reshape traditional tax dispute resolution strategies in the Kingdom?

What unique qualities does this course offer compared to other courses?

This course distinguishes itself by moving beyond a purely theoretical recitation of VAT law to focus intensely on the practical, strategic aspects of tax dispute resolution in Saudi Arabia. While other programs may cover compliance, this training provides a unique, in-depth simulation of the entire dispute lifecycle, from receiving a ZATCA assessment to navigating the intricacies of the GSTC litigation process. Its core strength lies in the use of localized, highly relevant case studies that reflect the specific challenges and precedents within the KSA judicial system, rather than generic international examples. The curriculum is designed not just to inform but to empower, equipping participants with the skills to draft compelling legal arguments, strategically manage evidence, and anticipate the procedural tactics of the tax authority. The pedagogical approach emphasizes proactive risk management and strategic decision-making, teaching participants not only how to react to a tax dispute but how to build a robust compliance framework that minimizes the likelihood of disputes arising in the first place. It offers a specialist-level immersion into the realities of KSA tax litigation, a focus rarely found in general VAT courses.