



VAT/GST/Sales Tax Rates: Global survey on books and electronic publications Update 2012



International
Publishers
Association



Introduction

For the third consecutive year, the International Publishers Association (IPA), along with PwC,¹ carried out a global survey on the applicability of VAT/GST/Sales Tax² on printed books and electronic publications.³ The survey was completed on 1 April 2012 (however changes have occurred since that date) and covers 88 countries around the globe, of which data for 75 countries are provided by PwC while the rest is provided by IPA, and includes, for the first time, data from the USA.

Whereas the first global VAT survey aimed at learning more about the availability and use of special tax rates⁴ for printed (paper) and e-publications in general, the second survey attempted to assess the extent to which the tax treatment of e-publications is aligned with a given special tax treatment for printed publications. This third edition is an update of the second survey, continuing to assess the trends at play in this regard.

As with previous years' surveys, IPA and PwC collected answers from their contacts in 88 countries to the following questions:

- What is the standard VAT/GST/Sales Tax rate?
- Does any special treatment (reduced rates or exemptions⁵) exist in a given country, and if so do they apply to books and/or e-publications?
- If a special treatment (reduced rates or exemption) applies, does it apply to all types of books, including electronic publications?
- If the special treatment (reduced rate or the exemption) applies only to specific types of books/e-publications, for what types of works does this rate or exemption apply?
- If a special treatment applies, is this an exemption or a reduced rate?

For the purpose of this survey, we focused solely on trade books, excluding books that are intended for commercial or advertising purposes, or whose content falls under categories such as pornography.

The survey also looked at data from four states from the USA, the world's largest publishing market, where sales tax rates on printed books and e-publications vary in particular depending on state or county tax.

A comparison of the survey results of the three years allowed IPA and PwC to identify certain trends in the change of VAT rates.

1 'PwC' refers to PricewaterhouseCoopers Tax Consultants bcvba/scrcl, which is a Belgian member firm of the global network of PricewaterhouseCoopers International Limited ("PwCIL"), all members of which are separate legal entities (hereinafter also referred to as "PwC Firms"). A member firm does not act as agent of PwCIL or any other member firm. PwCIL does not provide any services to clients. PwCIL is not responsible or liable for the acts or omissions of any of its member firms nor can it control the exercise of their professional judgement or bind them in any way. For more information, visit us at www.pwc.com or www.globalvatonline.pwc.com

2 VAT – Value Added Tax, GST – Goods and Service Tax.

3 Electronic publications include both publications supplied to physical support like CDs and supplied without material support.

4 Rates – VAT/GST/Sales tax.

5 Exemption means where the supplier of the books does not charge any tax, however if the seller incurs any VAT/GST on his purchases then the VAT/GST cannot be credited against any output VAT/GST and the VAT/GST becomes a cost. In case of zero rated supplies, the supplier does not charge any VAT/GST on his sales, however any VAT/GST incurred on his purchases is available as credit that can be set off and hence is no cost to the seller.



Key findings

- Standard VAT rates continue to rise around the globe, in particular in Europe. Last year, 12 EU member states (out of 27) increased their standard VAT rates by an average of 2.48 percentage points. This year, four more European countries have increased their standard VAT rate by an average of 1.6 percentage points. Elsewhere in the world, Ghana, Mexico and Pakistan also increased their standard VAT rate, and Japan will double its consumption tax applied to goods and services by 2015. Rising rates appear to be emblematic in times of economic downturn when governments are looking for ways to retain tax income in the face of negative growth and unemployment.
- At the same time, special VAT/GST/Sales Tax treatment for publications remains the norm among the countries surveyed. The large majority (87.5%) continue to apply favourable tax regimes (with or without limitations for printed books). Overall, this figure (87.5%) is stable vis-à-vis 2011.

Moreover, the average VAT rate for printed books has remained stable.

- Among the special tax rates, the 0% rate and tax exemptions are by far the most widely used measures. Close to 25% of the countries surveyed continue to apply a 0% or VAT/GST/Sales Tax exemption for ALL books. If one adds those countries which apply a 0% or VAT/GST/Sales Tax exemption for ALL books with limitations, more than half of the countries surveyed do.
- All major publishing markets surveyed (France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Korea, Spain, UK) provide for reduced rates or exemptions at least for printed books. This is also the case in emerging markets in Asia, Latin America and the Middle East.
- Specific regulations of VAT/GST/Sales Tax on e-publications are gaining further ground. Yet, much progress remains to be made for countries to adopt a real non-discriminatory, consistent tax regime for paper and e-publications in conformity with OECD's guidelines (see more hereunder) as more than 40% of the countries surveyed still apply the standard VAT rate to e-publications.

The results for printed books and e-publications in the 88 countries can be summarised as follows (the figures between brackets show the evolution in numbers of countries since the 2011 VAT survey):

Category	VAT/GST/Sales Tax classification	No of countries			
		Paper books		E-publications	
I	Exemption for all	14	(=/2011)	6	(-1/2011)
II	Reduced rate for all	30	(-2/2011)	5	(+2/2011)
III	Reduced rate or exemption – limitations apply	33	(+2/2011)	31	(+4/2011)
IV	No reduced rate or exemption – standard rate applies to all books	11	(=/2011)	40	(+1/2011)
V	Treatment of (e-) publications not known or unclear	0	(=/2011)	6	(-6/2011)
Total		88		88	

The results for printed books show a great stability. Despite a context where standard VAT rates are on the rise worldwide, paper books continue to enjoy a reduced VAT rate or are VAT exempt, sometimes with limitations, in more than 87% of the countries surveyed.

E-books and VAT/GST

In 2012, 45% of the countries surveyed continue to provide no exemption or reduced rates for any e-publications, a figure that remains virtually unchanged from 2011.

This discriminatory tax treatment of print and e-books continues in violation of the OECD's guidelines and benchmarks⁶ recommending a non-discrimination policy and the application of concessions to e-publications. As e-book consumption especially expands rapidly in the global English-language market and begins to take hold in other countries, this issue is becoming increasingly urgent.

In the EU, the EU VAT Directive⁷ allows the application of reduced rates to “books on all physical means of support”, e.g. e-publications sold on CD-ROM or USB sticks. However, other e-publications delivered via digital downloads remain excluded and cannot benefit from a reduced tax rate, thus maintaining an unwarranted and obsolete discrimination. Legislative developments in some EU member states, in particular in France and Luxembourg, aim at abandoning this illogical and archaic distinction between e-books delivered on physical media and e-books delivered via digital download. It is our view that, as the VAT Directive does not mention ‘the carrier’ of a book, the applicable VAT rate is to be analysed from the consumer's perspective in line with previous CJEU judgments.⁸ This will be a test for EU legislation.

This obsolete distinction is likely to hold back the development of the e-book market generally, especially in non-English and small-language markets. In the new digital environment where consumers expect lower prices, and authors ask for a larger share for royalties, the application of the standard VAT rate adds additional financial pressure on publishers.

In addition, this discrimination runs directly contrary to numerous initiatives to promote digital literacy. For example, in a number of countries educational reform initiatives frequently involve the introduction of digital technology into classrooms and learning. Discriminatory VAT regimes often provide a significant financial incentive for schools to continue with paper printed textbooks.

This different tax treatment disproportionately affects people with print disabilities. They often have no choice but to choose the more accessible digital book and pay more VAT than able-bodied readers.

One of the core arguments some fiscal experts have against extending the application of reduced rates to e-books is their claim that it is difficult to distinguish e-books from other digital content.

A workable definition has been found in New York (US) that draws the line between e-books and other digital files. E-books that meet the following criteria do *not* constitute taxable information services (and their sale is therefore not subject to tax):

- a) The purchase of the product does not entitle the customer to additional goods and services and any revisions done to the e-book are for the limited purpose of correcting errors;
- b) The product is provided as a single download;
- c) The product is advertised or marketed as an e-book or a similar term;
- d) If the intended or customary use of the product requires that the product be updated or that a new or revised edition of the product be issued from time to time (e.g. an almanac), the updates or the new or revised editions are not issued more frequently than annually; and

6 <http://www.oecd.org/dataoecd/16/36/36177871.pdf>

7 Council Directive 2006/112/EC of 28 November 2006 on the common system of value added tax.

8 Among others: CJEU, case C-117/11 (Purple Parking) 19 January 2012; joined cases C-259/10 and C-260/10 (The Rank Group plc), 10 November 2011; joined cases C-497/09, C-499/09, C-501/09 and C-502/09 (Manfred Bog a.o.) 11 March 2011, case C-251/05 (Talacre), 6 July 2006.

- e) The product is not designed to work with software other than the software necessary to make the e-book legible on a reading device (e.g. Kindle, Nook, iPad, iPhone or personal computer).

At WIPO, the phrase “text-based work” has been used to define an e-book.

Some countries have recognised that they need to introduce fairer, more balanced VAT regimes. In Asia, Korea is leading the way in applying rates consistently. In Europe, Georgia and Serbia started extending their reduced rates (or exemptions) on books to all e-publications in 2010. In Africa, Senegal and Mauritius have recently adapted their rules to provide equal treatment for all books, with Senegal adopting exemptions for all books including e-books and Mauritius adopting 0% rate for books and e-books.

Taxation in the United States of America

Indirect (sales) tax in the United States is imposed in 46 of the 51 state level jurisdictions.⁹ Each state, as an independent taxing authority, has the power to impose a sales tax on the sale of goods and services if delivered or used within its borders. In general, sales tax is imposed upon the consumer; however, if a collection requirement exists, the retailer must collect the tax from the consumer on the state’s behalf.

Ten states impose a gross receipts-based tax on retailers. This tax is imposed in place of, or sometimes in addition to, the sales tax. The state of Washington, for example, imposes a gross receipts-based business and occupation tax (“B&O”), in place of an income tax. The B&O tax is based on a business’s gross income and is reported to the state along with the sales tax collected. The B&O is a cost of doing business, similar to federal, state and local level income tax, and is not passed on to the customer as a separate line item as is sales tax.

In all instances of tax, however, it is the responsibility of the retailer to ensure that the proper tax is assessed, collected and remitted to the state tax authority in case of collection requirement.

Retail sale of books

Generally, sales tax is imposed on retail sales of tangible personal property and certain enumerated services unless specifically exempted or excluded from tax. Sales tax is generally imposed in the jurisdiction in which the sale occurs. As a general rule, the retail sale of printed books, which are considered tangible personal property, is subject to tax in all United States that impose a sales tax.

The four states we have looked at in more depth – i.e. Florida, New York, Oklahoma, and Washington – all impose a sales tax. As such, the sale of printed books is subject to tax when delivered to the consumer in those states.

The rate of tax imposed on the sale of printed books varies by the state and local jurisdiction. For example, New York State imposes a state level tax of 4% on every retail sale of tangible personal property. In addition to the state rate, New York City imposes several local sales taxes, resulting in a combined state and local sales tax rate of 8.875%. In Washington State, sales tax is imposed on retail sales of tangible property at both the state level (6.5%) and local level. The City of Seattle, for example, imposes a sales tax of approximately 3% on retail sales of tangible property, making the combined rate on the sale of a book 9.5%. In addition to the retail sales tax, the Washington B&O tax is imposed on the retailer’s gross receipts for the sale of the tangible personal property. The retailer B&O tax rate on sales of tangible property is 0.471% and is not passed on to the customer as a separate line item of tax, similar to sales tax.

⁹ The District of Columbia, though not a state, is considered a state-level jurisdiction for sales tax purposes.

Retail sale of e-books

In contrast to printed books, the sales tax treatment of electronically delivered books (“e-books”) in the US depends on their characterisation in each state. E-books generally do not fall within the definition of “tangible personal property.” As such, the sale of e-books is subject to taxation only if:

- a) they are classified as a taxable service;
- b) they are specifically defined as tangible personal property and therefore subject to the general rules of the state; or
- c) a tax is specifically imposed upon such digital goods.

Where a sale is specifically exempt from taxation at the state level, it is commonly also exempt from taxation at the local level.

Below is a summary of the state and local sales tax imposed on the sale of a physical and electronically delivered book in the cities of Seattle (Washington), New York (New York), Miami (Florida) and Oklahoma City (Oklahoma). The following charts assume the supplier has a presence in the state requiring the collection of tax. In addition, the following does not account for consumer-based exemptions, i.e. purchases made by exempt organisations, students, or government agencies, which allow for the purchaser to be exempt from tax.

What sales tax would a customer pay when buying 1) a physical book from a bookshop in the centre of the city, or 2) a paper book from a national chain store when the book is delivered to the customer within the city?

Jurisdiction	Does the state or city impose a sales tax?	Is the sale of a physical book subject to tax?	Rate of tax imposed on the sale
Seattle, WA	Yes	Yes	9.5% (state 6.5%, city 3.0%)
New York, NY	Yes	Yes	8.875% (state 4.0%, county/city 4.875%)
Miami, FL	Yes	Yes	7.0% (state 6%, local 1%)
Oklahoma City, OK	Yes	Yes	8.375% (state 4.5% local 3.875%)

What sales tax would a customer pay when buying an electronically delivered book from a national chain store when the book is electronically downloaded by the customer in the city?

Jurisdiction	Does the state or city impose a sales tax?	Is the sale of an electronically delivered book subject to tax?	Rate of tax imposed on the sale
Seattle, WA	Yes	Yes ¹⁰	9.5% (state 6.5%, city 3.0%)
New York, NY	Yes	No	8.875% (state 4.0%, county/city 4.875%)
Miami, FL	Yes	No ¹¹	None
Oklahoma City, OK	Yes	No ¹²	None

Conclusion

Reduced VAT/GST rates remain the norm for printed books. Despite the global economic crisis and the subsequent VAT reforms in many countries, books are consistently confirmed to be among the goods and services that merit a special, reduced VAT rate or exemption.

Despite a (temporary) slowdown in 2011–12, there is a clear trend towards inclusion of e-books in special VAT/GST regimes. A consistent treatment for all types of books is the direction towards which we are heading and the most logical way to achieve this is to reduce VAT on e-publications. The practical issues that enable such special rates have been resolved in pioneering countries. The rate applied to all e-publications, irrespective of the physical carrier, should match the rate for printed books to create a level playing field for all publications.

-
- 10 Sales tax of 6.5% of the selling price is levied on each retail sale in this state of digital goods. “Digital goods” includes “digital books.” Retail sales of downloaded music, videos, books, and other written works are sales of tangible personal property subject to taxation under the retailing classification. The downloaded music, videos, books, and other written works are tangible personal property because they are electronic representations of items that would be tangible personal property if they were delivered in “hard copy” form.
- 11 The charge for furnishing information by way of electronic images that appear on the subscriber’s video display screen does not constitute a sale of tangible personal property nor does it constitute the sale of a taxable information service.
- 12 Digital products delivered electronically, including books, are not subject to sales tax and specifically excluded from “telecommunications services”.



Country (up to date until 1 April 2012)	Standard rate (%)	Special treatment for printed books?	Scope of special treatment	Category	Special treatment of e-publications	Scope of special treatment	Category
Asia/ Pacific							
1. Australia	10	No	NA	IV	No	NA	IV
2. China	17	Yes, exempt, or 4 or 13%	Limitations apply	III	Yes, 13%	Limitations apply	III
3. Fiji	15	Yes, exempt or 0%	Limitations apply	III	No	NA	IV
4. India	12.5 to 14.5	Yes, exempt (Delhi)	All books	I	Yes, exempt (Delhi)	All e-publications (Delhi)	I
5. Indonesia	10	Yes, exempt	Limitations apply	III	No	NA	IV
6. Iran	1.5	Yes, exempt	All books	I	Unclear	Unclear	V
7. Japan	5 ¹³ 14	Yes, exempt or 5%	Limitations apply	III	Yes, out of scope ¹⁵	Limitations apply	III
8. Korea	10	Yes, exempt	All books	I	Yes, exempt	All e-publications	I
9. New Zealand	15	No	NA	IV	No	NA	IV
10. Pakistan ¹⁶	17	Yes, exempt	Limitations apply	III	No	NA	IV
11. Philippines	12	Yes, exempt	All books	I	Unclear	Unclear	V
12. Singapore	7	No	NA	IV	No	NA	IV
13. Taiwan	5	Yes, exempt	Limitations apply	III	Yes, exempt	Limitations apply	III
14. Thailand	7	Yes, exempt	All books	I	Yes, exempt	Limitations apply	III
15. Vietnam	10	Yes, exempt, or 5%	Limitations apply	III	Yes, exempt, or 5%	Limitations apply	III
Europe and Caucasus							
16. Armenia	20	Yes, exempt	Limitations apply	III	No	NA	IV
17. Austria	20	Yes, 10%	All books	II	No	NA	IV
18. Azerbaijan	18	Yes, exempt	Limitations apply	III	No	NA	IV
19. Belgium	21	Yes, 6%	All books	II	No	NA	IV
20. Bosnia	17	No	NA	IV	No	NA	IV
21. Bulgaria	20	Yes, exempt	Limitations apply	III	No	NA	IV
22. Croatia	25	Yes, 0%	Limitations apply	III	No	NA	IV
23. Cyprus	15	Yes, 5%	All books	II	No	NA	IV
24. Czech Republic	20	Yes, 14%	All books	II	No	NA	IV
25. Denmark	25	No	NA	IV	No	NA	IV

13 4% national, 1% prefectural.

14 In early August 2012, the Japanese parliament adopted a law providing an increase in the country's consumption tax (VAT) applied to goods and services from 5% to 8% in April 2014 and to 10% in October 2015.

15 For imports of e-publications without material support.

16 2010 data.

Country	Standard rate (%)	Special treatment for printed books?	Scope of special treatment	Category	Special treatment of e-publications	Scope of special treatment	Category
26. Estonia	20	Yes, 9% (or exempt)	All books	II	No	NA	IV
27. Finland	23 ¹⁷	Yes, 9% ¹⁸	All books	II	No	NA	IV
28. France	19.6	Yes, 7%	All books	II	Yes, 7%	All e-publications	II
29. Georgia	18	Yes, exempt	All books	I	Yes, exempt	All e-publications	I
30. Germany	19	Yes, 7%	All books	II	No	NA	IV
31. Greece	23	Yes, 6.5% or 13%	Limitations apply	III	No	NA	IV
32. Hungary	27	Yes, 5%	All books	II	Yes, 5%	Limitations apply	III
33. Iceland	25.5	Yes, 7%	All books	II	Yes, 7%	All e-publications	II
34. Ireland	23	Yes, 0%	All books	II	No	NA	IV
35. Italy	21	Yes, 4%	All books	II	Yes, 4%	Limitations apply	III
36. Latvia	22	Yes, 12%	Limitations apply	III	No ¹⁹	NA	IV
37. Lithuania	21	Yes, 9%	All books	II	No	NA	IV
38. Luxembourg	15	Yes, 3%	All books	II	Yes, 3%	All e-publications	II
39. Macedonia	18	Yes, 5%	All books	II	No	NA	IV
40. Malta	18	Yes, 5%	Limitations apply	III	No	NA	IV
41. Netherlands	19	Yes, 6%	All books	II	Yes, 6%	Limitations apply	III
42. Norway	25	Yes, 0%	All books	II	No	NA	IV
43. Poland	23	Yes, 5%	All books	II	Yes, 5%	Limitations apply ²⁰	III
44. Portugal ²¹	23	Yes, 6%	All books	II	Yes, 6%	Limitations apply	III
45. Romania	24	Yes, 9%	All books	II	Yes, 9%	Limitations apply	III
46. Russia	18	Yes, 10%	Limitations apply	III	No	NA	IV
47. Serbia	18	Yes, 8%	All books	II	Yes, 8%	All e-publications	II
48. Slovakia	20	Yes, 10%	All books	II	Yes, 10%	Limitations apply	III
49. Slovenia	20	Yes, 8.5%	All books	II	Yes, 8.5%	Limitations apply	III
50. Spain	18	Yes, 4%	All books	II	Yes, 4%	Limitations apply	III

17 24 from 1 January 2013.

18 10 from 1 January 2013.

19 Situation with regards to e-books with material support: Unclear. There are no guidelines in the Latvian VAT law. It is therefore necessary to submit an application to the Ministry of Finance to receive an advance ruling.

20 The reduced VAT rate is not applicable to e-books with material support.

21 In mainland Portugal.

Country	Standard rate (%)	Special treatment for printed books?	Scope of special treatment	Category	Special treatment of e-publications	Scope of special treatment	Category
51. Sweden	25	Yes, 6%	All books	II	Yes, 6% ²²	Limitations apply	III
52. Switzerland	8	Yes, 2.5%	Limitations apply	III	No	NA	IV
53. Turkey	18	Yes, 8%	All books	II	Yes, 8%	Limitations apply	III
54. Ukraine	20	Yes, exempt	Limitations apply	III	Yes, exempt	Limitations apply	III
55. United Kingdom	20	Yes, 0%	All books	II	No ²³	NA	IV
Middle East and North Africa							
56. Algeria	17	Yes, 7%	All books	II	No	NA	IV
57. Egypt	10	Yes, exempt	All books	I	Yes, out of scope	All e-publications	I
58. Israel	16	Yes, exempt	Limitations apply	III	No	NA	IV
59. Jordan	16	Yes, 0%	All books	III	Unclear	Unclear	V
60. Lebanon	10	Yes, exempt or 0%	Limitations apply	III	No	NA	IV
61. Morocco	20	Yes, exempt	All books	I	Yes, exempt	Limitations apply	III
62. Tunisia	18	Yes, exempt	Limitations apply	III	No	NA	IV
63. Yemen	GST 5	No	NA	IV	No	NA	IV
Africa							
64. Botswana	12	No	NA	IV	No		IV
65. Cameroon ²⁴	17.5	Yes, exempt	All books	I	Yes, exempt	All e-publications	I
66. Ghana	15	Yes, exempt	Limitations apply	III	Yes, exempt	Limitations apply ²⁵	III
67. Kenya	16	Yes, exempt or 0%	Limitations apply	III	Yes, exempt or out of scope	Limitations apply	III
68. Malawi	16.5	Yes, exempt or 0%	Limitations apply	III	Yes, 0% or exempt	Limitations apply	III
69. Mauritius	15	Yes, 0%	All books	II	Yes, 0%	All e-publications	II
70. Mozambique	17	Yes, exempt	Limitations apply	III	Yes, exempt	Limitations apply	III
71. Namibia	15	No ²⁶	NA	IV	No	NA	IV
72. Nigeria	5	Yes, exempt	All books	I	Yes, exempt		III
73. Senegal	18	Yes, exempt	All books	I	Yes, exempt	All e-publications	I
74. South Africa	14	No	NA	IV	No	NA	IV
75. Tanzania	18	Yes, exempt or 0%	Limitations apply	III	Unclear	Unclear	V

22 Only for audiobooks and books in Braille.

23 Reduced rate for audiobooks provided to charities for people with disabilities and visually impaired.

24 2010 data.

25 The exemption applies in the case of local production.

26 Books can be VAT exempt if they are sold as part of educational services.

Country	Standard rate (%)	Special treatment for printed books?	Scope of special treatment	Category	Special treatment of e-publications	Scope of special treatment	Category
76. Uganda	18	Yes, 0%	Limitations apply	III	No	NA	IV
77. Zimbabwe	15	Yes, exempt or 0%	Limitations apply	III	Yes, 0%	Limitations apply	III
Latin America							
78. Argentina	21	Yes, exempt	Limitations apply	III	Yes, exempt	Limitations apply	III
79. Bolivia	13	No	NA	IV	No	NA	IV
80. Brazil	18	Yes, exempt	All books	I	Unclear	Unclear	V
81. Colombia	16	Yes, exempt	Limitations apply	III	Yes, exempt	Limitations apply	III
82. Ecuador	12	Yes, 0%	All books	II	Yes, 0%	Limitations apply	III
83. Mexico	16	Yes, exempt or 0%	Limitations apply	III	Unclear	Unclear	V
84. Panama	7	Yes, exempt	Limitations apply	III	Yes, exempt	Limitations apply	III
85. Peru	18	Yes, 0%	Limitations apply	III	Yes, 0%	Limitations apply	III
86. Uruguay	22	Yes, exempt	All books	I	Yes, exempt	Limitations apply	III
87. Venezuela	12	Yes, exempt	All books	I	Yes, exempt	Limitations apply	III
North America							
88. Canada (federal level)	5% GST ²⁷	No	NA	IV	No GST plus sales tax in those provinces that have sales tax (different rates apply). This creates a discrepancy problem.	NA	IV

27 In all provinces where sales tax and GST are blended into a harmonised tax – HST – books are exempt from the sales tax, and subject only to the GST portion, which is 5%.

Contacts

Jens Bammel, Secretary General
International Publishers Association
Tel: +41 22 704 1820
Email: bammel@internationalpublishers.org

Alexis Krikorian, Director, Freedom to Publish
International Publishers Association
Tel: +41 22 704 1820
Email: krikorian@internationalpublishers.org

Ine Lejeune, Leader Indirect Taxes within the Global Tax Policy and Administration network
PwC
Tel: + 32 9 268 8300
Email: ine.lejeune@be.pwc.com

Sibylle Vandenberghe, Senior Manager Indirect Taxes
PwC
Tel: +32 9 268 8322
Email: sibylle.vandenberghe@be.pwc.com

This article has been written by IPA. PwC has provided underlying data based on the study of VAT laws and on the information available on 1 April 2012 for all but the following 13 countries: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bosnia, France, Georgia, Luxembourg, Macedonia, Serbia, Colombia, Iceland, Iran, Yemen and Canada. The information for these countries was provided by IPA. Any change or amendment in the law or relevant regulations would necessitate a review of our comments in this article. PwC accepts no liability, and disclaims all responsibility, for the consequences of you or anyone else acting or refraining to act, in reliance on the content of the latter information or for any decision based on it. The information contained in this article is of a general nature and is merely guidance on matters of general interest. This article is not a substitute for professional advice on any matter. No reader should act on the basis of anything contained in this article without considering appropriate professional advice. PwC Firms provide industry-focused assurance, tax and advisory services to enhance value for their clients. More than 180,000 people in 158 countries in firms across the PwC network share their thinking, experience and solutions to develop fresh perspectives and practical advice. See www.pwc.com for more information.

Joint publication of IPA and PwC – 2012.

