

# Registration as a person liable to value added tax

## OBLIGATION TO REGISTER AS PERSON LIABLE TO VALUE ADDED TAX

If the taxable supply of a sole proprietor (except the transfer of fixed assets) has exceeded 40 000 euros as of the beginning of a calendar year, they are obliged to submit an **application for registration as a person liable to value added tax** to the Estonian Tax and Customs Board within three working days as from the date on which the supply reaches that amount. The registration obligation does not arise if all the taxable supply of the person is the supply taxable at the 0 per cent value added tax rate, (except the intra-Community supply of goods and the supply of services specified in **clause 10 (4) 9) of the Value Added Tax Act (VAT Act)**), if the services are provided to a taxable person or a taxable person with limited liability of another Member State. (**VAT Act, § 19 (1)**)

### Example

If the supply of a sole proprietor exceeds 40 000 euros on the 2nd day, Friday, the application for registration as a person liable to value added tax is to be submitted to the Estonian Tax and Customs Board within three working days, i.e. on the 7th day, Wednesday. The Estonian Tax and Customs Board will register the person for VAT purposes on the day on which the threshold (40 000 euros) was exceeded. In this example, the sole proprietor will be registered for VAT purposes as of the 2nd day of the month.

From the date of receipt of the application, the Estonian Tax and Customs Board has five working days to make a decision on the registration. In this example, the decision on the registration for VAT purposes must be notified to the sole proprietor no later than on the 14th day of the month.

The Estonian Tax and Customs Board has the right to request supporting documents to prove the starting or existence of business activities. In such a case, the Estonian Tax and Customs Board makes a decision within five working days as from the submission of supporting documents.

Sole proprietors do not have to register as a person liable to value added tax if their supply arises only from the transfer of fixed assets used in their business. Sole proprietors have the obligation to register for VAT purposes, if they have no other supply since the beginning of the year than the supply from the transfer of goods or services referred to in **clause 10 (4) 9) of the VAT Act** exceeding 40 000 euros to a person of another Member State of the European Union that is liable to value added tax.

## VOLUNTARY REGISTRATION

If the taxable supply of a sole proprietor has not exceeded 40 000 euros or if taxable supply has not been created yet, a sole proprietor can register as a person liable to value added tax voluntarily. It is even recommended that sole proprietors should register themselves for VAT purposes earlier, before their supply reaches 40 000 euros. This would help to avoid problems with value added tax obligations, which arise immediately from the day on which the supply of 40 000 euros is exceeded, but the respective

decision of Tax and Customs Board has not yet reached the taxpayer and the VAT identification number is not yet known.

Should such a situation still occur, value added tax is still to be calculated on the supply generated between the date on which the application for registration as a person liable to value added tax is submitted and the date of the respective decision; if possible, the invoices should be issued later (within seven calendar days). The invoices issued in such a transition period and not meeting the requirements of **§ 37 of the VAT Act** must subsequently be brought into line with the requirements of the law, and this is also in the interests of customers, since input value added tax cannot be deducted on the basis of an incorrect invoice.

The condition of voluntary registration is the fact that a sole proprietor is engaged or will be engaged in business that generates or will generate taxable supply. In this case, the sole proprietor is registered as a person liable to value added tax as of the date of receipt of the application or a later date indicated in the application by the person.

If a person is not engaged in business or has no intention to start a business, the Estonian Tax and Customs Board does not register the person for VAT purposes.