Recent amendments to the executive regulations of Oman Tax law

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Taxes in Oman

The 2019 budget extracts:

Total revenue RO10.1 billion

Total expenditure RO 12.9 billion.

Deficit RO 2.8 billion.

Total taxes and fees RO1.45 billion.

Corporate tax RO 500 million (rate 15%)

Local tax RO100 million

Tax trends

> Gradual introduction of VAT

> Selective excise tax

>Impact of the international tax initiatives of OECD and EU

Withholding tax

Who is the tax payer:

- 1. Omani company
- 2. Permanent Establishment(PE) of a foreign person in Oman
- 3. Omani establishment (sole proprietorship)
- 4. Ministries, authorities and public institutions

Withholding tax

Who is the payee:

Any foreign person, except:

Foreign person having PE in Oman, plus

Specified payments attributable to the PE in Oman

Rate and timing of deduction of WHT

Tax to be deducted at lower of the following:

10% as per Oman tax law; or

Rate as per treaty, if any, between Oman and country of residence of foreign payee

Deduction on payment or credit, which ever is earlier

Nature of payment of WHT

Income realized in Oman from:

Royalties
Use or right to use the computer software
Research and development
Management fees
Provision of services
Interest
Dividend

Provision of services – exclusions

Conferences, seminars, exhibitions

Training

Airline tickets and cost of staying abroad

Transport, shipping of goods and insurance thereupon

Board meetings

Payment for re-insurance

Services for activity or property located outside Oman

Interest

Interest means any amount received because of loan, regardless of type, advances, arrangement for financial facilities, whether backed by guarantee or not. Includes income form bonds and sukuk.

Excludes: interest paid on deposits in banks in Oman, returns on bonds and sukuk issued in Oman and interest on inter- bank transactions

Dividend

Withholding tax applicable only on dividend distributed by:

Joint stock companies

Investment funds

Real estate Investment funds.

Distribution of dividend by LLC not covered

Dividend paid to GCC citizens and GCC entities are outside the scope due to the GCC laws

Nor clear whether the exemption apply in case of GCC entities held by non-GCC shareholders

Anti –abuse provision

General anti avoidance rules now introduced for Withholding tax matters

Tax authorities to disregards transaction if main objective to avoid WHT in Oman

Applies to all (even non related party) transactions or arrangements, whether preceding or subsequent to the implementation of law.

Income tax exemption for companies

All exemptions removed except tax payers engaged in Industrial activity

Two new conditions:

Investment in fixed assets in excess of RO1 million

Omanisation quotas to be achieved during the last three years of exemption period.

Omanisation to be a balance between different management levels

Small Tax Payers (STP)

Low tax regime of 3% subject to fulfilment of certain conditions.

The following conditions will exempt tax:

Owner or partner fully dedicated to management

Owner does not engage in any other work

In case engaged in more than one STP, exemption for only one STP

OR

Atleast two Omani persons working on permanent basis and

period of service not less than 6 months

Small Tax Payers (STP)

All the following conditions must be met to continue as STP:

Share capital of RO60,000

Total income of RO150,000

Average employee does not exceed 10 employees

Value Added Tax (VAT)

Business need to account for VAT when there is a:

Taxable supply of good and services,

made in the course of business,

in Oman,

for consideration, and

by a person obliged to register for VAT.

Taxable supply is liable to VAT at standard (5%) / zero rate, and are eligible for input VAT refund / credit.

Exempt supply not liable to VAT and not entitled to input VAT credit.

Other matters

Introduction of tax cards: 2 year validity, details such as name, tax card number, CR, any other details specified by SGT

SGT right to examine at the tax payer's premises:

Prior notice will be given(unless suspicion of tax evasion)

SGT may take documents/ records after providing receipts

Documents will be returned within 30days, SGT may keep copies

Thank you

