



# VAT Refunds in the EU

## What is the 8th Directive?

The VAT Act (Chapter 406 of the Laws of Malta) implements Council Directive 2008/9/EC of 12 February 2008 (commonly known as the Eight Directive), which amends Council Directive 2006/112/EC (the VAT Directive).

Application procedure for VAT refunds by Taxable Persons not established in the Member State of Refund but in another member state.

Such a refund application can only be submitted electronically through the electronic portal of the Member State where the applicant (taxable person) is established. The Member State of Establishment will forward the application to the Member State of Refund for processing.

## What is the time limit?

The primary deadline for VAT refund claims is 30th September, which applies to claims for the period between **1st January and 31st December** of the previous year.

Nevertheless, tax return claims may be submitted throughout the year for lesser periods:

- 3 months (claims made quarterly),
- annual claims, which include all twelve months of the year.



## How does the process work?

To apply for a VAT refund, businesses must submit electronic documents through the tax portal of their own Member State of establishment. The VAT return demand will then be transmitted to the refund Member State's authorities. Additionally, it may be required to submit copies or originals of documents and/or invoices.

Once the TAX refund requests have been submitted through your company's national tax portal, the VAT refund procedure can begin at the level of the recipient foreign national tax authority, which will conduct all necessary checks to refund the returnable tax rate to the claimant.

## The benefits of VAT refunding with a refund specialist

As it can be challenging to determine whether a company is eligible for a VAT refund or whether purchase invoices can be used to claim a VAT refund, you can always rely on our refund specialists to submit your tax refund applications. The assistance of an expert increases your likelihood of obtaining a refund without incident.

You will be assisted by specialists who are conversant in both the EU country in which your business is based and the country in which you file your VAT refund claim. They will properly complete VAT refund forms and ensure that all required supporting documentation is affixed to your requests.

Your VAT refund specialist will also verify the status of your applications and respond to the national tax authority in accordance with the 8th Directive's rules for tax refunds, thereby ensuring that they reimburse your VAT.

