

INTRODUCTION TO TAXATION

Lecture 5 - Principles of VAT

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9th January 2026



Diploma in Law (Malta)



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Overview

1. Scope of VAT;
2. Place of Supply Rules;
3. VAT Exemptions;
4. VAT Registration Requirements;
5. Input Tax;
6. Liability of Directors



Introduction



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Key Characteristics of VAT



VAT is a form of **INDIRECT TAX**, which is charged over **CONSUMPTION** (and not on income or profits);

VAT is charged and collected by traders on supplies falling within the scope of VAT, *but* is borne by the **FINAL CONSUMER**.

DIFFERENT rates of VAT are applicable.

VAT constitutes a tax which is **COMMON** throughout the EU Member States.

VAT is in principle **NEUTRAL** on businesses – most traders can recover the VAT which they are charged on their business expenditure via the input tax deduction system.

Applicable Rates of VAT (1)

- Generally, VAT is charged at the **rate of 18%** but other reduced VAT rates are applicable in terms of the Eighth Schedule to the VAT ACT (i.e. **12%, 7% and 5%**). There can also be a **0%** rate if the supply is exempt.

Description	Rate of VAT
Accommodation	7%
Supply of electricity	5%
Confectionery and other similar items	5%
Medical Accessories	5%
Printed matter	5%
Items for exclusive use of the disabled	5%
Importation of works of art, collector's items and antiques	5%
Minor repairing of bicycles, shoes, leather goods, clothing and household linen (including mending and alteration)	5%
Domestic care services such as home help and care of the young, elderly, sick or disabled.	5%
Admission to museums, art exhibitions, concerts and theatres	5%
Use of sports facilities	7%
Custody and Management of securities	12%



Applicable Rates of VAT (2)

- The transposition of the rules set out under Article 105a of Council Directive 2022/542 of 5 April 2022 (amending Directives 2006/112/EC and (EU) 2020/285) with regards to rates of VAT, introduced a **NEW reduced rate of VAT** under Maltese law:

12%

- The new rate, which applied with effect from **1 January 2024**, applies mainly to **four** categories of services:

1. **custody and management of securities;**

2. **management of credit** and **credit guarantees** by a person or body other than those who granted the credit;

3. **hiring of a pleasure boat** for a period **NOT** exceeding **five weeks**, subject to certain conditions being satisfied; and

4. services consisting of the **care of the human body** by a person in the exercise of any profession regulated by the Health Care Professions Act (Chapter 464 of the laws of Malta). These services include services supplied **in the course of a health studio business or similar business**, but do not include other health-related exempt (without credit) supplies already referred to under the Value Added Tax Act.

Scope of VAT



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The Charging Provision

ARTICLE 4 of the VAT Act provides that:

“There shall be charged, levied and collected ... a value added tax:

- On every **supply of goods** and **services**
 - i. That ***takes place in Malta***
 - ii. For ***consideration***
 - iii. By a ***taxable person***
 - iv. Acting as such
- On every **intra-community acquisition**
 - i. Of goods made in Malta by persons registered under articles 10/12;
 - ii. Of New Means of Transport made in Malta by any person;
 - iii. Of excise goods made in Malta by a taxable person/non-taxable legal person
- On every **importation** made in Malta.

The three types of VAT

**The VAT Act
provides for a
distinct VAT
charge for**

Supplies

Acquisitions

Imports

1. Supplies of goods (that take place in Malta, for consideration, by a taxable person acting as such);
2. Supplies of services (that take place in Malta, for consideration, by a taxable person acting as such);
3. Intra-community acquisitions of goods made in Malta (made by VAT-registered businesses; New Means of Transport & excise goods);
4. Importations made in Malta by any person

VAT on Supplies

Distinction between Goods and Services:

GOODS

A supply of goods is the transfer of the right to dispose of tangible property as owner.

SERVICES

A supply of services means a supply that is not a supply of goods.

Scope of VAT – Concept of ‘Taxable Person’ (1)

Who is a taxable person?

Article 5 of the VAT Act, defines a “taxable person” as:
“a person who carries on an *economic activity*, whatever the purpose of result of that activity.”

The term “**economic activity**”, as defined in the VAT Act, includes (other criteria under VAT Act apply):

- *any trade or business;*
- *any profession or vocation and the provision of any personal services;*
- *the exploitation of tangible or intangible property for the purpose of obtaining income therefrom on a continuing basis.*

EXCLUDES activities of an **employee**, including the **holder of an office** (employees would therefore be **non-taxable persons**).

Scope of VAT – Concept of ‘Taxable Person’ (2)

- Being a **taxable person** means that your **activities may fall within the scope of VAT**. Generally, private individuals acting as **such WILL NOT** be considered to be carrying out an economic activity and will therefore *not be classed as taxable persons (subject to exceptions such as Article 5(4) VATA) – persons making ICA of new means of transport*.
- Activities of a **non-taxable person**, **GENERALLY** fall **outside the scope of VAT, subject to the below:**

**Non-taxable
person**

Fall **OUTSIDE the scope of VAT** with the exception of **intra-community acquisitions of new means of transport**.

**Non-taxable
legal person**

Generally, fall OUTSIDE the scope of VAT other than for the purposes of **intra-community acquisitions**.

e.g. public authority acting in the exercise of the functions assigned to it by law

Scope of VAT – *Supply for ‘Consideration’*

What constitutes “consideration”?

- “Consideration” is the **payment** for the supply of goods or services.
- Typically takes the form of **cash** or **equivalent**, **HOWEVER**, ***non-monetary consideration*** is also possible, e.g. ***payment in kind (via goods or services supplied in return)***.

Scope of VAT – *Supplies taking place in Malta*

Only supplies that are **deemed to be provided in Malta** are fall within the scope of Maltese VAT

Concept of **Place of Supply** (PoS), relevant rules contained under the **Third Schedule** to the VAT Act

DIFFERENT PoS rules for transactions in **GOODS** and supplies of **SERVICES**

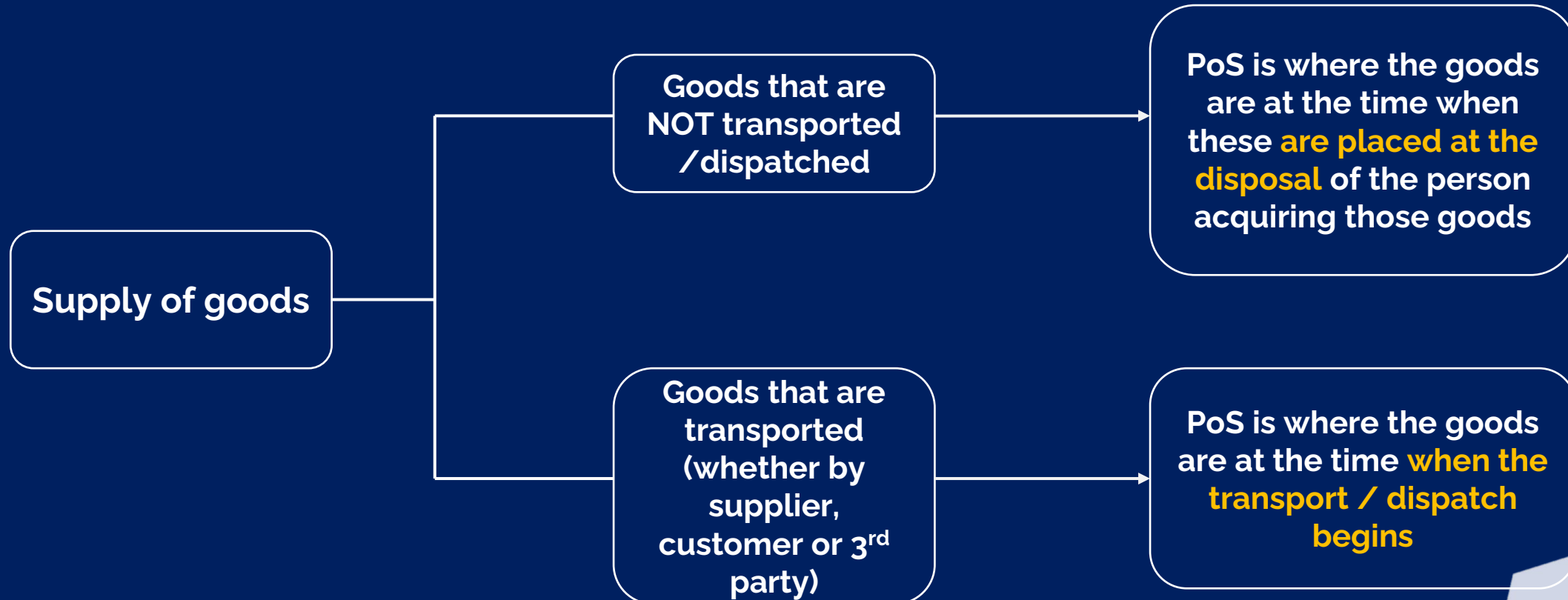


*i.e. transactions which take place **OUTSIDE MALTA** fall outside the scope of Malta VAT (but may still fall within the scope of VAT of another EU Member State)*

Place of Supply – Supply of Goods

- When it comes to determining the place of supply of goods, a distinction must be made between:
 - **Default Rules** for Place of Supply
 - **Special Rules** for Place of Supply

Supply of Goods – Default Rules



Supply of Goods – Special Rules

- There exist **special rules** for certain supplies of goods (i.e. **where the default PoS rules for supplies of goods DO NOT apply**), for example:

Supply of goods on board of ships, aircrafts or trains

If goods are supplied on board trains, ships, aircraft or trains during the part of a transport of passengers that takes place within the EU, the PoS of those goods is **the point of departure of the transport of passengers**

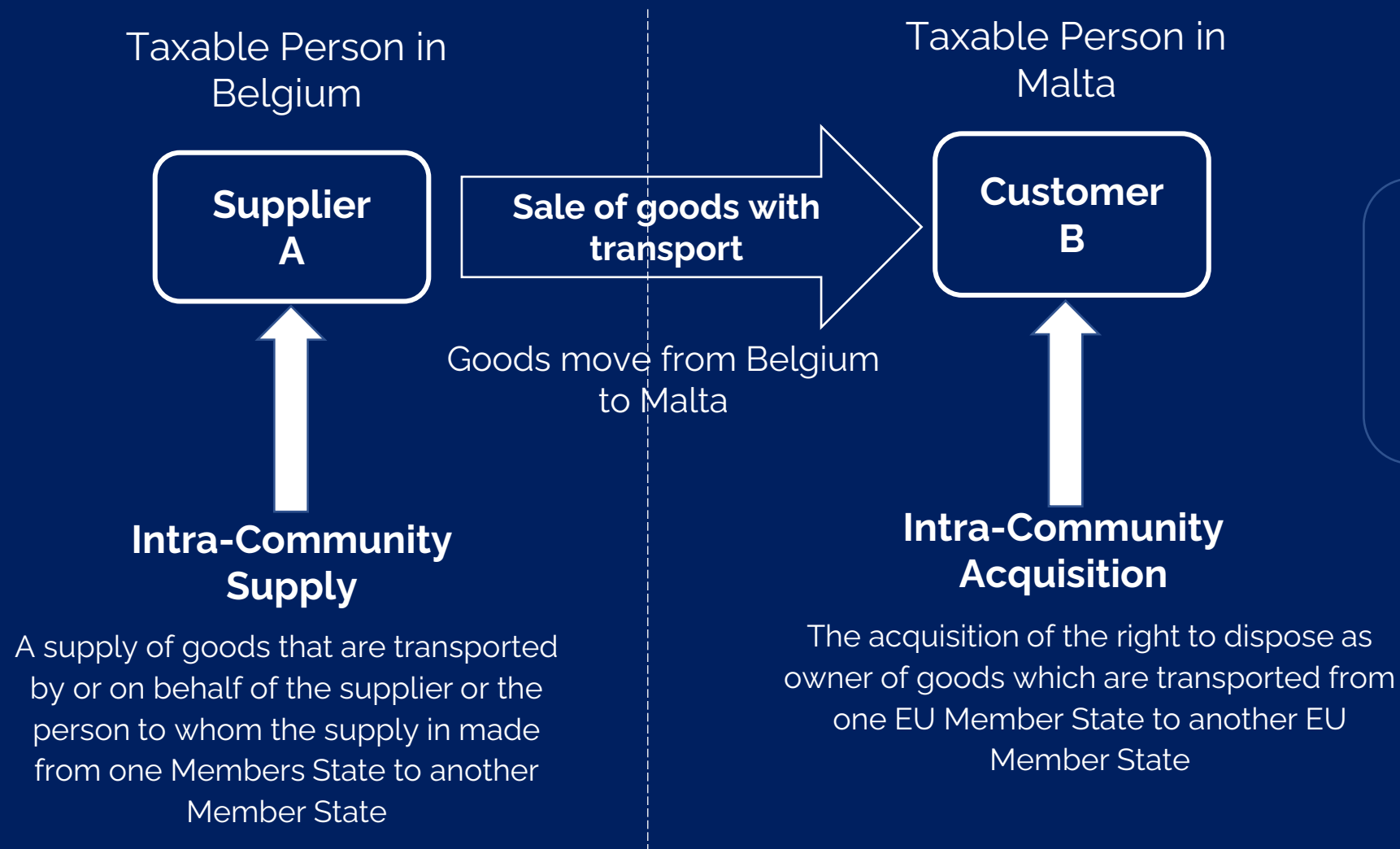
Supply of goods installed or assembled

A supply of goods that are installed or assembled by the supplier or on his behalf, takes place **where the goods are installed or assembled.**

Intra-Community Supplies

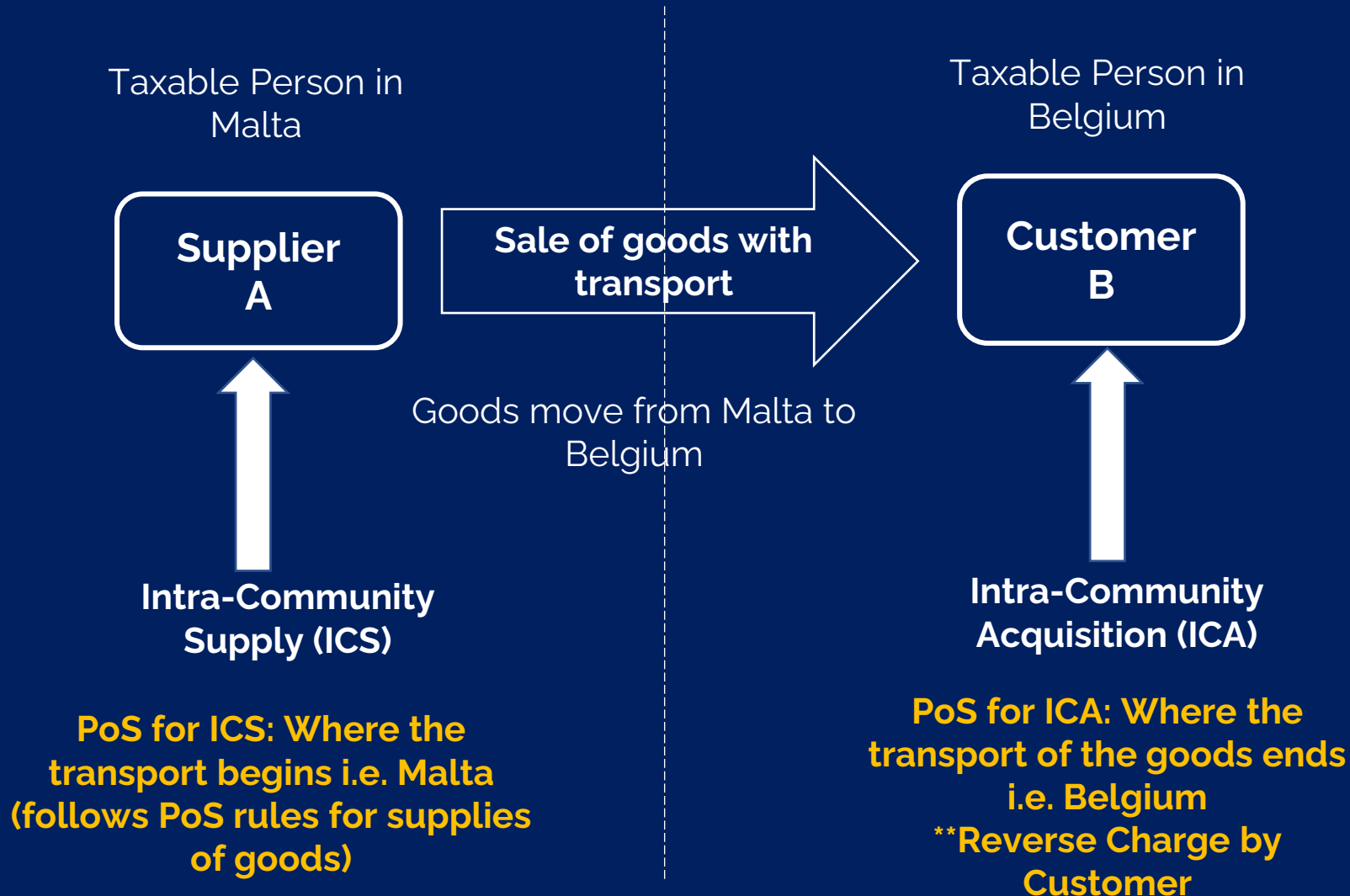
- The intra-Community supply and acquisition of goods occurs where goods are **dispatched or transported between businesses in different Member States of the European Union** (EU).
- For Value-Added Tax (VAT) purposes, two transactions are deemed to occur:
 - **Intra-community acquisition (ICA)**; and
 - **Intra-Community supply (ICS)**
- The place of an intra-Community supply (ICS) of goods is the **place where the transport begins**. An ICS can be exempt from VAT, if the following conditions are met:
 - the customer is **registered for VAT** in another Member State (i.e. customer is a business identified for VAT purposes);
 - The supplier's VAT number and the customer's VAT number **are quoted** on the sales invoice;
 - The goods are **dispatched or transported** to another Member State;
 - The supplier reports the details of the customer and the value of the transaction in a **recapitulative declaration**.
- If the customer is a **private consumer**, and the goods are transported/ dispatched – the transaction would **be subject to VAT**.

Supply of Goods between EU Member States (1)



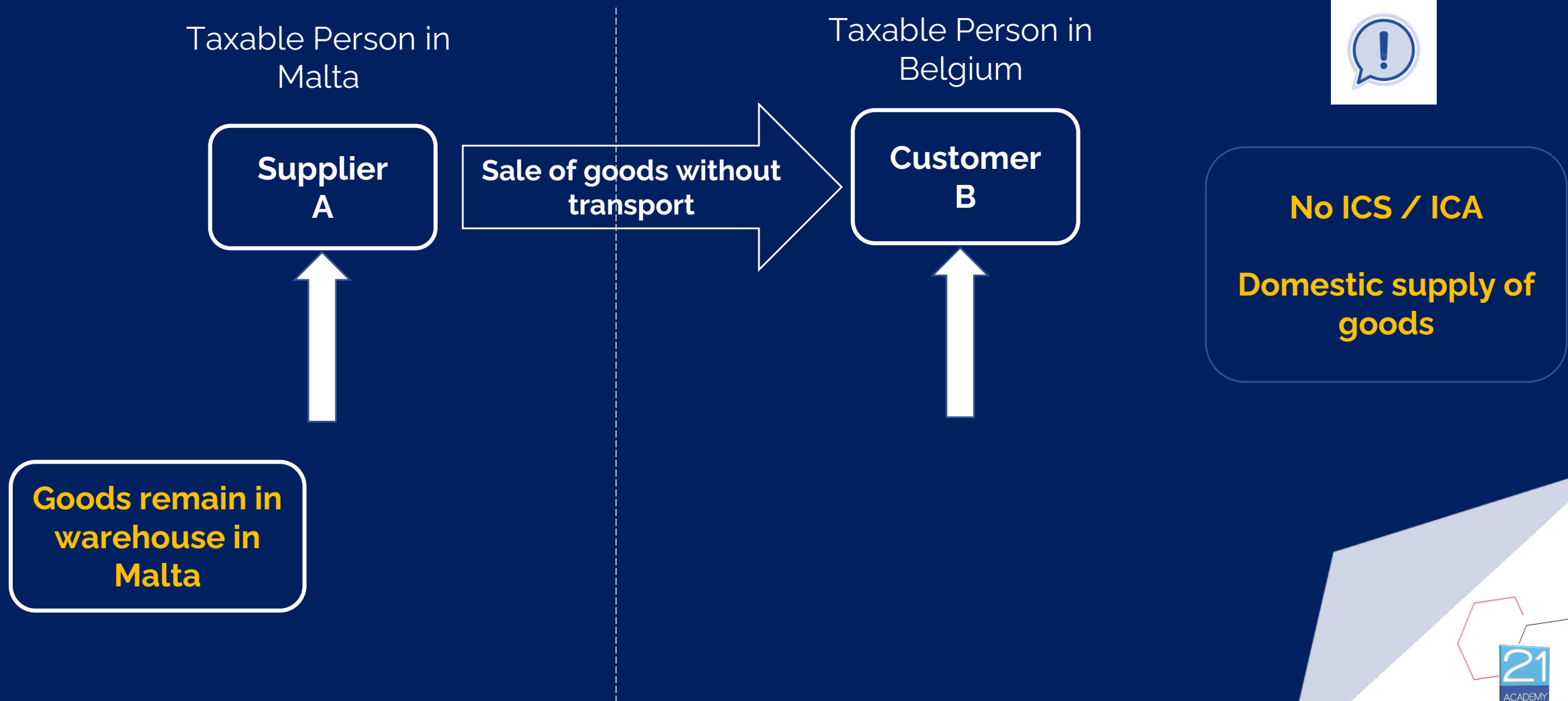
**ONE business transaction
BUT
TWO VAT transactions**

Supply of Goods between EU Member States (2)



1. ICS will be **EXEMPT with credit** if Customer B has a **valid VAT number**. Supplier must also **quote his and customer's VAT no. on invoice**.
2. ICA is **outside the scope of Maltese VAT**, but in principle taxable in **Belgium**. Customer is required to **self-account for VAT** on a **reverse charge basis** in its VAT return at the rate applicable in Belgium.

Supply of Goods between EU Member States (1)



Reverse Charge

- VAT is normally **charged and accounted for by the supplier of the goods or services**. However, in certain circumstances, the **CUSTOMER** *rather than the supplier*, is obliged to account for the VAT due.
- The reverse charge mechanism (i.e. self-accounting) refers to the **shifting of the responsibility to account for the VAT liability** on a supply (whether of goods or services) from the **Supplier TO** the **Customer**.
- Applies in respect of:
 - i. **receipt of services from abroad that are taxable where received (to be seen later on);**
and
 - ii. **the intra-community acquisition of goods from another Member States.**

Distinction between intra-EC trade and trade with Third Countries

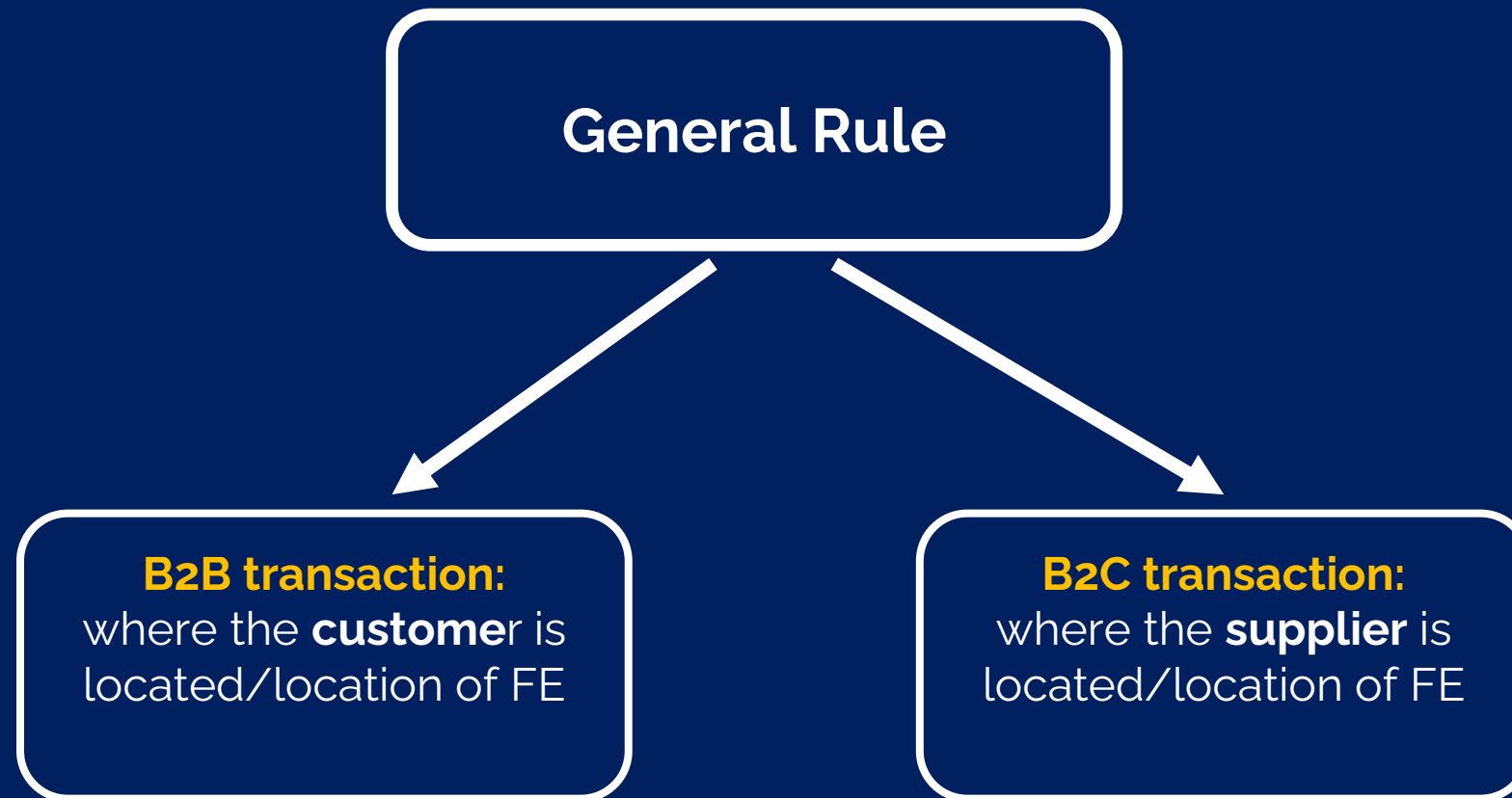
- The entry into the **EC of goods transported from a third territory WILL NOT** result in ICS & ICA, but will be dealt with under the rules concerning **IMPORTATIONS**.
- An importation of goods takes place where the goods are at the time when the chargeable event takes place.
- **“Chargeable Event”:**
 1. When **customs duties** become chargeable; OR
 2. When the goods being imported **cease** to remain subject to a **customs duty suspension regime**.

Place of Supply – Supply of Services

- The place of taxation is determined by **WHERE** the services are supplied. This depends not only on the ***nature of the service*** supplied but also on the **status of the customer receiving the service**.
- A distinction must be made between:
 - a **taxable person acting as such** (a business acting in its business capacity; and
 - a **non-taxable person** (a private individual who is the final consumer).



Supply of Services – General Rules



PoS: Business to Business (B2B) Supplies

The place of supply of services to a **taxable person** acting as such, shall be the place where that person has **established his business**.

HOWEVER

If those services are provided to a **FIXED ESTABLISHMENT** of the taxable person **located in a place other than the place where he has established his business**:

Place of Supply

The place where that **fixed establishment** is located.

In the **absence** of such place of establishment or fixed establishment, the place of supply of services shall be the place where the taxable person who receives such services has his **permanent address** or **usually resides**.

PoS: Business to Consumer (B2C) Supplies

The place of supply of services to a **non-taxable person** acting as such, shall be the place where the supplier has **established his business**.

HOWEVER

If those services are provided from a **FIXED ESTABLISHMENT** of the supplier **located in a different place**:

Place of Supply

The place where that **fixed establishment** is located.

In the **absence** of such place of establishment or fixed establishment, the place of supply of services shall be the place where the supplier has his **permanent address** or **usually resides**.

PoS: Fixed Establishment

*"characterized by a sufficient degree of **permanence** and a **suitable structure in terms of human and technical resources to enable it to provide the services which it supplies** (for the purposes of article 45 of Dir 2006/112) or **receive and use the services supplied to it** for its own needs (for the purposes of article 44 of Dir 2006/112)"*

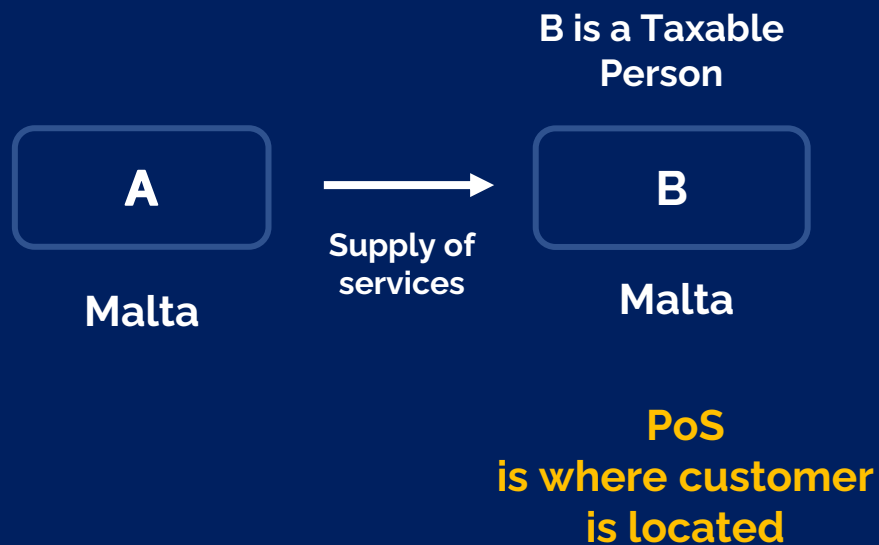
Examples may include:

- renting storage space to store and deliver goods;
- using sale representatives to provide information and boost sales abroad;
- providing ancillary or auxiliary operations to the main activities of the head office; or
- setting up a branch, with its own staff and working facilities, such as a factory or an office

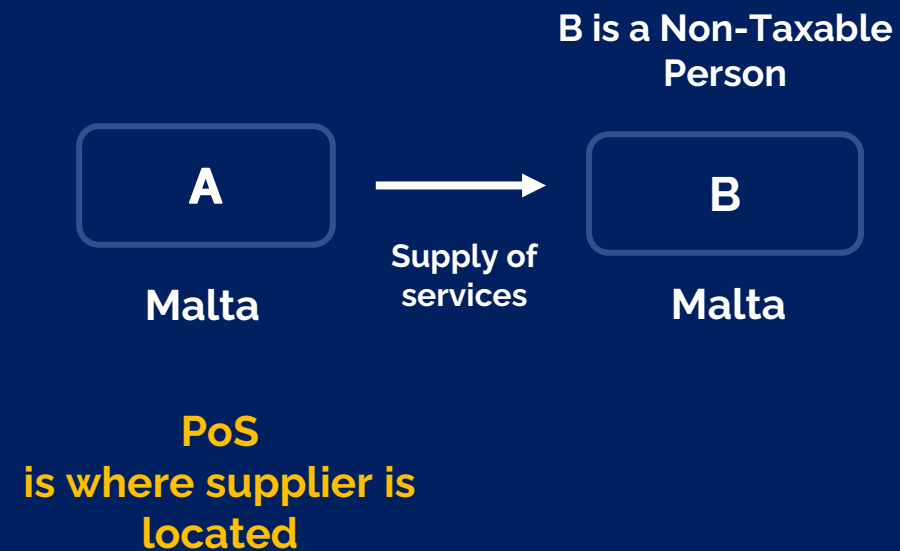


Supply of Services – Default Rules

Domestic Supply



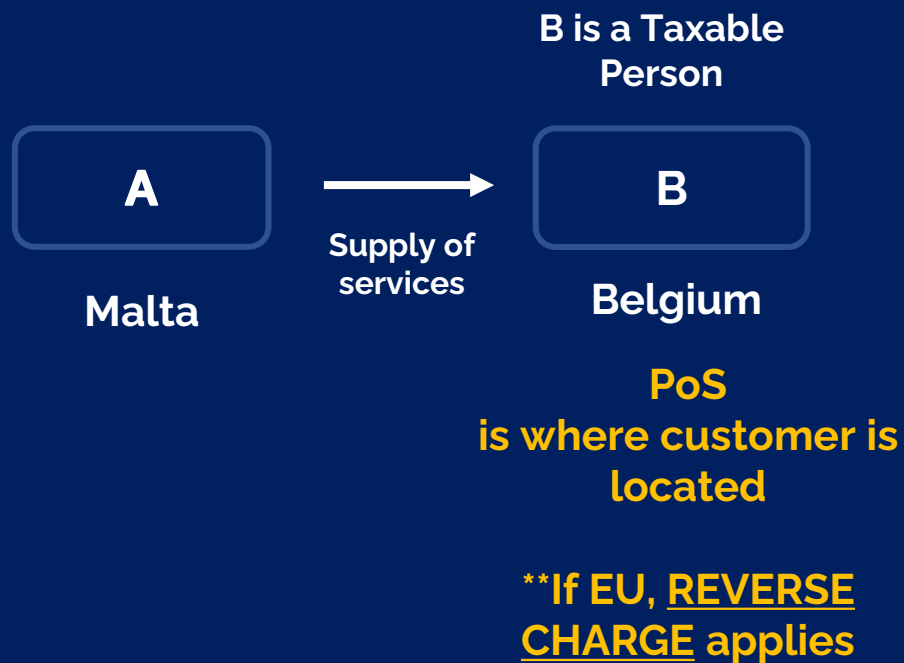
Example 1



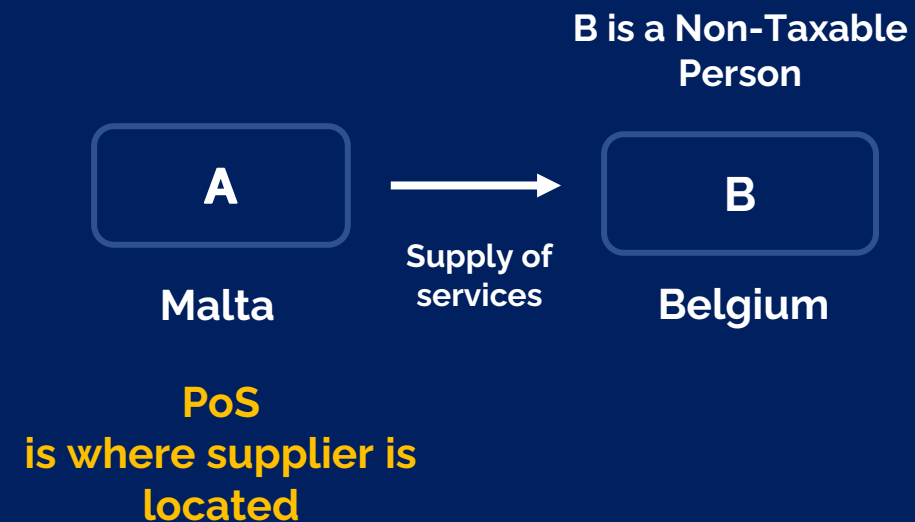
Example 2

Supply of Services – Default Rules

Non-Domestic Supply



Example 1



Example 2

Reverse Charge



- Place of Supply is where customer (B) is located, i.e. Malta.
- A is liable to Maltese VAT on supply of services, therefore charges Eur 180 output VAT on the invoice to B.
- B reports Eur 180 as input VAT in its VAT return.



- Place of Supply is where customer (B) is located, i.e. Belgium.
- The supply is liable to Belgian VAT, at the rates applicable under Belgian law. This would mean that (A) would need to be registered for VAT in Belgium to account for Belgian VAT.
- Instead, reverse charge mechanism applies & liability to account for VAT (i.e. Belgian VAT) shifts onto customer (B).
- A therefore DOES NOT charge VAT to B on supply.
- B declares Eur 180 output VAT in VAT return, & EUR 180 as input VAT.

Supply of Services – Special Rules

- Place of supply is determined **irrespective of the status of the parties to the transaction**.
- FULL** list of special rules vis-à-vis supply of services is found under **Part 2** of the **Third Schedule** to the VAT Act.

B2B & B2C Supply of
restaurant and
catering services

Place of supply is
**where the services
are physically carried
out**
UNLESS
services are carried
out on board **ships,
aircrafts or trains**, in
which case, **PoS is
place of departure**

B2B & B2C Supply of
services relating to
immovable property

Place of supply is
always where the
**immovable property
is located**

B2B & B2C Supply of
passenger transport

Place of supply is
**where the transport
takes place**,
proportionate to the
distance covered

Supply of Services – Special Rules

Place of Supply of telecommunication, broadcasting and electronically supplied services

- **NEW** rules to determine place of supply have started to apply from **1st January 2015**.

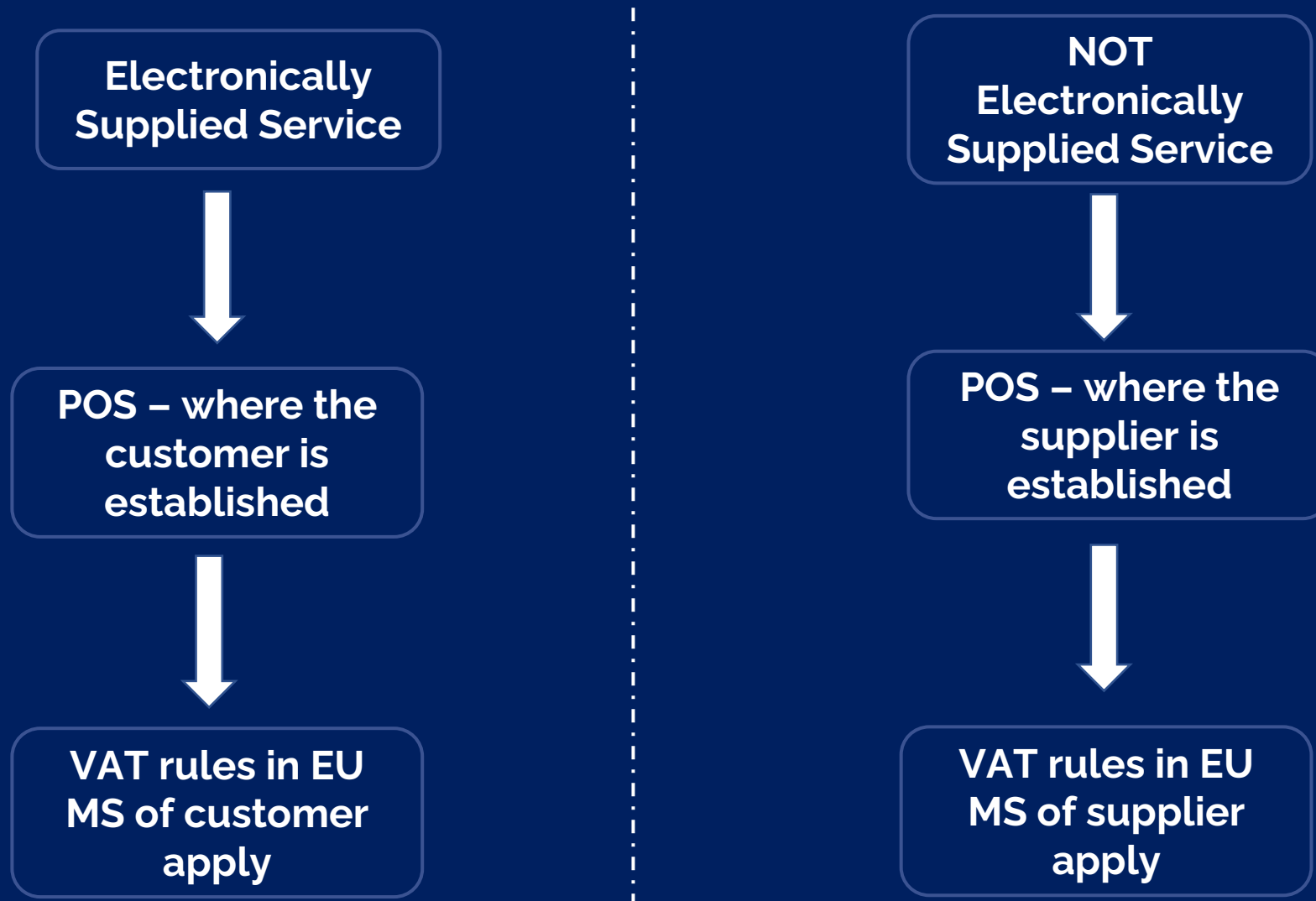
Post-2015

Item 10, Part 2 of the Third Schedule to the VAT Act:

“The place of supply of the following services on a B2C basis shall be **the place where that person (i.e. the CUSTOMER) is established**, has his **permanent address** or **usually resides**:

- **Telecommunication services;**
- **Radio and television broadcasting services;**
- **Electronically supplied services (ESS)”**

Place of Supply (B2C): *ESS*



What are ESS? (1)

- **Important resources:** VAT Act, Council Implementing Regulation EU (282/2011) ("**CIR**") and Guidelines for the VAT treatment of ESS issued by MTCA.
- Article 10 of the CIR defines ESS as:

*Services which are **delivered over the internet** or an **electronic network** and the nature of which renders their supply **essentially automated** and involving **minimal human intervention**, and **impossible to ensure in the absence of information technology**"*

What are ESS? (2)

- Therefore, the following conditions must be satisfied **CUMULATIVELY** for a service to qualify as an ESS:

- | | |
|------|--|
| i. | <i>delivered over the internet or an electronic network</i> |
| ii. | <i>essentially automated (not necessarily entirely)</i> |
| iii. | <i>minimal human intervention (on the part of the supplier)</i> |
| iv. | <i>impossible to ensure in the absence of information technology</i> |

What are ESS? (3)

Item 10 of Part Two of the Third Schedule of the VAT Act includes list of what services are considered to be ESS:

Website Supply

Web-hosting

Broadcasting

Distance maintenance of programmes and equipment

Distance teaching

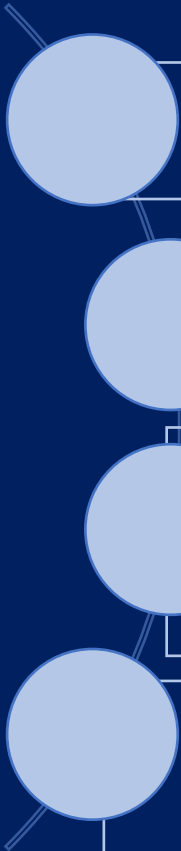
Supply of software and updating thereof

Supply of images, text and information and making available of:

- Databases
- Supply of Music
- Films and Games

What are ESS? (4)

- The Guidelines for the VAT treatment of Electronically Supplied Services (issued on 4 February 2015) provide a **non-exhaustive list of services which SHALL NOT be regarded as ESS**.
- A few of these services are being outlined below (for full list please consult guidelines):



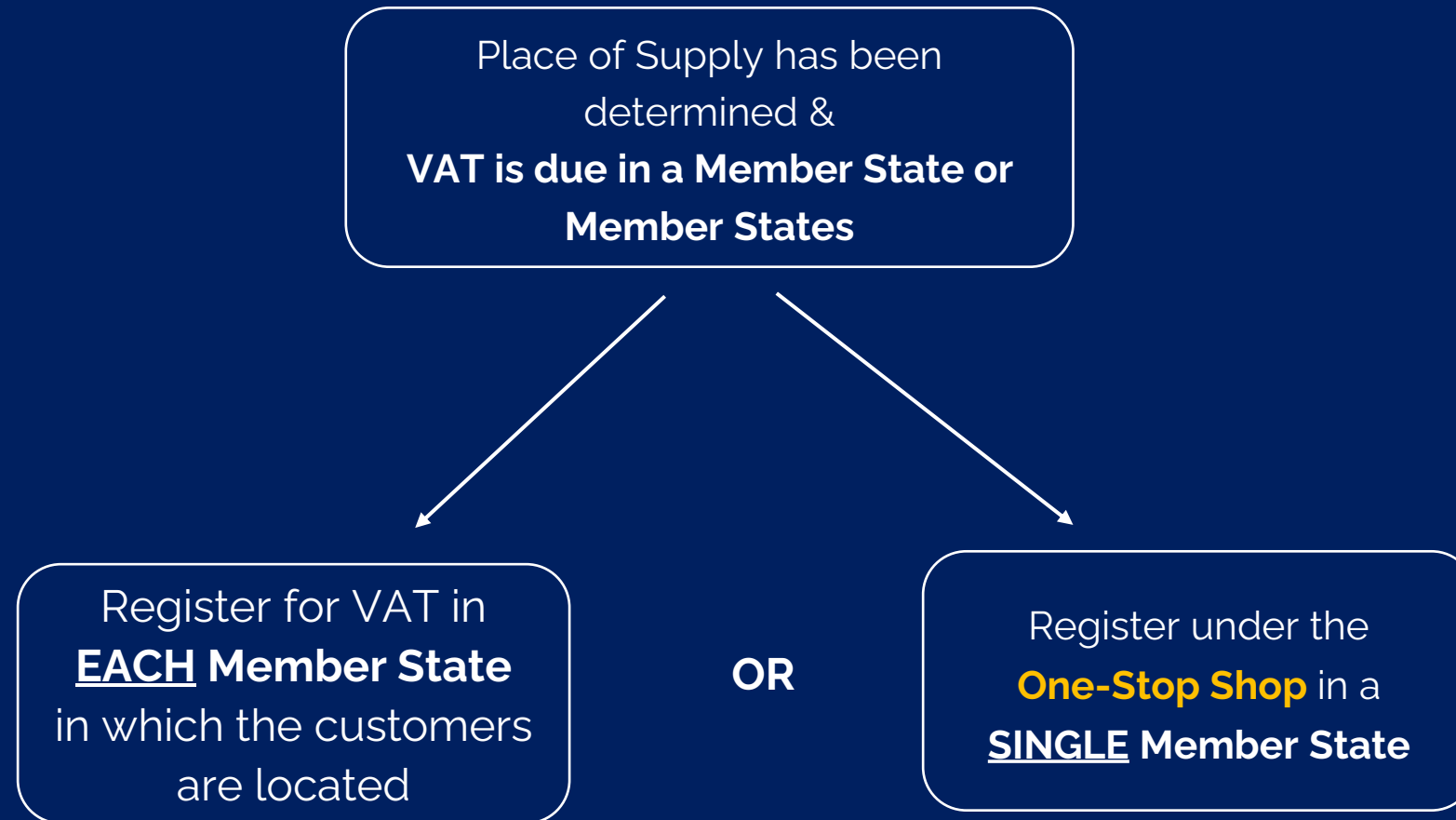
An interactive online course, where the course content is delivered live by a tutor over the internet, or an electronic network, such as a live webinar.

The online purchase of tickets to physically attend a cultural, artistic, sporting, scientific, educational, entertainment or similar event.

The supply of books, newspapers or journals disseminated electronically on tangible media, such as audio books or books published on CDs, DVDs, USB drives (5% reduced rate extended to apply to books/audio books supplied electronically i.e. supply of services)

Purchase of services over the internet where the order is processed electronically but services are delivered in a traditional manner, e.g. car-hire, restaurant services, accommodation.

VAT Compliance Obligations for ESS



The One-Stop Shop (“OSS”)

- From 1 July 2021, the *Mini One Stop Shop (MOSS)* became the **One-Stop Shop (OSS)**. The OSS simplifies Value-Added Tax (VAT) obligations for businesses cross-border to final consumers in the European Union (EU).
- Oss is split into a **Union (for EU-established suppliers)** and **Non-Union Scheme (for Non-EU established suppliers – covering supplies of services by persons not established in the EU who make B2C supplies of services taking place in the EU)**.
- OSS allows suppliers to register, submit VAT returns and pay VAT due on their B2C digital services in other EU MSs in which they do not have an establishment through a single registration and contact point with their MSI, thereby avoiding the requirement to register in each MS in which there are final consumers (MSC).
- MSI will transmit the relevant information, together with the corresponding VAT paid via OSS, to each MSC via a secure communications network.
- OSS does not cover input VAT
- Another one stop shop scheme includes **The Import One Stop Shop (IOSS)** - applicable to suppliers and electronic interfaces who import goods, not subject to excise duty, in consignments of an intrinsic value of less than €150 into an EU Member State with a view to selling them to buyers in the EU.



VAT Exemptions



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VAT Exemptions

General Principle

VAT is in principle charged on **EVERY** supply of goods/services taking place within the EU.

Exemptions

Exceptions to the general principle that all supplies of goods and services are subject to VAT.

HOWEVER

ECJ has reiterated on several occasions that exemptions must be **interpreted RESTRICTIVELY**.

Exempt With Credit Supplies

Fifth Schedule VAT Act Part 1

Exempt with Credit/ 'Zero Rated' Supplies

i.e. No VAT is charged on the
supply
&
Right to claim back input VAT
incurred on the provision of
that supply

1. Exports and Like Transactions
2. International Goods Traffic
3. Intra-Community Supplies
4. International transport and ancillary services
5. Brokers or other intermediaries
6. Sea Vessels
7. Aircraft
8. Gold
9. Pharmaceutical Goods
10. Food
11. Transport
12. Supplies of Goods on board Cruise Liners

Exempt With Credit Supplies: *Food*

- The supply of **food for human consumption**, **EXCLUDING food supplied in the course of catering**.
- ***"Food supplied in the course of catering"*** means food which is suitable for **immediate consumption, whether such food is consumed in the place where it is supplied or not**, and consisting of-
 - a) meals or snacks;
 - b) milkshake, tea, coffee and chocolate supplied in liquid form;
 - c) ice cream or products containing ice cream except in family packs;
 - d) yogurt or similar products.

Exempt With Credit Supplies: *Transport*

- The supply of:

- a) transport by **scheduled bus service** consisting of trips on scheduled routes.

"scheduled bus service" shall mean public passenger transport services by an operator contracted in terms of the provisions of regulation 68B of the Passenger Transport Services Regulations (S.L. 499.56), or any other regulations replacing those regulations;

- b) **scheduled inter-island sea transport of passengers** by authorised carriers and other scheduled sea transport of passengers recognised as such by the Commissioner.

"scheduled inter-island sea transport of passengers" shall mean scheduled transport of passengers between the islands of Malta and Gozo.

- c) **special regular services** consisting in the **carriage of school pupils and students** to and from an educational establishment recognised as such by the Commissioner;
- d) **special regular services** consisting in the **carriage of workers** to and from their place of work.



Exempt Without Credit Supplies

Fifth Schedule VAT Act Part 2

Exempt without Credit Supplies

i.e. No VAT is charged on the
supply

BUT

NO Right to claim back input
VAT incurred
on the provision of that supply

1. Immovable Property
2. Credit Banking and Other Services
3. Insurance Services
4. Cultural and Religious Services
5. Sports
6. Services related to certain exempt services
7. Services supplied by independent groups
8. Services by non-profit making organisations to their members
9. Lotteries
10. Postal Services
11. Health and Welfare
12. Education
13. Supplies of goods in respect of which the supplier had not qualified for input tax credits
14. Broadcasting
15. Water

Exempt Without Credit Supplies: *Immovable Property (1)*

1. The **letting of immovable property** EXCLUDING:
 - a) the letting of or the provision of accommodation in any premises which for the purpose of the said letting or accommodation is **required to be licensed in virtue of the Malta Travel and Tourism Services Act**, or any Act which may be substituted therefor or in a holiday camp or camping site;
 - b) The letting of premises and sites for parking vehicles where such premises or sites have been **designated by the Commissioner as parking areas** or which fall to be treated as such in terms of such regulations as may be prescribed;

***Subsidiary Legislation 406.05 – Value Added Tax (letting of premises and sites for parking vehicles) regulations**
“premises and sites for parking vehicles” means any premises or sites for parking vehicles where a fee is charged for such parking, but shall not include any public property where a car park attendant licensed as such in terms of the Motor Vehicles Regulations is in attendance.*

- c) the **letting of permanently installed equipment** and **machinery** and the **hire of safes**;



Exempt Without Credit Supplies: *Immovable Property* (2)

- d) the letting of property by a **limited liability company** to **a person registered under article 10** for the purpose of the economic activity of that other person;
- e) the letting of immovable property for **NOT MORE** than **thirty days** by a **taxable person in the course of an economic activity**, EXCEPT FOR:
 - i. the letting referred to in sub-paragraphs (a), (b), (c) and (d);
 - ii. the letting of space for artistic and cultural activities;
 - iii. the letting for the purposes of habitation of any premises which for the purpose of the said letting, those premises are not required to be licensed in virtue of the Malta Travel and Tourism Services Act, or any other Act which may be substituted therefor;
 - iv. the letting of premises used or intended to be used as garages, stores or similar uses;
 - v. the letting to players of rooms or other spaces lawfully designated for the playing of poker.

2. The **transfer of immovable property**.



Credit, banking and other services

- This exemption relates to the **VAT treatment of financial services**. Most financial services activities are **EXEMPT** from VAT.
- The following are exempt from VAT:

i.	Credit transactions (e.g. loans, overdrafts)
ii.	Credit guarantees/security for money (e.g. bank guarantees)
iii.	Transactions in payments, transfers etc
iv.	Transactions in currency, bank notes, and coins used as legal tender
v.	Transactions in securities (e.g. shares, interest in companies)
vi.	Management of special Investment Schemes

Credit, banking and other services

Management of special Investment Schemes:

"The supply of services consisting of the management of any investment scheme, provided that these services are limited to those activities that are specific to and essential for the core activity of the scheme."

"investment schemes" shall refer to:

- **"collective investment scheme"** as defined under the Investment Services Act;
- **"retirement scheme"** as defined under the Retirement Pensions Act;
- **"securitisation vehicle"** as defined under the Securitisation Act; and
- **"authorised reinsurance special purpose vehicle"** as defined in the Re-insurance Special Purpose Vehicle Regulations.

"management":

- **portfolio management/investment management** – selection and disposal of assets under management;
- **administrative management** – services such as computing the amount of income and the price of units or shares, the valuation of assets, accounting, the preparation of statements for the distribution of income;
- **Investment advisory services** supplied to an investment scheme/manager.



Exempt Without Credit Supplies – *Education*

1. The provision of **education** or **educational research**, **vocational training** or retraining, including **distance learning**, by a **government school** or **institution**, by the **University of Malta**, by a **school or institution registered under the Education Act**, or by any **educational establishment recognized as such by the Commissioner**, or by any establishment recognized for this purpose by the Minister responsible for education.
2. The provision of education or educational research, including distance learning, of a kind provided by a school or university, or of religious instruction, by a **non-profit making institution** recognised as such by the Commissioner.
3. **Tuition given privately by teachers** acting in an independent capacity in subjects which are normally taught in the course of education provided by a school or university **BUT excluding tuition in recreational, physical or sporting activities** or disciplines.
4. Any **training in the arts** which is provided by an organisation accredited by the Register for the Accreditation in the Training of the Arts.
5. The supply of goods and services where the said supply is **CONNECTED WITH and ESSENTIAL** for the **supply of services referred to in paragraphs (1), (2), (3) and (4)**, by the school, institution, university, teacher or organisation, as the case may be, supplying the said services, or supplied by any other organisation recognised by the Commissioner as an organisation which has similar objectives.



VAT Registrations



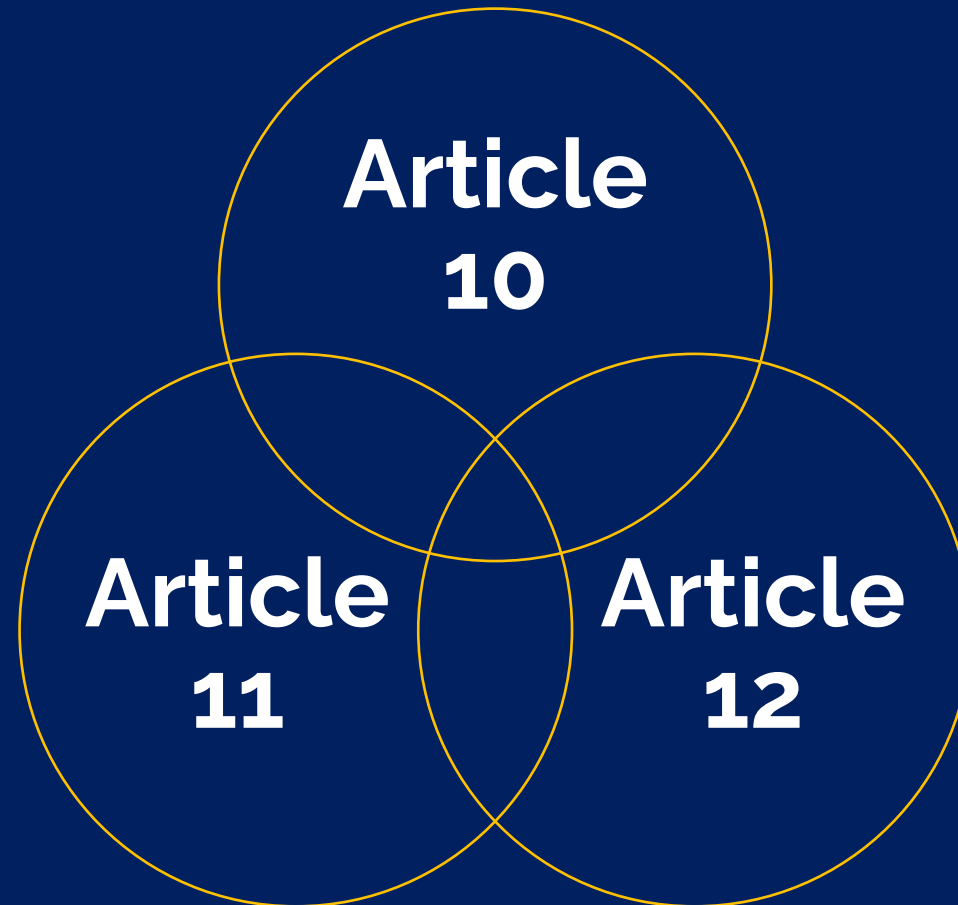
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VAT Registrations

Three different types of registrations under the VAT Act....



Article 10 Registration

- An obligation to register in terms of Article 10 (i.e. **mandatory registration**) arises in a number of circumstances:

- supplies goods/services which are **taxable in Malta** (place of supply Malta);
- supplies goods/services which are **exempt with credit in Malta** (place of supply Malta);
- supplies services **to EU business customers** for which services the VAT is payable solely by the customer.

- Obligation to register under article 10 arises **as soon as** specified supplies are made.
- If there is an obligation to register under Article 10, the registration must happen within **30 days from the relevant event** (i.e. from when the supply was made). In cases where the taxable person **ONLY** provides exempt without credit supplies, VAT registration under Article 10 is not required.
- Possibility to **shift from an Article 10 to an Article 11 registration** (assuming thresholds are satisfied),
BUT a period of 36 months has to lapse before shift is possible.



Effects of an Article 10 Registration

- By virtue of being registered in terms of Article 10, a taxable person:
 - i. is provided with a **VAT Identification Number** (MT Reg. No.);
 - ii. Submission of VAT return for a tax period of **three months** by the not later than **6 weeks after the end of the tax period**, or as directed by the Commissioner.;
 - iii. is entitled to **recover input VAT** (although partial attribution may apply);
 - iv. Must inform CfTC **within 15 days** of any **change in circumstances** effecting particulars declared in the application for registration, or in case of **cessation or transfer of economic activity** or part thereof;
 - v. has to **issue fiscal receipts** or **tax invoices**, as the case may be, on all supplies made by him.



Article 11 Registration – Overhaul (1)

- On 18 February 2020 the Council adopted simplified VAT rules applicable to SMEs.
- The rules are intended to reduce the administrative burden and compliance costs for small businesses and to enable them to trade cross-border more efficiently.
- The main change is the **EXTENSION** of the exemption for 'small undertakings', which currently only applies to traders which operate domestically, to **traders who operate cross-border**.
- Member States were required to transpose the new rules by 31 December 2024, with the new rules applying with effect from **1 January 2025**.

Article 11 – Overhaul (2)

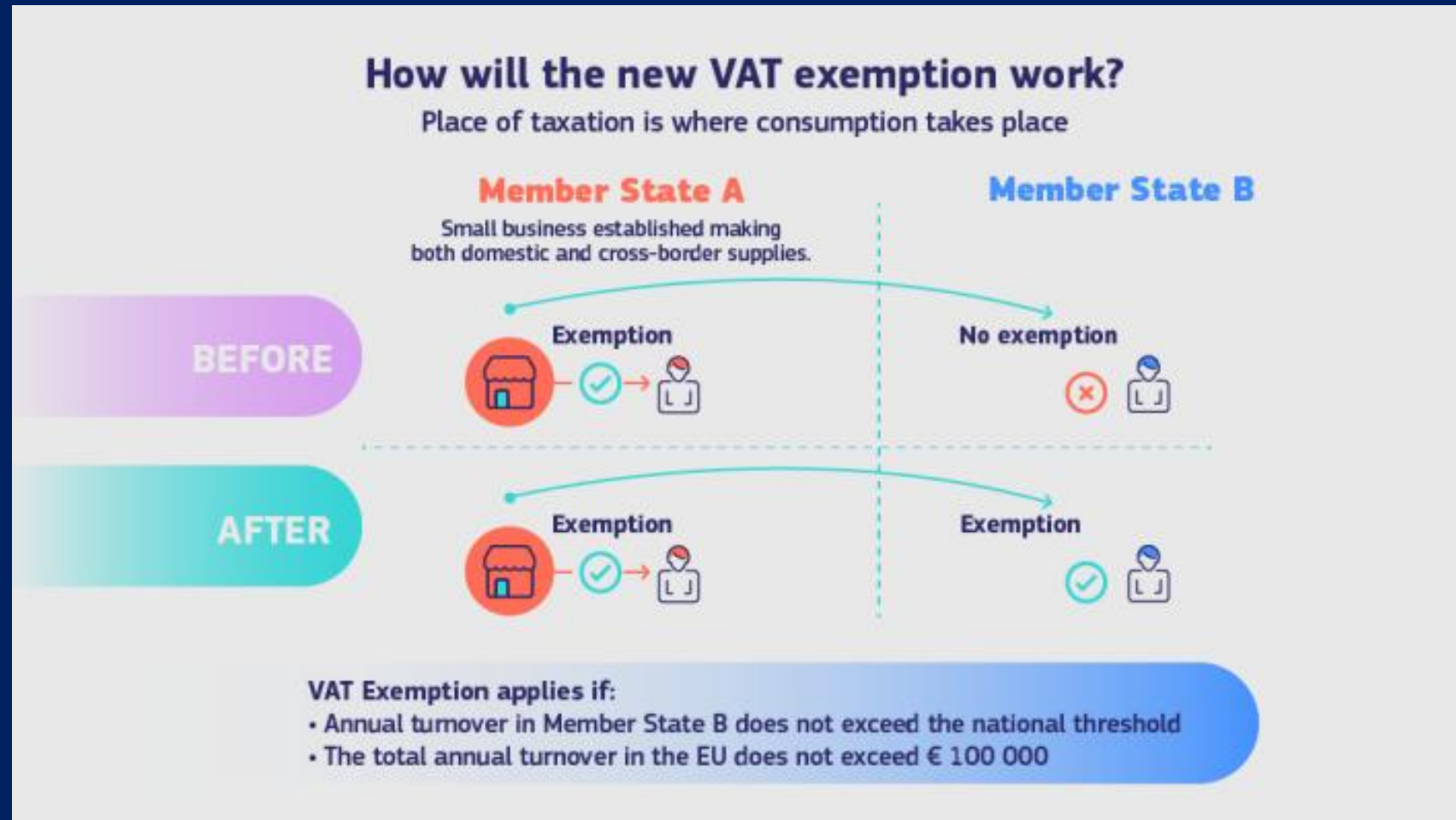
- The rules in the VAT Act for Small Undertakings (exempt persons/ Article 11 registered persons) were revised with effect from 1 January 2025, implementing the changes announced in **Directive 2020/285 EC**. The new rules have been introduced by **Act XXXVIII of 2024** and the relevant **Legal Notices** amending the schedules to the VAT Act.
- As of 1 January 2025, businesses operating under the SME Scheme, benefit from simplified VAT compliance obligations where their **annual turnover** remains **below a threshold set by the Member State concerned**, which cannot be higher than 85 000 EUR. Malta's domestic threshold is equal to **EUR 35,000**.
- Under certain conditions, small **enterprises from other member states**, which do not exceed this threshold, will also be able to benefit from the simplified scheme, if their **total annual turnover in the whole of the EU does not exceed EUR 100 000**.

Article 11 – Overhaul (3)

From **1 January 2025**, the special VAT regime (the SME scheme) allows **small enterprises** to:

- sell goods and services **without charging VAT** to their customers (**VAT exemption**) and
 - **alleviate** their VAT compliance **obligations**.
-
- Small enterprises choosing VAT exemption will **LOSE** the **right to deduct VAT** on goods and services used to make exempt supplies.
 - Non-EU small enterprises **CANNOT** apply the SME scheme. In the context of the SME scheme, small enterprises established in the United Kingdom, including Northern Ireland, are non-EU small enterprises.

Article 11 – Overhaul (4)



Applying for an Article 11 Registration

A person may apply to be registered under Article 11 as follows:

**At the time of
application**

If the domestic annual
turnover during the
*preceding **calendar year***
is **NOT MORE** than the
domestic threshold.



Effects of an Article 11 Registration

Registration number
WITHOUT an MT prefix
(contrary to an Article 10
registration).

**NO VAT is charged on
supplies made**
and
**NO entitlement to deduct
input tax**

**Annual simplified VAT
return (a declaration)** to be
submitted by the 15 March
of the following year

Must **issue fiscal receipts**
on all supplies made by
him

Must inform CfTC **within 15 days**
of any **change in circumstances**
effecting particulars declared in
the application for registration, or
in case of **cessation or transfer
of economic activity** or part
thereof.

Article 12 Registration

- An obligation to register in terms of Article 12 (i.e. **mandatory registration**) arises in a number of circumstances:

➤ A **taxable person** who is **not registered under Article 10**, who:

- i. Purchases services from outside Malta which are taxable in Malta (by virtue of the reverse charge); and/or
- i. Makes ICA of goods exceeding €10,000 in a calendar year

➤ a **non-taxable legal person** which makes an intra-community acquisition of goods exceeding €10,000 in a calendar year.

Effects of an Article 12 Registration

- By virtue of being registered in terms of Article 12, a taxable person:
 - i. is provided with a **VAT Identification Number** (MT Reg. No.);
 - ii. must **file VAT returns/ declaration on a MONTHLY BASIS** within 15 days of the second month following the date on which the transaction becomes chargeable to Maltese VAT.
 - iii. **NO input VAT recovery entitlement;**
 - iv. Must inform CfTC **within 15 days** of any **change in circumstances** effecting particulars declared in the application for registration, or in case of **cessation or transfer of economic activity** or part thereof;
 - v. **Non-taxable persons** registered under Article 12 **are considered to be taxable persons** for the purposes of determining place of supply rules.



Input VAT



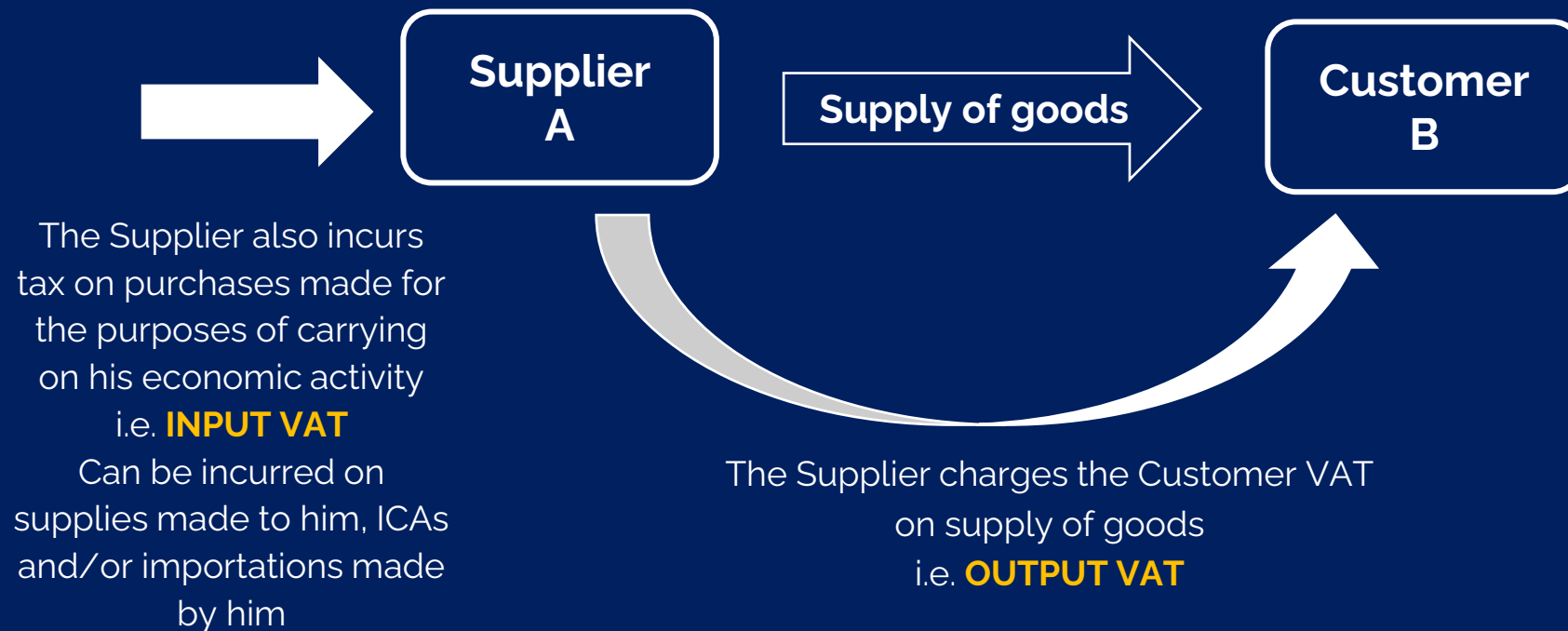
Diploma in Law (Malta)



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Input Tax – Introduction

- VAT is in principle NEUTRAL on businesses – most traders can recover the VAT which they are charged on their business expenditure via the input tax deduction system.
- Such a deduction (or credit) is **allowed against the VAT chargeable (i.e. the output VAT)** on the said business' supplies. This right is however subject to certain conditions and limitations.



Input Tax – Important Principles

Input tax is deductible **ONLY** to the extent that the purchases have been or are intended to be **wholly used by him in the course or furtherance of an economic activity** (Article 22(1), VAT Act).

There must be a **DIRECT** and **IMMEDIATE** link between **input transactions and output transactions** (which give rise to a right of deduction); OR direct and immediate link between **costs** and the **taxable person's economic activity as a whole**.

First Step: Entitlement to deduct VAT

1 Does the person have the right to claim input tax?

In principle, in person to be in a position to claim input tax, such person must
be a **taxable person** registered under **Article 10**.

Second Step: Qualifying Supplies

2 Is the supply a “qualifying supply”?

VAT is **ONLY deductible** if the business makes one or more of the following types of **qualifying supplies** (as outlined under Article 22(4) VATA):

- i. Taxable supplies;
- ii. Exempt with credit supplies;
- iii. Supplies made outside Malta that would be taxable or exempt with credit if made in Malta;
- iv. Supplies taxed outside Malta that would be exempt without credit if made in Malta;
- v. ‘Qualifying’ Financial Services supplied to non-EU customers.



Third Step: Identifying Exclusions/ Limitations

3 Is there an Exclusion or a Limitation?

NO deduction in respect of input tax incurred on supplies including:

- Tobacco and tobacco products
- Alcoholic beverages
- Motor vehicles, vessels or aircraft, and including goods and services related thereto
- Works of art and antiques
- Reception, entertainment and hospitality costs
- Goods and services for transport and entertainment of staff

Blocked Supplies

Third Step: Identifying Exclusions/ Limitations

3 Is there an Exclusion or a Limitation?

A taxable person may be subject to a **limitation on the input tax which may be recovered**, where that taxable person makes **MIXED SUPPLIES**:

1. Supplies on which he is **entitled to input tax deductions i.e. the qualifying supplies under Article 22(4)**;
2. **Other non-qualifying supplies** (e.g. exempt without credit supplies and transactions that are outside the scope of VAT).

**Partial
Attribution
Mechanism**



Third Step: Identifying Exclusions/ Limitations

Input Tax may
NOT be Claimed

When the input tax is EXCLUSIVELY attributable to **non-qualifying supplies** (e.g. exempt without credit supplies and transactions that are outside the scope of VAT).

Input Tax may
be Claimed in
FULL

When the input tax is EXCLUSIVELY attributable to **qualifying supplies** [i.e. supplies under Article 22(4)].

Input Tax Partial
Attribution

When the input tax is attributable to BOTH **qualifying supplies AND non-qualifying supplies**.

Partial Attribution: Example

- Mr. X, a taxable person carries out mixed supplies.
- In so doing, his input tax amounts to €2,000, €500 of which is attributable to exempt without credit supplies.
- The remaining €1,500 is attributable to both taxable supplies and to exempt without credit supplies.
- Mr. X:
 - Will **NOT** be entitled to claim back any of the **€500 – input tax exclusively attributable to non-qualifying supplies**;
 - On **the €1,500**, he will be able to claim back the part of the remaining balance as is partially attributed to qualifying supplies (i.e. **part of the €1,500**).

Value of supplies that give rise to a deduction of input tax

Total Value of supplies

Fourth Step: Evidence

- No amount shall be treated as input tax of a person **UNLESS** it is supported by applicable evidence, i.e. **proof that the tax was chargeable on purchases which have been or will be in the course or furtherance of his economic activity.**
- Rules laid down under **Item 2 of the Tenth Schedule** to the VAT Act.
- For example, except as the Commissioner may otherwise allow, no amount shall be treated as input tax of a person unless it is supported by a **TAX invoice** in respect of the tax relating to goods or services supplied to him; or a tax invoice in respect of the tax relating to goods acquired by him under an intra-community acquisition, or a document of importation indicating him as the importer in respect of the tax on an importation (other conditions apply).

VAT Liability



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Liability of Directors for VAT

- In terms of **Article 66(1) of the VAT Act**, directors, as mandataries, are treated as the representatives of the company on which board they sit.

*Any secretary, manager, **director**, liquidator or other principal officer of an entity or of a body of persons...and any person who is a tutor, curator, administrator or trustee of any other person or of any trust, fund or other entity shall, for the purposes of this Act, be a **representative** of that body of persons... another person, trust, fund or other entity, as the case may be.*

Implications of being a “Representative”

**Article 66(3)(a)
of the VAT Act**



Company directors are liable for all the obligations arising from the VAT Act in the same manner and to the same extent as the company that they represent.

**Article 66(3)(b)
of the VAT Act**



Anything **done** or **omitted by the directors** is deemed to have been done/omitted by the company which the director represents.

**Article 66(3)(c)
of the VAT Act**



Notices served on representatives of the company are deemed to have been served on the company.

**Article 66(3)(d)
of the VAT Act**



Refunds paid to a representative shall be deemed to have been paid to the person he/she represents.

**Article 66(4) of
the VAT Act**



Directors who have under their management or control, any funds or property belonging or due to the company shall not dispose of the funds or property unless they have made adequate provision for any tax due under the VAT Act.

Joint & Several Liability: Article 66(5)

A representative shall be jointly and severally liable with the person of whom he is a representative for the tax due by that person:

Provided that where the representative has **acted in good faith** and is **NOT knowingly in breach** of Article 66(4) or of any other obligation under this Act, his liability shall **be limited to the funds or to the value of any property under his management or control which belongs or is due to the person of whom he is a representative.**

VAT Offences and Punishment

- **Article 76** of the VAT Act lays down what omissions will constitute an offence in terms of the Act, including:

i.	Failure to apply for registration at the time and in the manner required by article 10 or 12;
ii.	Failure to keep or to store records, documents and accounts for the time and in the manner required by the Act or any regulations made under the Act;
iii.	Failure to furnish a tax return when required to do so in virtue of the Act;
iv.	Failure to furnish any additional return, statement or information or to produce any books, records, documents and accounts, or fails to pay any tax or administrative penalty due when required to do so in virtue of the Act or of any regulations made under the Act;
v.	Supply goods or services having failed to provide the security requested by the Commissioner under article 63(5)

- On conviction of any of the above-mentioned offences, the offender will be liable to:
 - a) a fine of not less than **€700 and not exceeding €3,500**; and
 - b) on a request by the prosecution, the court shall, in respect of an offence under paragraph (iii), **order the offender to comply with the law** within a time sufficient for the purpose, but in any case **not exceeding three months**.
- In default, the offender shall be liable to the payment of a **further fine €5 for every day that the default continues** after the lapse of the time fixed by the Court.

Determining VAT Treatment in a Nutshell

1.

- Classifying the supply (goods or services);

2.

- Determining place of supply;

3.

- Determining VAT treatment;
 - (i) If out of scope of VAT (e.g. supplies between Malta & USA);
 - (ii) If in scope of VAT further determination whether supply is taxable or exempt (i.e. where place of supply is Malta);

4.

- Compliance Obligations (i.e. registration obligations)

5.

- Input tax entitlement