



Value Added Tax (VAT) in France

A. VAT Registration and Deregistration Thresholds – Metropolitan France

VAT Registration:

Type of Sale	VAT Registration Threshold
Sale of goods	€91,900 in the previous year (or €101,000 if turnover did not exceed €91,900 in the year before the previous one)
Sale of services	€36,800 in the previous year (or €39,100 if turnover did not exceed €36,800 in the year before the previous one)
Services: accommodation and restaurants	€91,900 in the previous year (or €101,000 if turnover did not exceed €91,900 in the year before the previous one)
Services: lawyers, authors, artists	€47,700 in the previous year (or €58,600 if turnover did not exceed €47,700 in the year before the previous one)

Distance sales of goods and BTE services, only for EU-based companies:

€10,000 across all 26 EU Member States

Intra-Community acquisition of goods: €10,000

B. VAT Rates

Type of Rate	Rate
Standard rate	20% (in metropolitan France)
Reduced rates	10%, 5.5%, 2.1% (in metropolitan France)

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C. Periods for Filing VAT Returns

Franchise Scheme:

Turnover $\leq$ €91,900 (goods and accommodation services) or $\leq$ €36,800 (services).

VAT is not chargeable and cannot be deducted, unless the taxpayer voluntarily decides to file VAT returns.

Simplified Scheme:

Turnover between €91,900 and €840,000 (goods and accommodation) or between €36,800 and €254,000 (services), and the total VAT due for the previous year did not exceed €15,000.

Normal Scheme:

Turnover $>$ €840,000 (goods) or $>$ €254,000 (services), and the total VAT due for the previous year $>$ €15,000.

Quarterly or monthly VAT returns depending on turnover.

VAT Refunds:

Annually, if the VAT refund amount $>$ €150

Monthly, if the VAT refund amount $>$ €760

D. Filing and Payment Deadlines – Monthly Returns

Electronic filings:

Between the 15th and 24th day after the end of the month

E. Summary Information (Intra-Community Sales Lists)

Exemption threshold for dispatches: €0

F. Statistical Declarations (EMEBI)

EMEBI must be filed monthly, but only after receiving a notice from the tax authority.

Exemption thresholds: dispatches and acquisitions – see above.

G. Periods for Filing Summary and Statistical Returns

Type	Filing Period
Dispatches	Monthly
Acquisitions	Monthly – statistical declaration only

H. Deadlines for Filing Summary and Statistical Returns

Type	Deadline
Dispatches	10 working days after the end of the reporting period (Saturdays are considered working days)
Acquisitions	10 working days after the end of the reporting period – statistical declaration only

L. Penalties

For failure to submit a return on time – sanctions apply.

Omission or inaccuracy in a statement / declaration

Statistical declarations (EMEBI) – failure to file:

- €750 for each infringement (€1,500 per declaration if not filed within 30 days following a formal notice to file)
- €15 for missing or incorrect information, up to a maximum of €1,500 per declaration
- €75–€150; increases to €1,500 in the case of repeated infringements by the company

Omission or inaccuracy in the VAT return

- May result in the return being considered as not filed and subject to the same penalty as above.

VAT returns: failure to file a return or to pay the tax

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Type of Action	Negligence	Intentional Action
Failure to file	€150 for each infringement if VAT is not due	10% of the unpaid amount
Failure to pay	5% of the unpaid amount + 0.2% per month on the unpaid amount (late-payment interest)	40% of the unpaid amount

VAT Returns: Errors in Declarations

Type of Action	Negligence	Intentional Action	Deliberate and Concealed
Penalty	5% of the error amount	40% of the error amount	40–80% of the error amount (criminal proceedings apply when VAT > €100,000)
Interest	0.2% per month on the unpaid amount	0.2% per month on the unpaid amount	0.2% per month on the unpaid amount

Input VAT before Registration – Deadlines

VAT may be recovered in respect of expenses incurred (i.e., at the time the tax liability arose) within two years prior to the beginning of the year in which taxable activity commenced, provided that formal requirements are met (e.g., valid invoices containing all required data).

VAT Refund Thresholds for Foreign Businesses

Enterprises	EU	Non-EU
Claim period < 12 months	€400	€50
Claim period = 12 months	€400	€50

Commencement of Activity – Administration

VAT in France is administered by the **Ministry of Finance**.

The competent local tax office depends on the company's registered address.

Foreign companies without a fiscal representative should contact:

Direction des non-résidents

Service des impôts des entreprises étrangères (SIEE)

10, rue du Centre, TSA 20011

93465 Noisy-Le-Grand Cedex, France

Tel: +33 1 72 95 20 31

Email: siee.dinr@dgfip.finances.gouv.fr

Website: www.impots.gouv.fr/accueil

VAT Registration – Domestic Supplies

Any natural or legal person carrying out taxable supplies of goods or services in France (or importing goods into France) may be required to register and account for VAT.

Transactions considered taxable in France include:

- Domestic supplies of goods and services by a taxable person in France
- Intra-Community acquisitions of goods in France by a taxable person, and acquisitions from a non-taxable person who has exceeded the threshold
- Intra-Community acquisition of a new means of transport from another EU Member State by any person
- Supplies of services received by a taxpayer having a fixed establishment in France (reverse charge)
- Import of goods into France

For VAT purposes, the territory of France includes Monaco and Corsica.

The French overseas departments (Guadeloupe, Martinique, Réunion) are not considered part of the EU, although French VAT applies there. In French Guiana and Mayotte, VAT is not levied.

VAT registration may also be required if the thresholds for distance sales and/or BTE service supplies to France are exceeded (except for non-EU companies, for which no minimum threshold applies), unless the **One Stop Shop (OSS)** system is used, or for **intra-Community acquisitions of goods**.

A company must determine within 15 days of commencing its activity whether it is required to register, and may be penalised for late registration.

VAT registration is mandatory when taxable turnover exceeds the VAT threshold for the relevant supplies of goods or services. The value of services received from foreign suppliers, for which the tax is payable by the recipient, is considered taxable turnover.

Once registered, the company must account for VAT on its taxable turnover at the applicable rate and may recover input VAT incurred on business expenses related to taxable supplies (with certain exceptions).

Taxable Supplies

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Taxable supplies are all supplies of goods or services in France that are not VAT-exempt.

Main categories of VAT-exempt supplies:

- insurance
 - gambling and betting (with exceptions)
 - most financial services (with the option to tax certain financial services)
 - education
 - services provided by doctors, dentists and other medical professionals
 - certain property rentals
-

Transfer of a Going Concern (TOGC)

Where a business or an independent part thereof is acquired as a going concern, VAT registration in France may be required.

If the transferor is registered for VAT, the acquirer must also register for VAT in order to benefit from the **TOGC** procedure without VAT.

If the transferor is not registered, the acquirer may not have an immediate obligation to register, but must take the transferor's turnover into account when assessing their own registration requirement.

Distance Selling

For **intra-Community sales of goods and BTE services**, the threshold is **€10,000** for EU businesses.

VAT may optionally be accounted for through the **One Stop Shop (OSS)** system in order to avoid VAT registration in each EU Member State where goods or services are supplied.

For sales of imported goods, VAT payment through Import OSS (IOSS) is possible when the value of the goods does not exceed €150. Special rules apply regarding the designation of the VAT taxpayer when distance sales are made through online platforms.

If the platform or supplier is not established in the EU (except for Norway), they must appoint an EU-based intermediary to handle VAT through the IOSS system.

Intra-Community Acquisitions of Goods

Intra-EU acquisitions refer to situations where a VAT taxpayer in France acquires goods from another EU Member State. In such cases:

- The VAT taxpayer is required to account for French VAT on the acquisition if the purchase exceeds the applicable VAT registration threshold.
 - The value of goods acquired from non-taxable persons or exceeding the VAT liability threshold is considered taxable turnover.
 - For **new means of transport**, special VAT rules apply regardless of the transaction value.
-

VAT Settlement for Distance Sales and Imported Goods

For **distance sales to France** and **imported goods** valued at up to **€150**, VAT can be reported through the **Import OSS (IOSS)** system.

If the sale is made via an online platform, the VAT liability may rest with the platform operator or the original supplier if they are not established in the EU (except Norway).

In such cases, they must appoint an EU representative responsible for VAT compliance.

Summary of VAT Registration Rules in France

VAT registration obligation:

- Any natural or legal person making taxable supplies of goods/services in France or importing goods.
- Exceeding the applicable turnover or distance-selling thresholds (€10,000 for BTE and intra-EU supplies).

Registration deadlines:

- The company must determine its VAT registration obligation within **15 days** of commencing activity.
- Failure to register on time may result in financial penalties.

Obligations of a VAT taxpayer after registration:

- Accounting for VAT on taxable turnover at the applicable rate.
 - The right to deduct input VAT incurred on expenses related to taxable business activities (subject to exceptions).
-

VAT-Exempt Transactions:

Financial, Educational, Insurance, and Medical Services (doctors, dentists, other healthcare professionals), certain property rentals, gambling and betting (with exceptions).

TOGC (Transfer of a Business as a Going Concern):

Requires proper VAT registration if the transferor is a VAT taxpayer.

If the transferor is not a VAT taxpayer, the acquirer must take into account the transferor's turnover when determining its own VAT registration obligation.

Interest and Penalties for VAT Irregularities:

- **Negligence:** 5% of the error amount + 0.2% per month on the unpaid amount.
- **Deliberate actions:** 40% of the error amount + 0.2% per month on the unpaid amount.
- **Deliberate and concealed actions:** 40–80% of the error amount (criminal proceedings possible when VAT > €100,000) + 0.2% per month on the unpaid amount.

[10.6] VAT Registration in France

In principle, VAT registration in France is required when an entity not registered for VAT in France makes **intra-Community acquisitions of goods**.

If the value of such acquisitions exceeds the relevant VAT threshold (see point 10.1), VAT registration will be required unless the goods are acquired solely for personal use, or if the acquiring entity has made only intra-Community acquisitions that are VAT-exempt.

Once registered for VAT purposes, the acquiring entity will be required to account for VAT on its intra-Community acquisitions (under the reverse charge mechanism) to the French tax authorities, based on the value of the goods acquired.

[10.7] Goods Sent and Consignment Stock (Consignment and Call-off Stock)

When a company sends goods to France from another EU Member State with the intention of future sale (**consignment stock**), France treats these transfers as standard intra-Community acquisitions of goods.

Accordingly, the company may be required to register for VAT in France, unless all goods are sent to France for a specifically identified customer.

If a company from another EU Member State sends **call-off stock** to France and these goods are allocated to a single customer registered for VAT in France, who withdraws them as needed, the foreign supplier may not be required to register for VAT in France, provided the following conditions are met:

- the goods are dispatched or transported by the VAT taxpayer (or by a third party on their behalf) to France for later delivery to a VAT-registered customer in France;
- the supplier is not established or registered in France, and does not conduct business there (however, the system may still apply if the supplier is registered for VAT in France without carrying out business activities there).
- In the case of a negative balance, the parent company may request a refund or carry the amount forward to the next return.

As of January 1, 2023, France has introduced the VAT group system – see Article 11 of Directive 2006/112/EC.

The decision to form a VAT group must be made by October 31 of the preceding year.

Only entities established in France may be members of a VAT group.

A VAT group must remain in effect for at least three years.

[10.12] District Registration

Separate district registration for a single company is not possible in France.

[10.13] VAT Registration Procedure

A business required to register for VAT in France must submit a registration application within 15 days of starting its activity.

The application must include:

- the name and address of the business;
- the main business activity;
- the location where the accounting records and books are kept.

The application must be accompanied by:

- a VAT certificate confirming registration in another EU Member State (or an equivalent document for non-EU businesses);

- articles of association with translated sections;
- an extract from the national trade register;
- a power of attorney for tax representation (for most non-EU businesses).

Non-EU businesses that are not required to appoint a tax representative must submit their application online via the “Guichet unique” portal: <https://procedures.inpi.fr>.

[10.14] Appointment of a Tax Representative

EU businesses are not required to appoint a tax representative in France but may do so voluntarily.

Non-EU businesses that are residents of a country without a mutual assistance agreement with France must appoint a tax representative when registering for VAT.

[10.15] Failure to Register for VAT on Time

Failure to comply with registration deadlines does not automatically result in penalties, but interest and fines may be imposed if the VAT return is filed late or if VAT is paid later than the required deadline.

[10.16] Deregistration from VAT

There are several reasons why a business may wish or be required to cancel its VAT registration. The main reasons include:

Turnover falling below the VAT registration threshold (see 10.1).

Change in the company’s legal status.

Transfer of the business as a going concern (TOGC).

Cessation of taxable supplies.

Cessation, in whole or in large part, of exempt supplies with the right to deduct VAT.

Deregistration from VAT must be done in writing by submitting an application to the appropriate tax office:

For non-EU businesses – Form M4 must be completed and sent by the tax representative to the appropriate tax office.

For EU businesses and non-EU businesses that are not required to appoint a tax representative – Form EE2-EE4 (“Déclaration de cessation”) must be submitted to the non-resident tax office through the company’s secure email inbox.

The form must be submitted within 30 days (extended to 60 days in certain circumstances) from the date when the business ceases to be liable for VAT registration. The company must ensure that it has reported all transactions carried out during this period and the date of cessation of activity.

The business will be required to file all outstanding VAT returns and settle any outstanding liabilities before the VAT registration is cancelled. If the business is entitled to a VAT refund, a claim for reimbursement may be submitted within 30 days following cessation of activity.

In principle, businesses are not entitled to recover input VAT incurred after deregistration.

[10.17] Bookkeeping Requirements

All entities registered for VAT in France are legally required to maintain accounting records.

These records must include:

- accounts for input and output VAT;

- copies of all VAT invoices issued to customers and invoices showing deductible VAT.

Standard accounting books are usually sufficient, although some industries have additional legal requirements. For example, a business engaged in the sale of used cars will be required to maintain an inventory register. Documents must be kept for at least six years, although not necessarily in paper form. The tax authorities generally allow records to be stored on a computer or microfilm. Paper invoices received and issued may be archived electronically, provided that certain technical requirements are met.

[10.18] VAT Invoices

A VAT invoice must be issued for all B2B (business-to-business) transactions relating to the supply of goods or services and, upon request, for B2C (business-to-consumer) retail sales.

The French Tax Code imposes specific information requirements for certain transactions, for example to justify the application of a particular exemption or taxation scheme (reverse charge, margin, self-billing, etc.).

Invoices whose total net amount does not exceed €150 are not required to include:

- the individual VAT identification number of the supplier or service provider;
- a reference to the relevant provision of the French Tax Code or the EU VAT Directive, or any other reference indicating that the transaction benefits from a particular exemption or taxation scheme.

Exemption measure

Taxpayers using the One Stop Shop (OSS) scheme to declare and pay VAT due on EU distance sales are exempt from the obligation to issue VAT invoices for such sales. If the OSS scheme is not used, standard invoicing rules apply.

Invoices

Invoices must be issued at the time goods are supplied or services rendered, although the tax authorities may accept a short delay (no more than a few days after the date of supply).

In the case of real estate transactions, the invoice is generally issued at the time of transfer of ownership, provided this occurs within one month of delivery.

The characteristics and content of full VAT invoices are specified in **ANNEX 10A**.

Foreign currency

A VAT invoice may be issued in any currency, provided that the VAT amount is converted into euros on the invoice, using the exchange rate published by the European Central Bank on the date of the transaction.

If the invoice is written in a foreign language, the tax authorities may require it to be translated into French.

For intra-EU transactions, a monthly customs exchange rate may be applied. If a business opts to use the monthly customs exchange rate, this rate must be used for all intra-EU transactions for at least one calendar year, both in VAT returns and in Intrastat declarations.

Electronic invoices

Electronic invoicing is currently permitted, provided that the authenticity and integrity of the invoice are ensured through the use of an advanced electronic signature, electronic data interchange (EDI), or another similar system.

If invoices are not issued in EDI format or do not include an electronic signature, control procedures must be implemented to allow the creation of a reliable audit trail between the invoice and the underlying transaction. This applies particularly to invoices sent by email.

France had planned to introduce mandatory electronic invoicing (and real-time data reporting) in stages from 1 July 2024. However, under the 2024 Budget Law, the implementation of electronic invoicing has been postponed.

Electronic invoicing in France will be implemented in two stages:

From 1 September 2026 – the requirements will apply to large and medium-sized enterprises.

From 1 September 2027 – the requirements will apply to small and micro-enterprises.

Simplified invoices

Retailers, in the case of B2C sales, may issue a less detailed invoice when the value of the supply (before VAT) does not exceed EUR 150. The characteristics and content of simplified invoices for retailers are specified in **ANNEX 10A**.

Summary invoices

If a business supplies goods or services to a customer on a continuous basis and makes more than one supply in a calendar month, it is possible to issue a summary invoice covering all transactions during that month.

Summary invoices may be issued only by businesses that encounter administrative difficulties in issuing multiple invoices.

A summary invoice must include:

- the name and address of the customer,
- the quantity of goods supplied,
- a description of the goods and services supplied.

A summary invoice must be issued in two copies – one for the customer and one for the business.

Businesses must also provide customers with numbered delivery documents for each shipment of goods or a numbered delivery note for each service performed.

Self-billing

Self-billed invoices may be issued in France if the following conditions are met:

The parties must enter into a self-billing agreement specifying the type of transactions covered, the period of validity, and the invoice approval procedure.

The customer may not issue more than ten self-billed invoices per year unless there is an explicit written authorization signed by both parties.

The invoice must include the statement: **“Facture établie par A au nom et pour le compte de B”** (“Invoice issued by A in the name and on behalf of B”).

Corrective invoices may not be issued under a self-billing agreement.

Credit notes

A credit note may be issued for transactions with French customers when it is necessary to adjust the amount of VAT charged and deducted on a domestic supply.

The VAT amount stated in the credit note must be shown separately.

The credit note must also refer to the original VAT invoice.

A specific procedure applies for customers located outside France.

Proof of exports and intra-EU supplies

Exports and intra-EU supplies are exempt from VAT (with the right to deduct) under certain conditions.

The exemption for intra-EU supplies applies when six conditions are met:

1. The supply is made for consideration.
2. The supplier is a VAT taxpayer.

3. The customer is a VAT taxpayer or a person who, in their EU Member State, is not benefiting from a derogation allowing exemption from VAT on intra-EU acquisitions.
4. The goods are dispatched or transported from France to another EU Member State.
5. The purchaser (taxpayer) is registered for VAT in an EU Member State other than the country of dispatch and has provided a valid VAT number to the supplier (verification via the European Commission's VIES system).
6. The supplier files a recapitulative statement containing all the correct details of the supply.

The supplier must have appropriate evidence that the goods have left France and may be required to submit a statistical declaration. Usually, the following are sufficient: transport documents (CMR, air waybill, bill of lading), carrier's invoice, international transport insurance policy, sales contract, commercial correspondence, written purchase order, proof of delivery, purchase order, written confirmation of receipt of goods by the customer, duplicate supplier invoice stamped by the customer, or payment confirmation from a foreign bank.

The exemption for export of goods also requires proof of export. The transaction must be recorded in the accounting books, and the supplier must have evidence that the goods have left France, including customs and transport documentation.

Audits and inspections

Tax authorities may request access to a company's VAT records. Inspectors have broad powers to enter business premises, review documents, and examine accounting records.

Inspections may cover the current and the three previous fiscal periods. In cases involving VAT credits, authorities may review back to the origin of the credit.

Inspections may be carried out remotely, but they may also take place in person at the company's premises. After an inspection, the auditor must send the company a written summary of the findings.

Reporting obligations and the tax point

For supplies of goods, the tax point arises when the right to dispose of the goods as owner is transferred to the customer.

For services, the tax point arises when the service is performed.

VAT on services becomes due upon payment of the invoice, although businesses may opt for the accrual method (tax point = date of invoice issuance – the so-called “option for the debit”).

Intra-EU acquisitions

Imports

Services subject to the reverse charge mechanism

Reporting obligations [10.27]

Previously, when an advance payment was received for a supply of goods, this payment did not create a VAT liability until the actual transfer of ownership.

As of 1 January 2023, receipt of an advance payment – up to the amount received – triggers a VAT liability.

If an advance payment is received in connection with the supply of services, VAT becomes due on the date the payment is received (unless the “option for the invoice” is applied).

Tax point

This is the earlier of the following dates: the 15th day of the month following the arrival of the goods, or the date of receipt of the invoice.

The tax point occurs on the date the goods are customs cleared or released from the excise suspension regime.

For domestic supplies of services subject to the reverse charge mechanism, VAT becomes due on the date of payment for the service, unless the recipient applies the accrual method of VAT accounting.

For cross-border services subject to the reverse charge, the tax point is the date of completion of the service.

Reverse charge

For domestic supplies of goods in France made by a supplier not established in France to a customer registered for VAT in France, the tax point is the date of transfer of ownership.

As of 1 January 2023, receipt of an advance payment – up to the amount received – triggers a VAT liability.

Intra-EU supplies of goods

The tax point is the earlier of the following: the 15th day of the month following the dispatch or the date of invoice issuance.

Continuous supplies of goods or services**Leased goods**

The tax point occurs at the end of the period to which the instalments relate.

If no invoice has been issued or payment received during the calendar year, the tax point arises at the end of that calendar year.

VAT is due on each instalment under a leasing agreement, unless the lessor has opted for the “option for the invoice”. If the lessee has the right to purchase the goods at the end of the agreement, VAT becomes due when ownership of the goods is transferred to the customer.

An exception applies when it is virtually certain that ownership of the goods will pass at the end of the lease – in that case, the supply of goods is deemed to occur when the goods are physically delivered.

Goods sent on sale or return

The tax point occurs when the right to dispose of the goods as owner is transferred to the customer.

France [10.28]**Periodic VAT returns**

The main reporting obligation for all entities registered for VAT in France is the periodic VAT return (Form CA3 – normal regime), which must be filed online.

The VAT reporting period depends on the company’s turnover.

Entities under the normal VAT regime (“régime réel normal”) must file monthly VAT returns. Two categories of companies are required to do so:

- companies with turnover exceeding €840,000 for goods or €254,000 for services;
- companies whose total VAT due in the previous year exceeded €15,000.

Certain businesses may apply the simplified regime (“régime simplifié”), under which two advance VAT payments are made during the year, and any difference is adjusted in the annual return. Businesses eligible for the simplified regime include:

- those with turnover between €91,900 and €840,000 for goods, or between €36,800 and €254,000 for services (€47,700 for lawyers, authors, and artists), and with total VAT due below €15,000 in the previous year.

Companies exceeding these thresholds but with total VAT due below €4,000 in the previous year must file quarterly VAT returns and make quarterly payments.

Businesses under the simplified regime may alternatively choose the normal VAT regime.

Businesses registered in France with turnover below the mandatory VAT registration threshold are not required to file VAT returns.

For non-established businesses that do not require a tax representative, monthly or quarterly VAT returns are usually due by the 19th day of the month following the end of the reporting period.

This deadline is extended to the 24th day if the import VAT reverse charge mechanism applies.

For French and non-EU entities (requiring a tax representative), VAT returns and payments are due between the 15th and 24th day of the month following the reporting period, depending on the legal form of the entity and the location of the business (or its tax representative).

In some cases, authorization can be obtained to submit VAT returns and payments in instalments, extending the deadline.

Except for small businesses and certain self-employed persons, all entities are required to file and pay VAT electronically.

Businesses from other EU Member States or non-EU countries that have signed a tax recovery cooperation agreement with France must also pay VAT electronically (remote filing) if they hold a bank account in France or in a foreign bank that supports SEPA direct debits. Otherwise, VAT must be paid via bank transfer.

VAT returns are submitted through the official French tax authority website (www.impots.gouv.fr) using one of the following methods:

- the “EDI” procedure using UN-EDIFACT standards – data are transmitted to the tax office by an approved “EDI partner” intermediary; the intermediary may be the company itself if duly accredited;
- the “EFI” procedure – the company declares and pays VAT directly via the tax authority’s website.

VAT refunds [10.29]

If a company submits a return showing a refundable balance (input VAT recoverable for a given month exceeds output VAT due), the surplus may be carried forward to subsequent periods until fully used.

It is also possible to request a refund at the end of the calendar year if the refund amount is at least €150. A refund may also be requested at the end of a month or quarter if the amount is at least €760.

Refund claims are submitted electronically using Form 3519-SD for companies registered for VAT in France.

Annual VAT returns [10.30]

Companies under the simplified regime (“régime simplifié”) must file an annual VAT return (Form CA12) by the second working day after 1 May following the end of the accounting year (assumed year-end: 31 December).

Advance payments [10.31]

With the authorization of the tax authorities, companies required to make monthly VAT payments that face difficulties filing returns on time may pay a VAT advance (at least 80% of the VAT due for the month) within the deadline.

The remaining balance must then be settled in the following month in accordance with the prescribed procedure.

France [10.32]

Community sales lists and Intrastat declarations

Until 1 January 2022, EC Sales Lists and Intrastat declarations in France were combined into a single document – the “Déclaration d’Échanges de Biens” (DEB).

Since then, the DEB has been replaced by the recapitulative statement and the statistical declaration (EMEBI).

Recapitulative statements and statistical declarations (EMEBI) [10.33]

All French VAT-registered entities making intra-EU dispatches must file monthly recapitulative statements (EC Sales

Lists).

The Intrastat declaration (Intra-EU Trade Statistics) is now called EMEBI and is used to collect data on trade in goods between EU Member States.

In Intrastat, the terms “arrivals” and “dispatches” are used instead of “imports” and “exports.”

Both types of declarations – the recapitulative statement and the statistical declaration – must be filed electronically.

Electronic declarations must be submitted via the French Customs Service website (www.douane.gouv.fr) within 10 working days after the end of the reporting period (Saturdays are considered working days).

Companies acquiring goods from other EU countries must file detailed statistical (EMEBI) declarations monthly, but only after receiving an official letter from the tax office specifying the flow (arrivals, dispatches, or both) and the reporting period.

Required information:

- Company VAT number (and branch code, if applicable) and the company’s name and address with postal code;
- If filed by an agent, the agent’s name, address, and VAT number;
- Contact telephone number.

The following table shows the fields required to complete the recapitulative statements and EMEBI declarations:

Required fields	Dispatches	Arrivals
Line number	✓	✓
Commodity code (CN8)	✓	✓
Country of dispatch/arrival	✓	

Mandatory fields

Reporting obligations [10.33]

Dispatches, recapitulative statements, and statistical reports (EMEBI).

EMEBI as a Summary Statement

TA Arrivals and Statistical Reports (EMEBI) only (Note 3)

EMEBI.O Arrivals

Dispatches

Field	Required
Value in euros	✓
Regime code (Note 1) (see table below)	✓
Net mass	✓
Supplementary units or 30	
Type of transaction (Note 2)	✓
Means of transport	
Department	✓
Country of origin	✓
Customer VAT number	✓

Notes:

- Dispatches using regime code 29 do not have to be included in the summary statement.
- A two-digit code is required.
- In the case of triangular trade where France acts as an intermediary country, a summary statement is required.

The following regime codes must be used:

Type of movement	Regime code	Description
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Dispatches	21	Intra-EU exempt supplies (including transfers)
29	Other supplies (not included in box F2 of the VAT return)	
Arrivals	11	Intra-EU acquisitions of goods subject to VAT in France (amounts declared in box B2 of the VAT return)
19	Other arrivals (for processing work, continuation of processing, or purchases qualifying as VAT-exempt acquisitions, etc.)	

Further details regarding the submission of summary statements and statistical reports (EMEBI) can be found on the website of the French Customs Administration: www.douane.gouv.fr.

[10.34] France – Domestic VAT – General Principles

French VAT applies at the **standard rate of 20%** to all supplies of goods or services carried out in mainland France, except for:

- Exempt supplies;
- Zero-rated supplies (exempt with the right to deduct);
- Reduced-rate supplies;
- Supplies made by non-taxable persons;
- Supplies not made as part of an economic activity.

In general, most supplies of goods or services are subject to VAT at the standard rate, regardless of the mode of supply (retail sales, mail order, online purchases, barter transactions, etc.).

The method of payment is irrelevant, and the supplier is not required to make a profit on the transaction.

Note: VAT may also apply in cases that do not appear to involve a supply of goods or services, such as:

- Permanent transfer or disposal of business assets without consideration;
- Use of business assets for private or non-business purposes;
- Retention of business assets following VAT deregistration;
- Use of services (for which input VAT has been deducted) for private or non-business purposes.

Standard VAT rates in other French territories:

- 20% in Corsica

- 8.5% in Guadeloupe, Martinique, and La Réunion (overseas departments)

See **Annex 10C** for reduced VAT rates applicable in these territories.

VAT on Expenditure [10.35]

Businesses making taxable supplies (or other supplies giving rise to a right of deduction) are entitled to recover French input VAT ("VAT on purchases") incurred on expenses used for making such supplies, except for explicitly excluded expenses.

Businesses making only exempt supplies (without the right to deduct) cannot recover VAT.

Businesses making both taxable and exempt supplies can recover VAT partially (see section 10.38), except for VAT on explicitly excluded items.

Input VAT cannot be recovered on:

- Purchase, leasing, or maintenance of passenger vehicles unless used as taxis, chauffeur-driven hire cars, or driving school vehicles;
- Private or non-business expenses;
- Accommodation provided to managers, directors, or employees;
- Passenger transport;
- Business gifts exceeding €73 (including VAT) per recipient per year;
- Advertising costs for alcohol and tobacco.

VAT is fully deductible for business-related expenses such as:

- Meals and entertainment for employees and clients;
- Accommodation for clients or third parties;
- Conference, exhibition, and training participation fees;
- Books;
- Motorway tolls;
- LPG;
- Purchase, leasing, and maintenance of vans and trucks;
- Fuel (diesel and petrol up to 80%) used in vehicles for which VAT is non-deductible, such as most cars;
- Advertising (excluding alcohol and tobacco campaigns).

A VAT invoice must serve as proof of the right to deduct input VAT.

The invoice must be properly issued to the business receiving the supply and include all the required VAT invoice details.

Import VAT is deductible if the taxpayer declares it in their VAT return under the reverse charge mechanism, or, in very exceptional cases, if VAT is paid at import to Customs.

Businesses may also deduct VAT on **intra-EU acquisitions of goods or services** if they self-account for VAT under the reverse charge mechanism.

Failure to declare VAT under the reverse charge system is subject to a **5% penalty** of the undeclared VAT amount.

France – VAT

Exports and Similar Operations; Intra-EU Supplies; International Transport

Reduced Rates

France applies reduced VAT rates of **10%, 5.5%, and 2.1%** in mainland France for specific categories of goods and services (see **Annex 10C** for details).

As these are taxable supplies, input VAT related to these supplies, including overhead VAT, is recoverable (except for explicitly excluded items – see 10.35).

Other reduced rates apply in Corsica and the French overseas territories (see **Annex 10C**).

Supplies by Non-Taxable Persons

A non-taxable person is any legal or natural person who is not registered or required to register for VAT. They usually fall into one of three categories:

1. **Micro-enterprises** making supplies that would otherwise be taxable but whose turnover is below the VAT registration threshold (see 10.1);
2. **Businesses of any size** making only exempt supplies (without right to deduction) or both exempt and taxable supplies but with turnover below the VAT registration threshold;
3. **Businesses making supplies entirely outside the scope of VAT**, e.g., a holding company receiving only dividends.

In the above cases (except for businesses making only exempt or out-of-scope supplies), a business may **opt for voluntary VAT registration** and become a taxable person.

Businesses may also be required to register if they receive services from outside France for which the place of supply is deemed to be France.

Non-Business Activities

In most cases, non-business activities include private, personal, or hobby-related activities of individuals, as well as supplies made by charities or similar non-profit organizations free of charge or for minimal remuneration.

VAT does not apply to these activities, and VAT on related costs is not recoverable.

Note: Individuals working as employees are not considered to be making taxable supplies of goods or services to their employer.

Vouchers

Under special VAT rules for vouchers, two types are distinguished:

1. **Single-Purpose Vouchers (SPVs):**

The place of supply and VAT treatment of the goods or services are known at the time the voucher is issued.

The issue and any subsequent transfer of the SPV are subject to VAT.

The actual supply of goods/services in exchange for the SPV is **not** subject to VAT.

2. **Multi-Purpose Vouchers (MPVs):**

All vouchers that are not SPVs.

VAT becomes chargeable when the goods or services are actually supplied, i.e., when the voucher is redeemed.

Transfers of MPVs before redemption are **not** subject to VAT.

Annual VAT Returns

The normal filing frequency for VAT returns in France is **monthly**.

Companies below the thresholds set out in section 10.1 may file **quarterly or annual returns**, with semi-annual VAT prepayments.

A company's turnover is based on **estimated future turnover** or, if VAT-registered for at least one year, on turnover from the last 12 months.

Turnover from **exempt supplies and sales of fixed assets** is excluded from the calculation.

Annual returns must be filed and VAT paid by **the second working day of May** following the financial year ending on **31 December**.

Cash Accounting

For services, VAT becomes due **upon payment of the invoice or advance payment**.

However, a business may choose to account for VAT at the time of **invoice issuance** ("option sur les débits") after notifying the tax authorities.

Special Schemes

Tour Operators Margin Scheme (TOMS):

Applies to travel agents — VAT is charged only on the **margin** between the purchase and sale price.

This avoids the need to register for VAT in each EU Member State where travel services are provided.

Invoices must bear the statement:

"Régime particulier - Agences de voyages" ("Special Scheme – Travel Agencies").

Margin Scheme for Second-Hand Goods

VAT is charged only on the margin between the purchase and resale price. This applies to second-hand goods, works of art, antiques, and collectors' items (over 100 years old).

Global Accounting – a simplification for wholesale purchases of low-value goods, where the margin is calculated for the entire VAT period, not per individual item.

One Stop Shop (OSS)

France applies the OSS system for:

- B2C services taxable in the consumer's country (including electronically supplied services),
- Intra-EU distance sales of goods,
- Domestic B2C sales of goods made through electronic platforms.

OSS is optional; if not used, standard VAT registration and reporting rules apply.

OSS Schemes:

- **Non-Union OSS (non-EU):** B2C services in the consumer's country.
- **Union OSS (EU):** B2C services in the consumer's country, intra-EU distance sales of goods, domestic B2C sales via electronic platforms.
- **Import OSS (IOSS):** sale of imported goods valued at $\leq \text{€}150$ from non-EU countries.

Transfer of a Business as a Going Concern (TOGC)

The transfer of all or part of a business may be treated as *outside the scope of VAT* if the following conditions are met:

- The transferred assets constitute a functioning business;
- The purchaser intends to continue similar activities;
- The purchaser is VAT registered or required to register;
- Partial transfers must be self-contained, with no interruptions or successive transfers.

[10.55] France – Domestic Reverse Charge Mechanism

France has implemented a domestic reverse charge for the following transactions:

- Wholesale supply of natural gas and electricity,
- Supplies of gold or gold products of purity above 325/1000,
- Supplies and work on new industrial waste and recoverable materials,
- Transfer of greenhouse gas emission rights,
- Wholesale supplies of electronic communications services,
- Subcontracting,
- Construction work, including cleaning, demolition, maintenance, and restoration services related to real estate,
- Supplies of goods or services in France by entities not established in France.

When any of the above supplies are made, the VAT-registered customer must account for the VAT instead of the supplier. The supplier's invoice should **not show or charge VAT** and must include the wording **"Autoliquidation"**, indicating that the customer must self-account for VAT under the reverse charge.

[10.56] Penalties and Interest

The French VAT system includes various penalties designed to encourage compliance and ensure due diligence in fulfilling VAT obligations.

Type of Offence	Penalty
Failure to file a VAT return	10% of the tax due (or €150 if no transactions to report)
Late payment after official notice	5% of the tax due if <30 days late
Over 30 days after first notice	40% of the tax due
After second notice	80% of the tax due
Late electronic filing/payment	Additional interest applies
Deliberate non-compliance	Higher penalties apply
Fraud	Criminal sanctions possible
Incorrect invoices	€15 per omission, up to 25% of the invoice value
Recapitulative and statistical reports (EMEBI)	0.2% of the amount due, 0.2% per month
Late VAT return	€750
Not filed within 30 days after reminder	€1,500
Errors or omissions in return	€15 per item, up to €1,500
Failure to provide information/documents	€1,500

Common penalties and interest include:

[10.57–10.64] Intra-EU Supplies and Acquisitions

Supplies of Goods by French Businesses to EU Consumers (B2C):

French companies selling goods or B2C services to consumers in another EU country must follow the **distance selling rules** for goods and the **B2C services rules**.

Supplies of Goods by French Businesses to EU Companies (B2B):

Supplies of goods from France to VAT-registered businesses in other EU countries are **exempt from French VAT (zero-rated)** if the following conditions are met:

- The transaction is made for consideration;
- The supplier is a taxable person acting as such;
- The buyer is a taxable person or a non-taxable legal entity not exempt under intra-EU acquisition rules;
- Goods are dispatched or transported from France to another EU country;
- The buyer provides a valid VAT number from another EU Member State (must be verified via VIES).

The supplier must file a **recapitulative statement** and hold evidence of dispatch. A statistical declaration (EMEBI) may also be required.

[10.59] Triangulation

“Triangulation” refers to a situation where a company in EU country **B** purchases goods from a supplier in **A** and sells them directly to a customer in **C**, with goods shipped from A to C.

France applies the **EU triangulation simplification**, allowing company **B** to avoid VAT registration in A or C, provided the customer supplies a valid EU VAT number.

The supplier’s invoice must indicate that the triangulation simplification applies.

[10.60] Temporary Movements of Goods

Temporary movement of goods (not transfers of own goods) includes:

- Goods sent to another EU Member State to perform a service;
- Goods sent for temporary use.

If the following conditions are met, the movement does **not** need to be reported in VAT or recapitulative statements, though a record must be kept:

- The business has no establishment in the other EU country;
- There is a specific contract;
- Goods return to France within **two years**.

For temporary use:

- Goods would qualify for temporary customs exemption if imported from outside the EU;
- They stay in the other country for up to **two years** and return to France.

If goods do not return, the movement becomes a **self-supply transfer** (see below).

[10.61] Transfer of Own Goods

When a French business moves its own goods (e.g. between its own branches or to a warehouse in another EU country), the movement is treated as:

- A **supply** of goods from France; and
- An **acquisition** of goods in the destination country.

This usually requires the company to register for VAT in the destination EU Member State.

[10.62] Processing and Repairs

Goods sent from France to another EU country for processing or repair and later returned are **not treated as deemed supplies**. Instead:

- The temporary movement must be recorded;
- Proof of dispatch must be kept;
- The movement may require a statistical declaration (EMEBI) both on dispatch and return;
- The value of processing/repair services must be declared under **reverse charge VAT**.

[10.63–10.67] Intra-EU Acquisitions and Distance Sales

Supplies by Other EU Companies to French Consumers (B2C):

EU-established firms delivering goods from another Member State (or providing B2C services) to French consumers must apply **distance selling rules**.

If total EU-wide B2C sales exceed **€10,000**, French VAT must be charged. Below this threshold, suppliers may continue to charge their home-country VAT.

Companies may voluntarily register for French VAT or use the **OSS** before exceeding the threshold.

Supplies by EU Companies to French Businesses (B2B):

French businesses not registered for VAT may need to register if intra-EU acquisitions exceed the acquisition threshold. Until registration, suppliers charge their local VAT; after registration, French VAT applies under the **reverse charge**. This VAT is deductible, subject to normal limitations.

Goods received in France (e.g., goods sent from a warehouse in another EU Member State)

Such goods are subject to the same rules as any other intra-EU supply of goods.

Accordingly, VAT on acquisitions must be accounted for, and all other reporting obligations described above must be complied with.

Processing and Repairs

[10.67] Goods received in France for processing or repair are **not treated as standard intra-EU acquisitions of goods**, so reporting requirements are lighter.

Goods received in France for repair and return to the Member State of dispatch should be recorded as follows:

- The entry should be made in the **“temporary movements” register**.
- Proof of dispatch of the goods from France must be kept.
- The value of the repair service must be included in the supplier’s French VAT return and in the service declaration (assuming the customer is VAT-registered in their Member State).

Goods received in France for processing and return should be recorded as follows:

- The entry should be made in the **“temporary movements” register**.
- Proof of dispatch of the goods from France must be kept.
- Receipt and dispatch should be included in the statistical declaration (for businesses required to submit such declarations).
- The value of the processing service must be included in the supplier’s French VAT return.

Import and Export Procedures for Goods

[10.68] Shipments of goods arriving from or sent to non-EU countries are subject to more formal procedures than intra-EU movements of goods.

A full description of these procedures is beyond the scope of this document, but there are key import and export formalities that directly affect the VAT treatment of such transactions.

Goods Exported to Non-EU Countries

[10.69] The two most common export situations are:

- **Direct export** – the goods remain under the supplier’s control, and the supplier arranges shipment outside the EU.
- **Indirect export** – the goods are collected from the supplier’s premises by a non-EU customer, who arranges the shipment.

In both cases, the supply of goods may be **zero-rated for VAT (exempt with credit)**, provided the following conditions are met:

- Proof of export must be obtained from the carrier or, in the case of indirect export, from the foreign customer (DAU/SAD certificate).
- Additional commercial documents must be kept as evidence of export, such as:
 - customer order,
 - sales contract,
 - correspondence,
 - copy of the export invoice,
 - delivery note,
 - packing list,
 - transport documentation,
 - insurance and freight documents,
 - proof of payment,
 - proof of receipt of the goods abroad.

[10.72] If the above formalities are not met, the supplier will be liable to account for VAT in France on the value of the goods supplied.

Goods Imported from Outside the EU

[10.70] All goods entering the EU must be declared to the customs authorities, and any import duties must be paid. In most cases, import duties include **customs duty and import VAT**, though other taxes may apply depending on the product.

Import VAT, unlike customs duties, **may be deductible** if the goods are imported by a business for use in making taxable supplies or other VAT-deductible activities.

To deduct import VAT, the business must ensure:

- Proper declaration of goods to customs;
- The import documentation correctly identifies the business name and identification number.

For businesses registered for VAT in France, the identification number is the **EORI number** (Economic Operator Registration and Identification).

Failure to use the EORI number may result in **loss of the right to deduct import VAT**, as the French tax authorities strictly apply documentation rules.

[10.71] France automatically applies “**deferred VAT accounting**” on imports.

This means the importer must be VAT-registered.

In exceptional cases, VAT may still be payable at import (or deferred/settled through an import agent).

Under deferred accounting, the VAT and the value of imported goods are automatically entered into the VAT return (but the deductible VAT amount is not prefilled).

Services Provided to Foreign Customers – Basic Rules

[10.72] French VAT rules for services supplied to non-French customers implement the relevant provisions of the EU VAT Directive and are consistent with those in other EU countries.

These are known as the “**place of supply rules.**”

The rules differ depending on whether the customer is a **business** or a **consumer**, and on the type of service supplied. It is also essential to determine the customer's **place of establishment or residence**, as this affects VAT liability.

A **business customer** is “any person who independently carries out an economic activity anywhere, regardless of purpose or result.”

This definition includes all business forms — sole traders, partnerships, companies, and legal persons.

Non-profit organizations may also be treated as businesses if they carry out VATable commercial activities.

The customer's **place of establishment** is usually their place of business or the habitual residence of a natural person. If the service is supplied to a fixed establishment other than the main business location, that establishment is considered the place of supply.

Main Rules for Supplying Services to Foreign Customers

General Rule

[10.73]

- For **business customers** abroad:
French VAT **does not apply**.
The **reverse charge** applies, and VAT is accounted for by the customer in their country.
- For **foreign consumers**:
French VAT **applies**, meaning foreign consumers are treated the same as French consumers, though distinctions exist between EU and non-EU consumers.

Exceptions to the General Rule

[10.74] Exceptions apply to both business and consumer customers.

Foreign VAT applies to:

- Services related to **immovable property** (construction, property management, real estate agency, accommodation). Taxed where the property is located.
- **Short-term hire of means of transport** (cars, boats, aircraft, etc., without driver/operator).
 - “Short-term” = less than 90 days for boats and similar, less than 30 days otherwise.
 - VAT applies where the vehicle is made available to the customer.
 - Long-term hire follows the general rule, except for pleasure boats, which are taxed where the vessel is put at the customer's disposal.
- **Admission to events** (cultural, artistic, sporting, educational, etc.): taxed where the event physically takes place.
- **Catering and restaurant services**: taxed where performed.
 - If provided on board passenger transport within the EU, VAT applies in the Member State where the journey begins.
- **Passenger transport**: VAT applies in each country proportionate to the journey made within that territory.

Exceptions for Consumers (non-business customers):

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- **Valuation or work on goods:** taxed where physically carried out.
 - “Goods” = any tangible movable property, including processing, production, assembly, repair, cleaning, renovation, alteration, calibration, etc.
 - Special rules apply for work on goods destined for export outside the EU – such work may be VAT-exempt (with deduction) if:
 - The goods were acquired, purchased intra-EU, or imported for processing;
 - The goods are not used in France before export;
 - After completion, the goods are exported from the EU by the supplier or the non-EU customer (or their agent).
- **Transport of goods and ancillary transport services:** taxed where the transport physically takes place, proportionally to distance.
 - Exception: transport between two EU countries (including intermediaries) is taxed where the journey begins.
- **Intermediary services:** taxed where the underlying transaction takes place.

Exceptions for Non-EU Consumers (all such services fall outside the scope of French VAT):

- Transfer or assignment of copyrights, patents, licenses, trademarks, and similar rights (e.g., software, logo use);
- Advertising services;
- Consultancy, engineering, legal, accounting, data processing, and information supply services (not related to real estate);
- Banking, financial, and insurance services (excluding safe deposit);
- Access to gas and electricity distribution networks and related services;
- Supply of staff;
- Leasing of goods other than means of transport (see 10.75 for “use and enjoyment” rules);
- Telecommunications, broadcasting, and electronic services (subject to “use and enjoyment” rules).

Services Supplied to Foreign Customers – Special Situations (“Use and Enjoyment”) [10.75]

France has introduced “**use and enjoyment**” rules.

These rules take precedence over the normal **place of supply** rules in two cases:

1. **When the normal place of supply rules would make the service subject to French VAT** (because the supplier or customer is located in France), **but the service is actually used and enjoyed outside the EU.**
2. **When the normal place of supply rules would treat the service as supplied outside the EU** (because the supplier or customer is located in a non-EU country), **but the service is actually used and enjoyed in France.**

In such cases, the normal place of supply rules are **overridden**, and the service is deemed to be supplied **where it is actually used and enjoyed**.

If the services are **actually used and enjoyed in France**, a **non-EU supplier** may be required to **register for VAT in France** (or declare French VAT through the **Non-Union OSS** system for non-EU businesses).

Services covered by these rules include, among others:

- most **leasing of goods** (including long-term leasing of means of transport);
- **professional, financial, tax, and accounting services**;
- **all other services**, except those explicitly excluded, such as **real estate-related services** or **work on tangible goods**.

Broadcasting, Telecommunications, and Electronic Services [10.76]

Special rules apply to **broadcasting, telecommunications, and electronic (BTE) services**, defined as services:

- supplied **via the internet or an electronic network**, and
- whose **nature depends heavily on information technology**.

The **place of supply** of these services for suppliers established outside France is **France**, when the **customer is established or resident in France**.

- For **business customers (B2B)** – VAT is **accounted for by the customer** under the **reverse charge mechanism**.
- For **non-business customers (B2C)** – a **non-EU supplier must charge French VAT**.

A non-EU supplier may **register for VAT in France** or use one of the **One Stop Shop (OSS)** schemes:

- **Union OSS** for EU-based businesses;
- **Non-Union OSS** for businesses established outside the EU.

For EU-based suppliers, there is a **€10,000 annual threshold** (combined with distance sales of goods).

VAT Refunds for Businesses Not Established in France [10.77]

Refunds for EU Businesses

Businesses established in other **EU Member States** that have incurred **French VAT** may apply for a **refund from the French tax authorities**.

Conditions:

- The business must **not have an establishment in France**;
- It must **not make supplies of goods or services in France**, except for **certain exempt services**.

Applications must be submitted **electronically** to the **VAT authority in the applicant's home country**.

The **claim period** may not exceed one calendar year and should not be shorter than **three months**, unless it covers the remainder of the calendar year.

Documentation requirements:

- Invoices exceeding **€250 for fuel** or **€1,000 for other goods/services**;

- Submitted in **TIFF or PDF format**, maximum **5 MB per file**.

Refunds for Non-EU Businesses [10.78]

Companies established **outside the EU** that have incurred **French VAT** on business expenses **may be entitled** to claim a refund from the French tax authorities.

Non-EU companies must appoint a fiscal representative in France.

To qualify for a refund, the applicant must:

- be **established and registered for business purposes** in a non-EU country;
- **not be registered, liable, or eligible for VAT registration** in France;
- **not have any fixed establishment or residence** in the EU;
- **not make any taxable supplies** in France, except for:
 - **international transport services**, or
 - **services where VAT is paid by the French customer under the reverse charge mechanism**.
 -

VAT cannot be recovered on:

- **VAT charged in error**;
- **Non-business expenses**;
- **Passenger vehicles** and related costs (except certain fuel expenses – see section 10.35);
- **Accommodation costs** for employees, managers, or directors.

Claim period:

- Cannot exceed **12 months** (January 1 – December 31);
- Should not cover a period shorter than **three months**, unless it represents the remainder of the year ending December 31.

Refund claims must meet the **minimum claim thresholds** and be submitted **on time** (see section 10.1).

Applications can be submitted **only online**, via the **fiscal representative's tax portal**:

👉 www.impots.gouv.fr/portail

Required attachments:

- **Original invoices** (for amounts over €1,000, or €250 for vehicle fuel);
- **Power of attorney** granted to and accepted by the fiscal representative;
- **Bank account details** of the fiscal representative.

Applications are usually processed **within six months**, and payments are made in **euros**, directly to the fiscal representative's **bank account**.

If the claim is **rejected in full or in part**, the taxpayer has the right to **request a review** or **appeal** the decision before the **Administrative Tribunal**.

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Appendix 10A: Contents of a VAT Invoice

Feature	Full VAT Invoice	Simplified Invoice (retail ≤ €150)
Supplier name and address	✓	✓
Supplier VAT number	✓	
Customer name and address	✓	
Customer VAT number	✓ (intra-EU only)	
Invoice number	✓	
Time of supply	✓	
Invoice date	✓	✓
Unit price	✓	✓

Description of goods or services	✓	✓
Quantity (per description)	✓	✓
Amount excluding VAT	✓	
VAT rate(s)	✓	✓
Total amount excluding VAT	✓	
Cash discount rate	✓	✓
Total VAT amount	✓	
Total amount payable (including VAT)	✓	
Statement explaining why VAT is not due	✓ (e.g., intra-EU supply, export)	

Appendix 10B: VAT Exemptions Applied in France

Exemption with Credit (Zero-Rated Supplies)

Applied to:

- Exports and equivalent operations;
- Intra-EU supplies of goods;
- International transport.

Exemption without Recovery

Applied to:

- Medical and paramedical professions;
- Healthcare institutions;
- Education and vocational training by approved organizations;
- Most banking and financial transactions (see 10.40 for optional taxation);
- Supplies of investment gold;

- Insurance and reinsurance operations;
- Certain property rentals (agricultural land, undeveloped plots, or non-opted buildings);
- Some furnished property rentals (private dwellings);
- Certain real estate transactions;
- Reimbursements of expenses between members of a cost-sharing group;
- Co-ownership associations (“pluripropriété”);
- Non-profit organizations (philosophical, religious, political, civic, trade union);
- War memorials and similar entities;
- Certain second-hand goods sold by owners if no input VAT was deducted at purchase;
- Agricultural cooperatives;
- Fishing activities;
- Gambling institutions (most betting, casinos, lotteries);
- Ambulance services;
- Medical analysis services;
- Supplies of dental prostheses by manufacturers;
- Human organs, blood, and breast milk;
- Commodity futures markets without physical delivery;
- Stamps (tax or postal);
- Nurseries and kindergartens;
- Universal postal services;
- Imports and intra-EU acquisitions of goods that would be exempt if supplied in France.

Appendix 10C: Reduced VAT Rates in France

10% Rate – Applied to:

- Pharmaceuticals not reimbursed by social security;
- Firewood;
- Agricultural products (fertilizers, pesticides), decorative plants and flowers;
- Occasional supply of works of art by the artist.

Services taxed at 10%:

- Treatments in authorized health resorts;
- Passenger transport within France;
- Rental of furnished rooms, hotels, campsites;
- Legal aid;
- Catering and restaurant services (non-alcoholic);
- Water supply and sanitation;
- Street cleaning, waste collection, recycling;
- Care and social assistance services;
- Work on residential buildings (not involving reconstruction).

5.5% Rate – Applied to:

- Water;
- Human food (excluding alcohol, certain sweets, and margarine);
- Animal feed intended for food production and related supplements;
- Certain non-alcoholic beverages;
- Aid and equipment for persons with disabilities.

Appendix 10C (continued): Reduced VAT Rates in France

5.5% Rate – continued

Applied to:

- Most **books** (including **e-books**);
- The **purchase of certain land and construction services for social housing**;
- **Works of art** sold by the creator or their successor;
- **Women's hygiene products** and **protective equipment** used to combat **COVID-19**.

Services taxed at 5.5%:

- **Accommodation and meals in nursing homes and institutions for persons with disabilities**;
- **Subscriptions to gas, electricity, and heating**;
- **Admission to certain cultural and sports events**;
- **Selected buildings and operations under social housing programs**.

2.1% Rate – applied to:

- **Medicines reimbursed by social security**;
- **Authorized newspapers and periodicals**;
- **Selected theatrical performances** (first 140 shows);
- **The television licence fee**.

Rates in Corsica and the Overseas Territories

Corsica:

- **0.9%** – for the **first 140 theatrical and circus performances**, and certain **animal supplies**;
- **2.1%** – for goods/services taxed at **5.5%** in mainland France;
- **10%** – for **construction work, agricultural equipment, and on-site catering**;
- **13%** – for **petroleum products**.

Guadeloupe, Martinique, La Réunion:

- **2.1%** – for goods/services taxed at **5.5%** in mainland France;
- **1.05%** – for the **first 140 theatrical and circus performances**;
- **1.75%** – on the **sale of livestock** to **non-taxable persons**.