



VAT Simplifying the collection of Tax

EXISTING ACCOUNTING INVOICES TEMPORARILY ALLOWED FOR VAT WITH CONDITIONS

Castries, ST. LUCIA, September – Based on several queries concerning VAT invoices received by the VAT Implementation Project Office from registered VAT taxpayers, it has become necessary to clarify whether continued use of existing accounting invoices is permissible, once they are stamped and missing information manually inserted.

The VAT Implementation Project Office wishes to inform businesses with existing invoices that they can use them for a period of no more than 6 months and that these invoices should include the Tax Identification Number (TIN), and any other relevant information as required by the VAT Act. Businesses would have been appraised on what such information should comprise through tutorials on the VAT website (www.vat.gov.lc), through one-on-one business advisory visits and the VAT Business Registration packages which every enterprise on the tax roll has received to date.

However, for ease of reference, invoices must include the words, “VALUE ADDED TAX INVOICE” or “VAT INVOICE” or “TAX INVOICE” in bold in a prominent place; contain any identifying serial number and date of sale; **both** the supplier’s and purchaser’s name, address and Tax Identification number (TIN), the description of the goods or services supplied including the quantity; the rate and a amount of any cash discount offered; the Total value of the good or service, excluding the VAT Charged; the VAT rate used and the VAT amount payable; and the total value of the supply including VAT.

VAT Taxpayers, that is Registered businesses, should also bear in mind that the VAT invoice must be in triplicate – one for the purchaser, one for the supplier and one to be made available to the Inland Revenue Department upon request.

VAT Project Coordinator Adria Sonson indicated satisfaction with the level of responsiveness being displayed by the commercial sector, stating that it bodes well for the implementation process.

“This is a major change for everyone. The system of taxation is multi-tiered and involved so it is important for us all to understand that rather than avoiding the period of preparation, things will

get smoothed out that much quicker, if we start to troubleshoot this major systemic reform which VAT represents.”

Earlier this week the VAT Project Office met with the Chamber of Commerce to discuss how to better manage the communication flow on the implementation milestones and activities, so all parties are on the same page. A few ideas emerged which both parties have undertaken to put into motion to this end.

The VAT Project Office has indicated that Taxpayers have begun to receive the Tax Identification Numbers (TIN) numbers, and that the VAT Act will be a public document within the coming days.

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