## KINGDOM OF BAHRAIN

SIMPLIFIED VAT RETURN FILING MANUAL DURING TRANSITION PERIOD OF THE STANDARD VAT RATE CHANGE (APPLICABLE FOR VAT PERIODS 21DEC, 21Q4 AND ANNUAL 2021)

**REQUEST AND FILING** 

**DECEMBER 2021** 

**VERSION 1.0** 

## CONTENTS

1	. M <i>i</i>	ANUAL OVERVIEW		1
2	. CH	ANGING FILING FORM		2
	2.1.	ELIGIBILITY		2
	2.2.	REQUEST PROCESS		2
	2.3.	Submitting the request to change the return type		2
	2.4.	Successful submission of the request		6
3	. SII	MPLIFIED FILING PROCESS		8
	3.1.	Filing in the VAT return form		9
	3.2.	Submitting the simplified VAT return form	1	2
4	. SII	MPLIFIED FILING SCENARIO EXAMPLES	1	5
		Example 2: One-off supply with sales agreement formalized rement date and effective date		
		Example 3: Continuous supply with sales agreement formalized rement date and effective date:		
5	. FF	REQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQs)	2	1

### MANUAL OVERVIEW

This manual aims to provide VAT payers with:

- 1) An overview of the VAT rules and procedures in Bahrain in relation to the process of changing between the two VAT return types Full and Simplified
- 2) The necessary guidance needed to navigate the National Bureau for Revenue (NBR) online portal and process for VAT payers to change their VAT return type
- 3) The necessary guidance to help VAT payers navigate the NBR online portal and submit a simplified VAT return

This manual is intended to provide general information only and does not represent exhaustive or legally binding guidelines. For additional information, kindly refer to the "VAT Guidelines" on the NBR website using the following link: National Bureau for Revenue - Guidelines and Publications (nbr.gov.bh)

You can also contact NBR's Contact Centre via email or the VAT hotline, details of which can be found under "Contact us" on the NBR website.



### CHANGING FILING FORM

### 2.1. ELIGIBILITY

Starting from 2020, VAT payers who have less than BHD 100,000 in total annual supplies and who are not part of a VAT group may request to use the simplified VAT return. The simplified VAT return can be used by monthly, quarterly, or annually filers granted the above two criteria are met.

### 2.2. REQUEST PROCESS

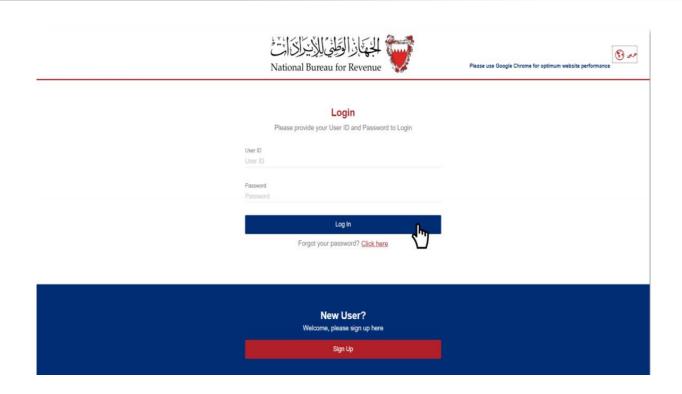
By default, every VAT payer has a full VAT return. To confirm your current VAT return type, you can access any active filing obligation which has not yet been submitted. Please access the "VAT Returns" tile on your VAT portal and filter your returns to "Not filed".

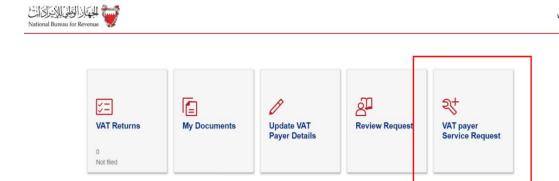
All requests to change VAT return type should be submitted online using the NBR portal. Please refer to the steps below when requesting to change your VAT return type. While all eligible VAT payers will be able to switch to the simplified VAT return, NBR reserves the right to switch any VAT payers back to the full VAT return at any point of time, if deemed necessary.

### 2.3. Submitting the request to change the return type

Access the Login page on the NBR portal using the following link: <a href="https://www.nbr.gov.bh/">https://www.nbr.gov.bh/</a>. For an optimal experience, please note that the portal should be accessed via Google Chrome.



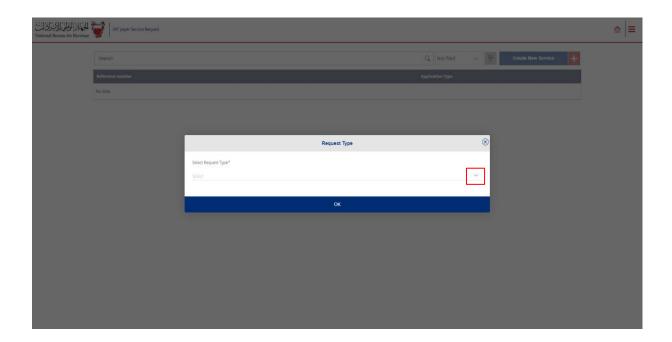




Contact Us

**o** |≡

You will be redirected to the service requests page. If you have any open service requests, they will be displayed in this page. Please click on "Create New Service" and select the down arrow in the pop up to access the list of services provided by NBR.

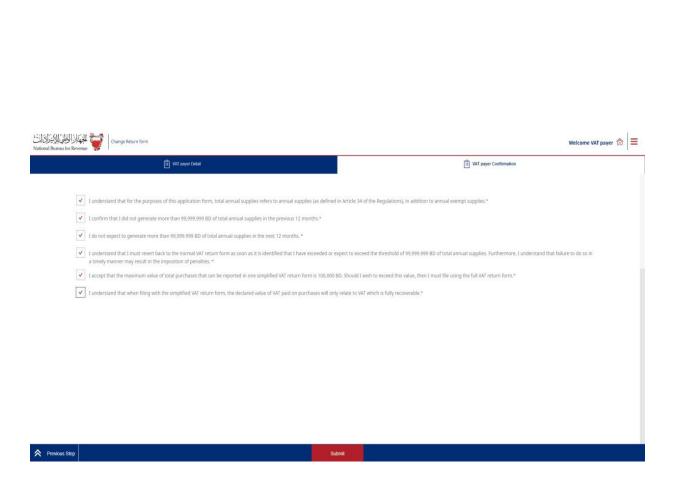


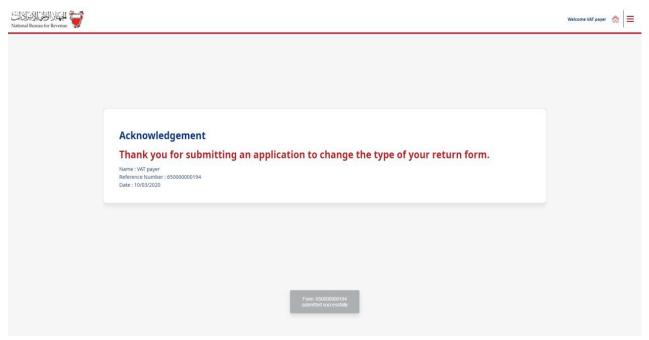
In the drop-down list, please select "Change VAT Return Form Type" to access the application that would allow you to change the VAT return type.

You will be redirected to a page similar to the below. Kindly make sure to review your VAT payer details before choosing a preferred VAT return type. If you need to make any adjustments to these details, please proceed to "Update VAT Payer Details" on the homepage of the portal. For further assistance, please contact NBR through one of the contact channels stated on the NBR website.

Once you have reviewed your information and selected a VAT return type, please click on "Next Step".







Once you have submitted your request, you will see a confirmation page stating that your request was successfully submitted.

## 2.4. Successful submission of the request

Once your request to use the simplified VAT return has been submitted, you should expect to receive a notification to your registered e-mail and phone number as well as a letter titled "Successful application to use the simplified VAT return form" under "My Documents" tile on the NBR portal.

Once successfully submitted, the request will be implemented and all current and future VAT returns which have not been yet filed will be switched to the simplified VAT return. Kindly note that VAT returns which have already been filed will remain unchanged and will still be displayed and can be amended using the full VAT return.



الرقم المرجعي: Reference Num : 65000000191

تاريخ الرسالة : 10/03/2020 : تاريخ الرسالة



#### Successful application to use the simplified VAT return form

نجاح طلب استخدام غوذج إقرار القيمة المضافة المبسط

VAT payer name: Amna co اسم الخاضع للقيمة المضافة:

عنوان الشخص الخاضع للقيمة المضافة: Flat/Shop No. 12, Building gfgf, Road/ عنوان الشخص الخاضع للقيمة المضافة: Street gfgf, gfg, Block 232, Argentina

F123, Manama, Bahrain

Dear Amna co,

Your application to use the simplified VAT return form has been successfully processed.

Your upcoming VAT period using the simplified VAT return form will begin on 01/01/2020 and end on 31/03/2020. Filing for this period will begin on 01/04/2020 and end on 30/04/2020.

Please note that if you no longer meet the conditions mentioned and acknowledged in the application form, you will be required to use the full VAT return form.

Please note that NBR retains discretion to revoke your eligibility to use the simplified VAT return form. You will be notified should this occur.

السادة Amna co،

تم معالجة إجراءات طلبك لاستخدام غوذج إقرار القيمة المضافة المبسط بنجاح.

وستبدأ فترة القيمة المضافة باستخدام تهوذج إقرار القيمة المضافة المبسط في 2020/01/01 وستنتهي في 2020/03/31. وسببدأ تقديم الإقرارات لهذه الفترة في 2020/04/10 وسينتهي في 2020/04/30.

ويُرجى العلم أنه في حال لم تعد مستوفياً للشروط المشار إليها والمقر بها في مُوذج الطلب، فسيلزم قيامك باستخدام مُوذج إقرار القيمة المضافة الكامل.

ويُرجى العلم أن الجهاز الوطني للإبرادات يحتفظ بحقه في إلغاء أهليتك لاستخدام نهوذج إقرار القيمة المضافة المبسط. وسيتم إخطارك في حال حدوث هذا الأمر.

For further information, please contact the National Bureau for Revenue on 80008001. This document is extracted from the automated system and does not need to be signed.

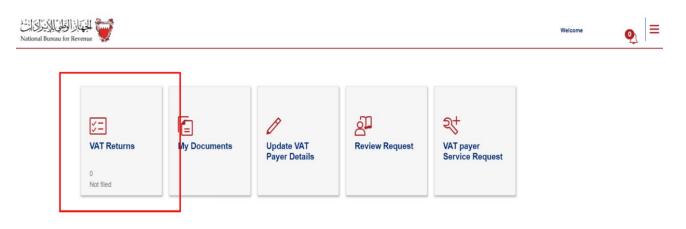
لمزيد من المعلومات، يرجى الاتصال بالجهاز الوطني للإبرادات على 80008001.

هذه الوثيقة مستخرجة من النظام الآلي ولا تحتاج للتوقيع.

### SIMPLIFIED FILING PROCESS

### **Accessing the VAT return form**

To file your VAT obligations, access the Login page on the NBR website using the following link: <a href="https://www.nbr.gov.bh/">https://www.nbr.gov.bh/</a>. Then log in to the portal using your designated User ID and Password (used during registration).



Contact Us

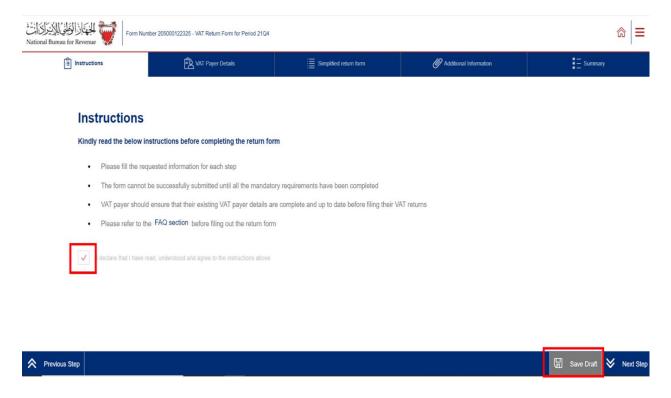
Proceed to access your outstanding filing obligations by clicking on "VAT Returns" on the homepage. The number displayed at the bottom of this push button (i.e. "1 not filed") represents your outstanding filing obligations to be submitted to date.

Filter your "VAT Return Forms" by selecting "Not Filed" from the drop-down menu at the top right corner of the screen. To file the return, select the appropriate VAT return form from the list of outstanding filing obligations.

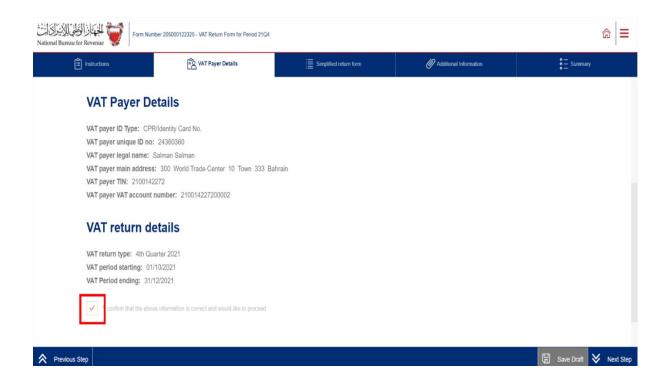


## 3.1. Filing in the VAT return form

After reviewing the conditions of submitting your VAT return, you must confirm that you agree with the instructions; only then you can move forward with the form. Please remember to save your progress by clicking the "Save Draft" button at the bottom right corner.



You should then review and, where necessary, amend your VAT payer and return details before continuing with the form. If you need to make any adjustments to these details, please proceed to "Update VAT Payer Details" on the homepage of the portal. For further assistance, please contact NBR through one of the contact channels stated on the NBR website. If no information is to be amended, the accuracy of the information will have to be confirmed to move to the next section.

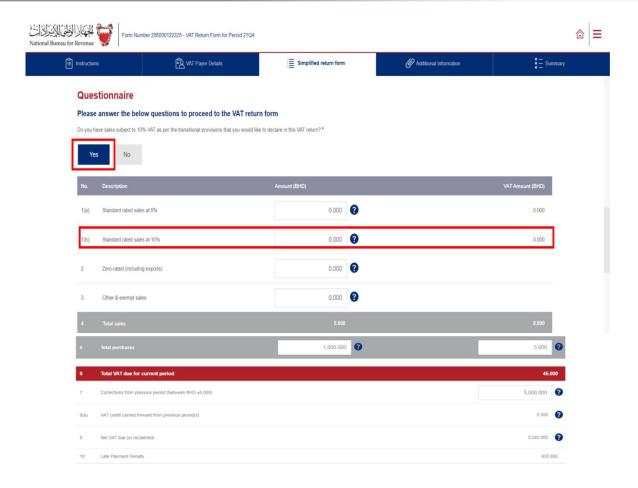


Upon accessing the simplified VAT return form, you will be required to answer the following question to display the VAT return form. It is important to note that response to the question will activate the required fields to report supplies at 10% VAT rate as per the transitional rules.

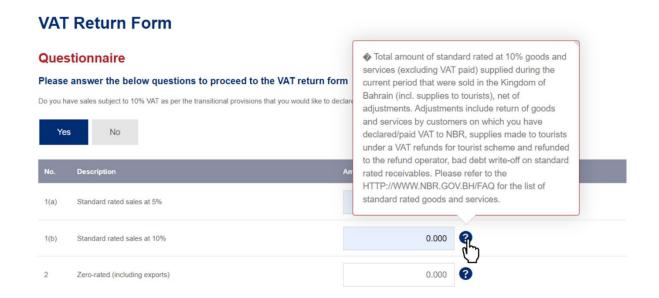
- Question 1: Do you have sales subject to 10% VAT as per the transitional provisions that you would like to declare in this VAT return?



If you answer the question with "No", then the existing return form will be displayed without changes. On the other hand, if "Yes" was selected fields related to 10% will be displayed.

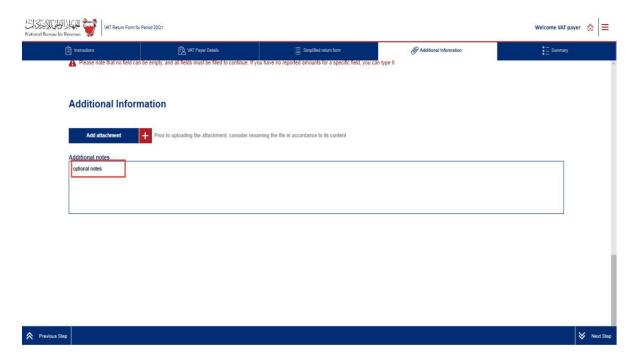


After answering the question, you will be able to fill in the "VAT Return Form" section using the appropriate amounts applicable to the return period. For additional guidance, click on the tooltips (question marks) and a hover box will appear to explain the line items.



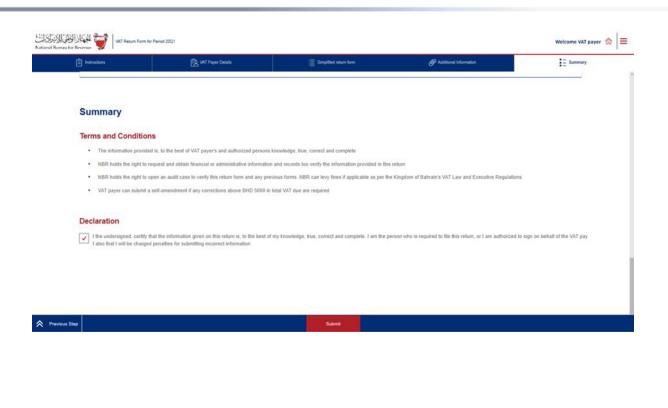
Please refer to the FAQs on <a href="https://www.nbr.gov.bh/faq">https://www.nbr.gov.bh/faq</a> or refer to Section 9 of the VAT Return Filing Manual for additional information regarding the VAT return. And for more information with regards to transitional rules please refer to VAT Rate Change Transitional Provisions Guide. Also, if needed, kindly contact NBR's Contact Centre for any further queries.

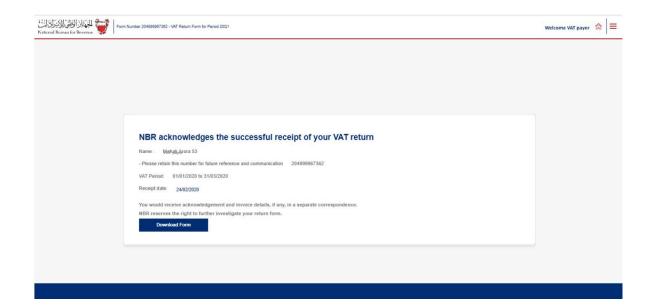
After filing your VAT return, you will be redirected to the "Additional Information" section (optional). Here you can submit supplementary information (e.g. invoices, payment information or customs declarations) to NBR. If deemed necessary, NBR reserves the right to request additional information. Note that if you are submitting a modification of your VAT return, you will be required to upload relevant documents.



## 3.2. Submitting the simplified VAT return form

Once the return form is completed and you have agreed on the declaration, you will be able to review and submit your form. Note that if your draft form is not submitted within 45 days, it will be automatically erased from the portal.





If your Total VAT due + corrections from previous period is positive, then you are in an overall debit position. Please refer to section 6 of The VAT Return filing manual for additional information. Kindly note that if you have filed a debit return you should also receive a bill with a breakdown of your liability.

If your Total VAT due + corrections from previous period is negative, then you are in an overall credit position. Please refer to section 7 of The VAT Return filing manual for additional

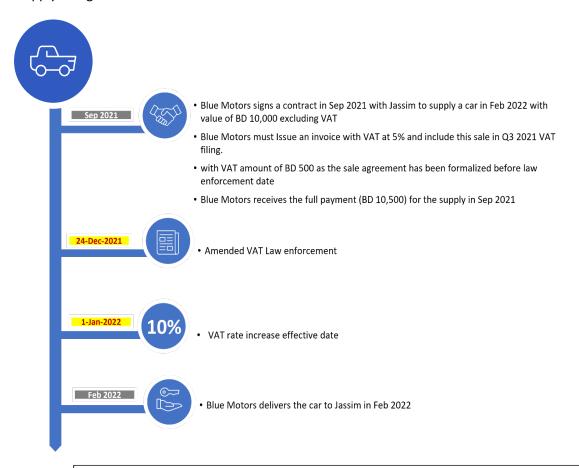
information. If you have excess credit from a previous period, and that credit was used to offset your filed debit (in full or in part), you should also expect to receive an offsetting letter under "My documents" on the portal.

### 4. SIMPLIFIED FILING SCENARIO EXAMPLES

Please refer to the following examples for a better understanding of how purchase and sale values can be recorded in the simplified VAT return.

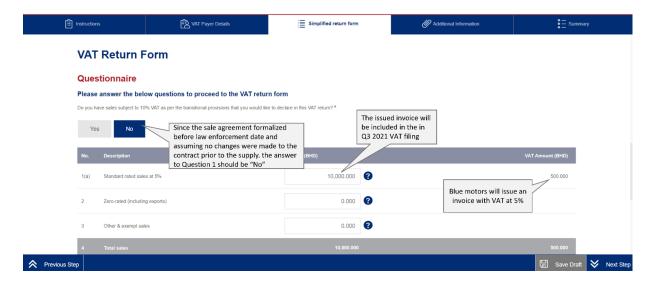
# 4.1. Example 1: One-off supply formalized before law enforcement date:

The following scenario related to one-off supply with sales agreement which formalized between a quarterly filing VAT payer and their customer before law enforcement date and supply being made in 2022:

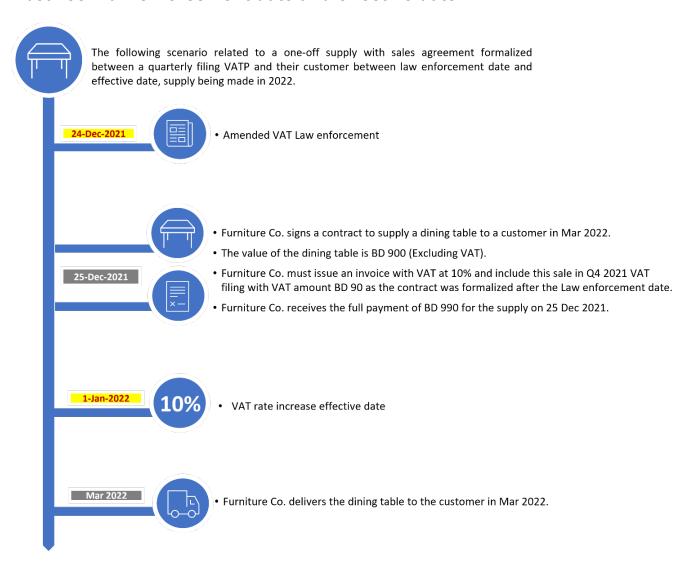


This is assuming no changes were made to the contract prior to the supply and law enforcement date

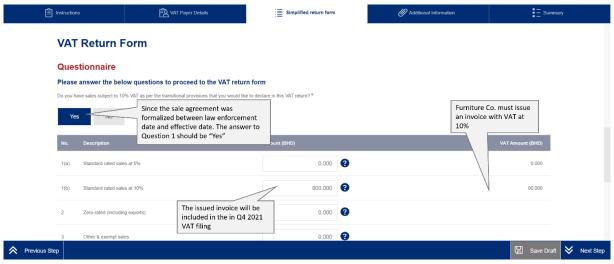
The "Simplified VAT Return Form" section of Blue Motors return filing form on the NBR portal will look as follows:



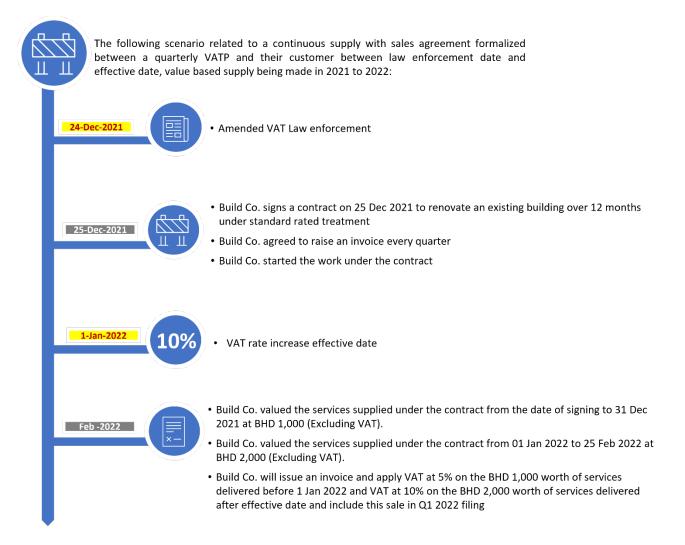
# 4.2. Example 2: One-off supply with sales agreement formalized between law enforcement date and effective date



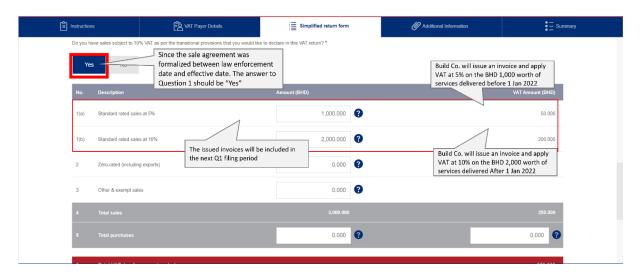
The "Simplified VAT Return Form" section of Furniture Co. return filing form on the NBR portal will be as follows:



# 4.3. Example 3: Continuous supply with sales agreement formalized between law enforcement date and effective date:



The "Simplified VAT Return Form" section of Build Co. return filing form on the NBR portal will be as follows:



## 5. FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQs)

### Who is eligible to change the full VAT return type to a simplified VAT return?

VAT payers who meet the following conditions can request to change to simplified VAT filing:

- VAT payer must not be registered for VAT purposes as a VAT group
- Annual supplies made by the VAT payer should be below BHD 100,000

The simplified VAT return can be used by monthly, quarterly, or annually filers subject to meeting the above two criteria. Please note that changing to simplified filing is not a mandatory requirement set by NBR.

### How do I apply for simplified VAT return filing?

All requests to change VAT return type form should be submitted online using the NBR portal. Please refer to the steps below when requesting to change your filing form type:

- Log in to the portal using the User ID and Password of the account for which you would like to change the filing form type. This is the same User ID and password you use during registration and filing.
- Click on "VAT Payer Service Request" tile on the homepage.
- You will be redirected to the service requests page. If you have any open service requests, they will be displayed in this page. Please click on "Create New Service" and select the down arrow in the pop up to access the list of services provided by NBR.
- In the drop-down list, please select "Change VAT Return Form Type" to access the change return form type application.
- Kindly make sure to review your VAT payer details before choosing a preferred return form type. If you need to make any adjustments to these details, please proceed to "Update VAT Payer Details" on the homepage of the portal. For further assistance, please contact NBR through one of the contact channels stated on the NBR website. Once you have reviewed your information and selected a return type, please click on "Next Step".
- If you are not eligible to apply for a simplified VAT return, you will be notified via a popup message. If you are eligible to apply, you will be redirected to the next page where you must agree to and acknowledge all the statements.
- Once you have submitted your request, you should expect to see a confirmation page stating that your request was successfully submitted.

Please note: While all eligible VAT payers will be able to switch to the simplified VAT return, NBR reserves the right to switch back any VAT payers to the full VAT return at any point of time.

## After successful processing of the request, when will the simplified VAT return filing be effective?

After the application has been successfully submitted, you should expect to receive a notification on your registered e-mail and phone number as well as a letter titled "Successful application to use the simplified VAT return form" under "My Documents" on the NBR portal.

Once successfully submitted, the request will be implemented and all current and future VAT returns which have not been yet filed will be switched to the simplified VAT return. Kindly note that VAT returns which have already been filed will remain unchanged and will still be displayed and/or amended using the full form.

### What is the deadline to submit a request to change to simplified VAT return filing?

There is no deadline to choose simplified VAT return filing. As long as you meet the conditions, you can opt for simplified VAT return filing anytime on the NBR portal.

## Can I switch back to the full VAT return form after choosing the simplified VAT return form?

You can switch back to the full VAT return form at any point of time, should you choose so. You are also allowed to switch again to simplified VAT return form at later stage, however there shall be a waiting period of one year from the previous change.

### How do I file a simplified VAT return?

The overall process to file your VAT obligations using the simplified VAT return is similar to the process of filing the full VAT return. Please refer to section 3 of this guide for further details and guidance.

#### How do I report adjustments on the simplified VAT return?

There is no specific column for reporting adjustments on the simplified VAT return. Instead, all fields on the simplified VAT return should be reported net of adjustment. For example, if a VAT payer has 10,000 BHD of standard-rated sales in 2020 Q1 and needs to make an adjustment of 2,000 BHD to their 2019 Q4 VAT return, then the VAT payer should report 8,000 BHD of standard-rated sales in 2020 Q1 when using the simplified VAT return. This differs from the full VAT return, where the VAT payer would need to report 10,000 BHD of standard-rated sales and 2,000 BHD of adjustments to standard-rated sales in separate fields. Kindly note that NBR reserves the right to validate VAT filings and could ask VAT payers for a detailed record demonstrating both the gross amounts and the adjustments made.

### How do I report zero-rated and / or exempt purchases on the simplified VAT return?

Zero-rated and exempt purchases should be included within the field 'Total purchases'. Note that only deductible VAT related to your standard rated purchases and imports will be reported in the VAT field.

### How do I account for apportionment on the simplified VAT return?

There is no specific column for apportionment on the simplified VAT return. Instead, the VAT payer should only report deductible VAT paid on the field for 'VAT amount' on purchases.

For example, a VAT payer made 10,000 BHD of purchases in 2020 Q1, on which the VAT payer paid 500 BHD of VAT. Of this VAT 300 BHD was deductible. The VAT payer would report 10,000 BHD in the field for 'Total purchases' and 300 BHD in the field 'VAT amount' on purchases if using the simplified VAT return. Kindly note that NBR reserves the right to validate VAT filings and could ask VAT payers for a detailed record demonstrating the apportionment calculation made.

## How do I report standard-rated sales to a domestic purchaser who applies the domestic reverse charge mechanism?

Standard-rated sales made to a domestic purchaser who has the right granted by NBR (supported by a valid certificate) to apply the Domestic Reverse Charge Mechanism should be reported in the field 'Other & exempt sales'. Kindly note that NBR reserves the right to validate VAT filings and could ask VAT payers for a detailed record demonstrating these sales.

### How do I report exports on the simplified VAT return?

Exports should be reported in the field 'Zero-rated (including exports)'.

Kindly note that NBR reserves the right to validate VAT filings and could ask VAT payers for a detailed record demonstrating the value of their exports. In accordance with the transitional provisions, what are the procedures for submitting VAT return form if I made sales, purchases and imports subject to10%?

With regards to the change in VAT standard rate, an additional step has been added to the VAT return form. You will need to answer the questionnaire before proceeding to the VAT return form and based on your answers, certain fields to report the transaction made at 10% will be displayed in the VAT Return form.

For more details and information please refer to VAT Rate Change Transitional Provisions Guide.

