

TAX NEWSLETTER

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Law No. 90/2025/QH15

01



On June 25, 2025, the National Assembly issued **Law No. 90/2025/QH15**—the Law Amending and Supplementing a Number of Articles of 8 Laws in the fields of finance, investment, bidding, and customs. This includes **the Law on Value Added Tax (VAT) and the Law on Export and Import Duties**. This law officially takes effect from **July 1, 2025**.

The significant changes related to VAT and Export-Import Tax are expected to create a unified system of tax laws, address overlapping incentives, improve the investment environment, and enhance the effectiveness of state management.

1. Value Added Tax Law

Content	Old Regulation (before July 1, 2025)	New Regulation (from July 1, 2025)
Taxable price of imported goods	Taxable Price = Import Price + Import Duty + Special Consumption Tax (if any) + Environmental Protection Tax (if any).	Adds: Supplementary Import Duty (if any). → Taxable Price = Import Price + Import Duty + Supplementary Import Duty (if any) + Special Consumption Tax (if any) + Environmental Protection Tax (if any)
VAT exemption	Some goods and services for scientific and technological research are exempt from/not subject to VAT.	Adjusted to align with the Law on Export and Import Duties: the scope of VAT exemption will be narrowed, shifting to incentives in Export-Import Duties (to avoid duplication).
VAT refund threshold for exported goods and services	Input VAT not yet deducted from VND 300 million or more is eligible for a refund.	Retains the VND 300 million threshold.
Enterprises with multiple activities (domestic & export)	Unclear regulations on the allocation of input tax for export activities.	Clearly regulates the principle of allocating input VAT; only the portion directly related to exports is eligible for a refund.

Law No. 90/2025/QH15

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1. Value Added Tax Law

Content	Old Regulation (before July 1, 2025)	New Regulation (from July 1, 2025)
Investment project refund	Eligible for a refund when an investment project in the investment phase has an undeducted input VAT amount of VND 300 million or more. The conditions are not yet strict.	Adds conditions: the project must have a valid investment license and non-cash payment documents ; excludes enterprises with high tax risks.
Application submission method	Can submit paper or electronic copies (depending on the case, depending on the tax authority).	100% submission must be done via the tax authority's electronic portal .
Risk management in tax refunds	No specific regulations yet, mainly based on post-refund inspection/audits.	Adds a risk management mechanism: the tax authority has the right to temporarily suspend the processing of an application when signs of suspicion are found.
Tax refund processing time	6 working days (refund first - inspect later) or 40 days (inspect first - refund later).	Still maintains the timeframe, but it is now closely linked to the risk management mechanism; priority is given to well-compliant businesses.

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01



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The significant changes related to VAT and Export-Import Tax are expected to create a unified system of tax laws, address overlapping incentives, improve the investment environment, and enhance the effectiveness of state management.

2. Law on Export Tax and Import Tax

Content	Old Regulation (Law 107/2016/QH13 and amendments before 2025)	New Regulation (from July 1, 2025)
Import tax exemption for IT	Exemption from tax on raw materials, supplies, and components that are not domestically produced, used for manufacturing IT products, software, and digital content..	Abolishes this regulation (no longer exempt).
Exemption for research - high technology	Not clearly regulated.	Adds a tax exemption for specialized machinery, equipment, materials, scientific documents, books, and imported raw materials for scientific research, innovation, and the digital technology industry.
Specific tax schedule	According to Decree 26/2023 and previous documents.	Updated according to new Decrees (182/2025, 108/2025, 73/2025, 21/2025). Some items have a phased tax increase (e.g., yellow phosphorus from 5% → 10% in 2026 → 15% in 2027; black corrugated iron 0% until 8/2025, from 9/2025 applies 7%).
Coordination with VAT	The tax exemption partially overlaps with VAT exemptions/non-taxable items.	Adjusted to clearly define the scope and avoid a situation where a single good is exempt from both Export-Import Tax and VAT.

Official Letter

No. 434/VLO-QLDN2

02

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On August 21, 2025, the Vinh Long Provincial Tax Department issued Official Letter No. 434/VLO-QLDN2 in response to a query from Duyen Hai Thermal Power Company—a branch of Power Generation Corporation 1—regarding the deduction of input VAT for goods and services purchased on deferred or installment payment plans according to Decree No. 181/2025/ND-CP dated July 1, 2025.

Key Content:

According to the regulations in Clause 2, Article 26 of Decree 181/2025/ND-CP, for goods and services purchased on deferred or installment payment plans with a value of VND 5 million or more, the business must have non-cash payment documents at the time of payment as per the contract or contract addendum to be eligible for input VAT deduction.

If the business does not have non-cash payment documents at the time of payment according to the contract or contract addendum, then:

- The business must declare and adjust to decrease the amount of input VAT that was already deducted for the value of the goods and services for which there are no payment documents.
- And the business will not be able to continue deducting VAT for that value of the goods and services.



Official Letter No. 95/BNI-QLDN1

03



On July 22, 2025, the Bac Ninh Provincial Tax Department issued Official Letter No. 915/BNI-QLDN1 in response to Samsung Electronics Vietnam Co., Ltd. regarding the personal income tax policy for mid-shift meal expenses.

Key Content:

- If the business organizes mid-shift meals (cooking or purchasing meal portions): This expense is not included in the taxable personal income of the employee.
- If the business does not organize meals but provides a cash allowance to employees:
 - If the allowance level is appropriate according to regulations (in the labor contract, collective labor agreement, or company regulations), it is not included in the taxable personal income.
 - If the allowance level exceeds the regulations, the excess portion must be included in the taxable personal income.

Thus, according to the guidance in Official Letter 915/BNI-QLDN1 2025, the mid-shift meal allowance of VND 730,000/month has been abolished. Instead, businesses can determine a reasonable allowance level themselves based on the agreements in the collective labor agreement or the company's internal regulations.



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