

## COVID-19

### Measures taken In the European Union on reduction (increase) of VAT rates, exemptions and donations still applicable per Oct 25, 2020

Disclaimer: The overview is based on newsletters issued till Oct 23, 2020

If you have any news for your country, please send to [info@vatupdate.com](mailto:info@vatupdate.com).

Country	Description of the measure	Date of entry into force	Planned repeal date
Austria	A reduction in the VAT rate for the sale of non-alcoholic beverages in taverns from 19% to 10%. ( <a href="#">Link</a> )	01/07/2020	31/12/2020
Austria	VAT rate reduced to 5% for café, restaurant and similar hospitality services, and entrance to cultural, cinema, sporting and other live venues ( <a href="#">Link</a> )	01/07/2020	31/12/2020
Belgium	Donation of certain goods to certain institutions and gifts in kind. It is in particular a temporary measure for the free distribution of medical devices or computers to certain institutions and its impact in terms of VAT ( <a href="#">Link</a> )	01/08/2020	31/12/2020
Belgium	Belgium Reduces VAT Rate to 6% on Masks and Hydroalcoholic Gels for COVID-19 ( <a href="#">link</a> )	04/05/2020	31/12/2020
Belgium	A reduction in the VAT rate from 12% to 6% applies to restaurant and catering services, including non-alcoholic drinks but excluding the provision of beers with alcohol exceeding 0.5% vol. and other beverages with alcohol exceeding 1.2% vol. The new rate applies from 8 June 2020 to 31 December 2020. ( <a href="#">Link</a> ). Approved by the government on June 5, 2020 ( <a href="#">Link</a> )	08/06/2020	31/12/2020
Bulgaria	Exemption from import duties and value added tax on imports of goods necessary to combat the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. This measure is applied to goods imported from 30 January 2020 to 31 July 2020 and has been extended to Oct 31, 2020 ( <a href="#">Link</a> )		31/10/2020
Bulgaria	Decrease of the VAT rate from 20 to 9% for (1) Restaurant and catering services, which consist of supply of cooked and uncooked food, except for services, which consist of supply of spirits. (2) Supply of books on physical carriers or by electronic means (including textbooks, training aids, drawing books, etc.), but excluding editions with advertising content and editions where the content is mostly musical or audio-visual and (3) diapers for babies. ( <a href="#">Link</a> )( <a href="#">Link</a> )	01.07.2020	31.12.2021

Congo	Suspension of VAT collection on the production and sale of basic necessities. The government has also provided an exemption from taxes and customs duties on pharmaceuticals, inputs for pharmaceuticals, and other medical materials and equipment for a period of 6 months. ( <a href="#">Link</a> )	01/04/2020	For 3 or 6 months
Cyprus	Temporary reduction of the VAT rate applicable to hotel accommodation, restaurant services and certain passenger transport from 9% to 5% ( <a href="#">Link</a> )	01.07.2020	10.01.2021
Czech Republic	Reductions to VAT on accommodation services and admission to cultural and sporting events from 15 to 10%. 10% VAT rate should also apply to businesses such as saunas and fitness centres. ( <a href="#">Link</a> )	01/07/2020	
Czech Republic	Exemption of the donation of PPE's ( <a href="#">Link</a> )		31.12.2020
EU	The EU commission has waived custom duties and Vat on imports of medical equipment from outside the EU. This includes protective equipment, test kits or medical devices such as ventilators. The measure will apply for a period of six months, with a possibility for further extension ( <a href="#">link</a> )	30/01/2020	31/12/2020
Fiji	Exemption on VAT and import excise duty on medical goods.	01/04/2020	31/12/2020
Finland	The sale of necessary protective equipment to the social and healthcare sector due to the coronavirus pandemic would, in specific respects, be temporarily exempted from VAT. The exemption would apply to protective equipment used in coronavirus-related prevention, testing, and care ( <a href="#">Link</a> ) Extension ( <a href="#">Link</a> ) ( <a href="#">Link</a> )	30/01/2020	31/10/2020
France	Temporary application of the reduced VAT rate of 5.5%, instead of the standard VAT rate of 20%, to supplies and intra-EU acquisitions of the following products: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Masks and protective clothing suitable for protection against COVID-19, retroactively as from 24 March 2020; and</li> <li>• Products intended for personal hygiene and adapted to the fight against the spread of COVID-19, retroactively as from 1 March 2020.</li> </ul> The reduced VAT rate will be applicable until 31 December 2021. The criteria for the relevant products were listed in a decree dated 7 May 2020, published on 8 May 2020. Guidelines ( <a href="#">Link</a> )	01 or 24/03/2020	31/12/2021
Germany	Extending Reduced VAT Rate to Restaurant and Catering Services from 19% to 7% from 1 July 2020 until 1 July 2021 ( <a href="#">Link</a> )	01/07/2020	30/06/2021

Germany	Standard VAT rate reduced from 19 to 16 percent and reduced tax rate will drop from 7 to 5 percent between July 1 and Dec 31, 2020 ( <a href="#">Link</a> )  Transitional measures ( <a href="#">Link</a> )	01/07/2020	31/12/2020
Greece	No VAT will be levied on goods and services donated to the Greek government to help with the fight against the spread of COVID-19.		14/11/2020
Greece	Temporary VAT rate decreases from 24 to 13% for transport, coffee, non-alcoholic beverages, etc ( <a href="#">Link</a> ). Extension till April 30, 2020 ( <a href="#">Link</a> )	01/06/2020	30/04/2021
Greece	Greek Government Extends Reduced VAT Rates for 5 Islands Until 31 December 2020 ( <a href="#">Link</a> )		31/12/2020
Greece	The reduction of the VAT rate from 9% to 5% will be applicable for the period from the 1st of July, 2020 to the 9th of January, 2021, for: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. hotel accommodation, hotel apartments accommodation and similar establishments, including holiday accommodation;</li> <li>2. restaurant and catering services;</li> <li>3. transport of passengers and their accompanied luggage.</li> </ol> ( <a href="#">Link</a> )	01/07/2020	09/01/2021
Ireland	Temporary reduction to the standard rate of VAT from 23 to 21% ( <a href="#">Link</a> )	01/09/2020	28/02/2021
Isle of Man	Temporary zero VAT rate for PPE ( <a href="#">Link</a> )	01/05/2020	31/10/2020
Isle of Man	VAT rate reduced to 5% applicable to hospitality, accommodation and attractions extended until 31 March 2021 ( <a href="#">Link</a> )		31/03/2021
Italy	Masks and security devices exempt from VAT as of May 19, 2020 until the end of the year. After Dec 31, 2020 “super-reduced” 5% rate of VAT for supplies of certain medical goods. ( <a href="#">Link</a> ) ( <a href="#">Link</a> )	19/05/2020	31/12/2020
Netherlands	Temporary VAT zero rate on supply of protective face masks from 25 May to 1 September 2020 ( <a href="#">link</a> ) Extension to Dec 31, 2020 ( <a href="#">Link</a> )  Sterile Cotton Swabs for Medical Purposes Subject to 9% VAT Rate ( <a href="#">Link</a> )	25/5/2020	31/12/2020
Norway	Reduction of the reduced VAT rate from 12% to 8% for certain cultural and touristic services as from 1 April 2020 through 31 October 2020, This is now extended till Dec 31, 2020 ( <a href="#">Link</a> )	01/04/2020	31/12/2020

Norway	Reduction of the reduced VAT rate from 8% to 6 % for certain cultural and touristic services as from 1 April 2020 through 31 October 2020 ( <a href="#">Link</a> )	01/04/2020	31/10/2020
Portugal	VAT exemption and reduced VAT rates to health-related products on the IC supply and acquisition of goods <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>VAT exemption on intra-Community transfers and acquisitions of goods necessary to combat the COVID-19 outbreak, taking place in the Portuguese territory (<a href="#">Link</a>)</li> <li>reduced VAT rate (6% in mainland Portugal) on importation, intra-community supply and acquisition of respiratory protection masks and skin disinfectant gel from May 8 to December 31, 2020 (<a href="#">Link</a>)</li> </ul>	30/01/2020 08/05/2020	31/10/2020 31/12/2020
Russia	Reduced VAT Rate Applies to Sale of Medical Supplies Aimed to Combat COVID-19 ( <a href="#">Link</a> )		
Serbia	VAT exemption on donations of supplies of goods/services to certain health institutions. Taxpayers making such supplies are allowed to deduct input VAT. The exemption applies from 15 March until the end of the state of emergency.	15/03/2020	
Spain	0% VAT rate on the supply, import and intra-Community acquisition of medical equipment (PPE) by public, non-profit entities and hospitals to combat the effects of Covid-19 until Oct 31, 2020 ( <a href="#">Link</a> )	23/04/2020	31/10/2020
United Kingdom	Temporary VAT zero rate for personal protective equipment (PPE) ( <a href="#">link</a> ). Extended till Oct 31, 2020 ( <a href="#">Link</a> ) Importing various good without paying import VAT and Duty ( <a href="#">Link</a> )	01/05/2020	31/10/2020 There will be no extension ( <a href="#">Link</a> ) 31/12/2020
United Kingdom	Reduced rate for hospitality and tourism ( <a href="#">Link</a> )		31/03/2021
United Kingdom	Domestic Reverse Charge for construction services delayed until 1 March 2021 ( <a href="#">Link</a> )		01/03/2021