



MALDIVES  
INLAND REVENUE  
AUTHORITY

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## MIRAPOST



Maldives to impose plastic bag fee

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# Maldives to impose plastic bag fee



Mariyam Shaliya, Senior Tax Officer, Tax Academy



Under the Waste Management Act, businesses operated in the Maldives are obliged to charge MVR 2 as plastic bag fee for each plastic bag sold or provided to customers at the point of sale. This fee will be effective from 00:00 hours of 18 April 2023. In this Act, “plastic bag” is defined as bag made of plastic (including degradable plastics made of oxo-degradable and synthetic polymers), which are used for carrying goods.

However, three types of plastic bags are exempt from plastic bag fee. They include:

- plastic bags sold or provided free of charge by duty-free shops
- plastic bags used to carry any type of fresh unpackaged fish
- “bin liners” sold or supplied free of charge specifically for the purpose of waste disposal, by either a person who provides waste management services or another relevant authority.

Fish refers to deep sea fish, reef fish, bait fish, seafood and parts of such fish.

GST registered persons must pay the plastic bag fee collected from customers to MIRA. In order to facilitate the collection of plastic bag fee, MIRA has formulated and published the Regulation on Collecting Plastic Bag Fee by Persons Registered for GST. According to this Regulation, GST registered persons should include the information of plastic bag fee collected during each taxable period in the respective period’s GST return and pay the dues to MIRA. The information must be reported in Maldivian Rufiyaa

and paid to MIRA in Maldivian Rufiyaa. The respective GST return must be amended incase, where the taxpayer wishes to change the information provided.

MIRA has highlighted some key aspects for taxpayers to keep in mind regarding the collection and reporting of plastic bag fee. Plastic bag fee should be collected from plastic bags sold or provided when supplying goods and services that are exempt and zero-rated under the GST Act. However, plastic bag fee should not be taken from plastic bags used by manufacturers for the packaging necessary for the sale of goods. In addition, taxpayers should not charge GST on the amount of plastic bag fee collected from their customers. The invoice or receipt issued by business activities should distinctively state the amount of plastic bag fee charged from the customer.

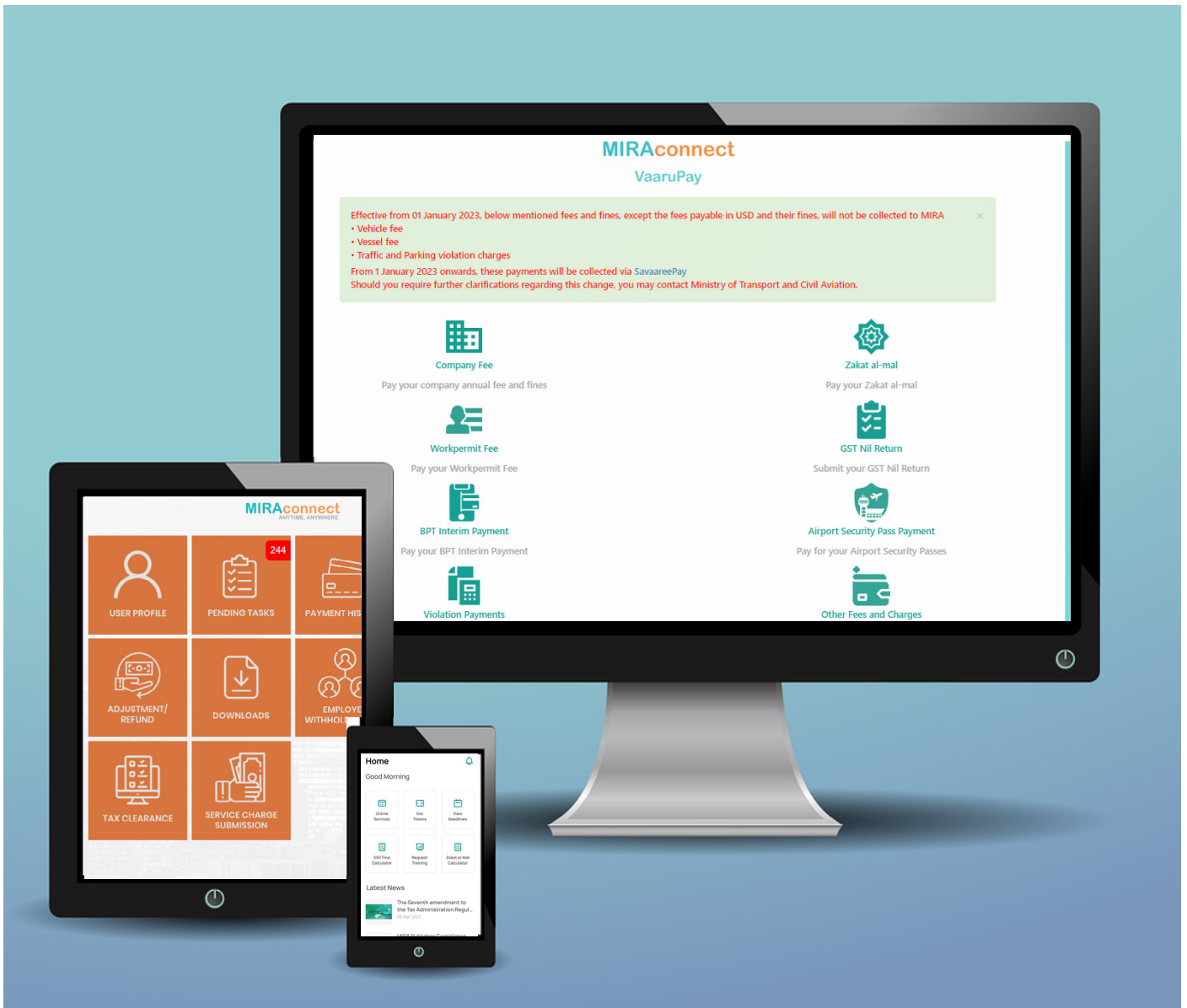
The deadline for the submission of the plastic bag fee information is the deadline for the submission of the taxpayer’s GST return. Failure to submit plastic bag fee information to MIRA on time will result in a fine that amounts to 0.5% of plastic bag fee payable for the relevant period, and a fine of an amount not exceeding MVR 50/- for each day of delay. In addition, failure to pay plastic bag fee on time will result in a fine amounting to 0.05% per day of the outstanding amount from the due date.

It is the responsibility of the taxpayers to maintain records to the extent that is sufficient to ascertain that the amount of plastic bag fee collected from customers and paid to MIRA is calculated in accordance with the relevant laws and regulations. In addition to such documents, taxpayers should maintain the details of plastic bags purchased, plastic bags received free of charge, plastic bags sold, plastic bags supplied free of charge, plastic bags damaged and plastic bags returned by customers. Such records must be maintained for a period not less than five years.

Any additional information regarding plastic bag fee can be obtained by contacting our hotline 1415. Taxpayers and the general public can also participate in the information sessions to be held regarding plastic bag fee that will be conducted by the Tax Academy. Interested persons can register for such sessions through MIRA website.

# Company annual fee deadline for the year 2023 is 31 March 2023

Mariyam Waheed, Senior Tax Officer, Tax Academy

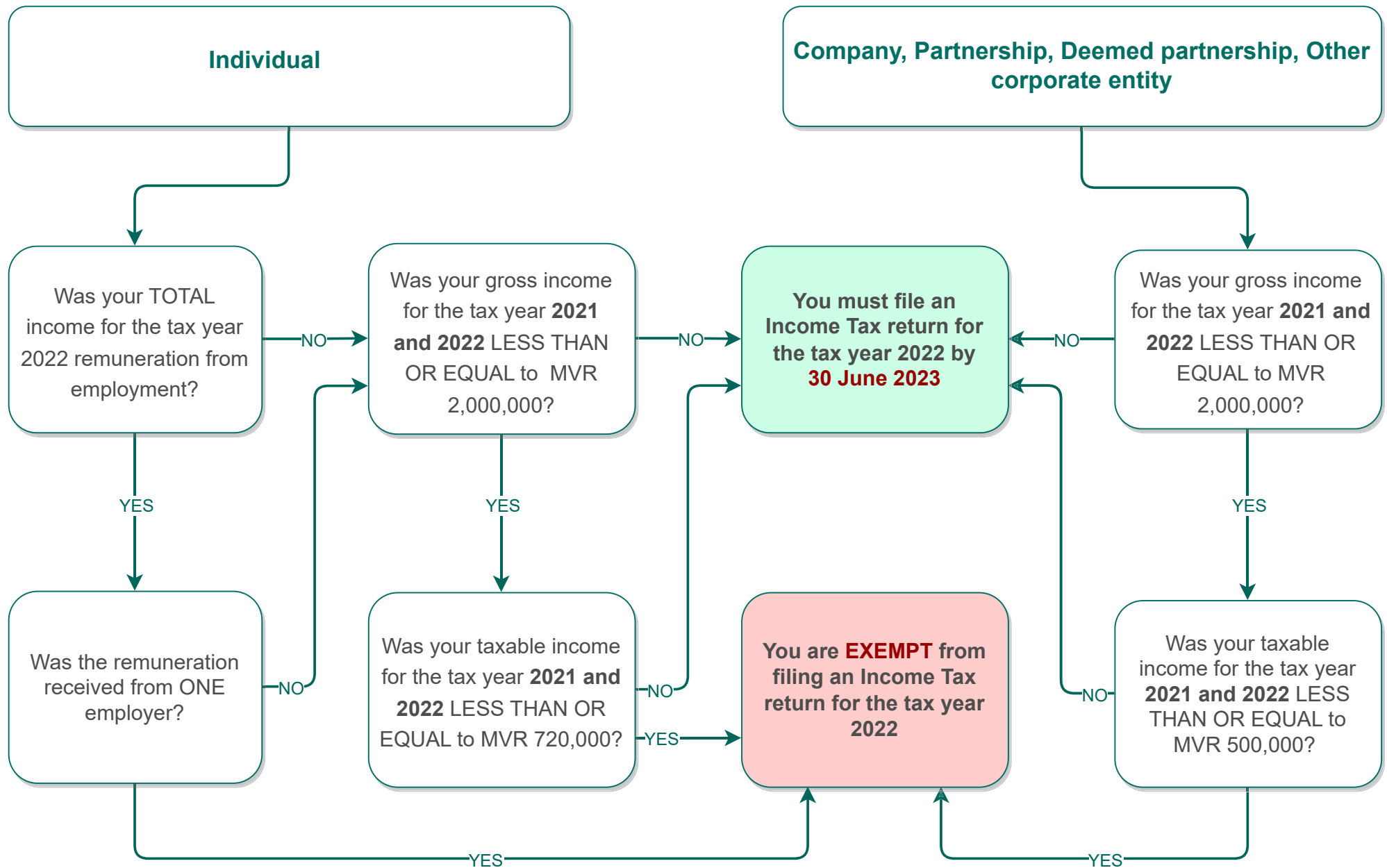


The Company annual fee is a fee levied under Law No. 10/96 on all public and private companies registered at the Ministry of Economic Development. According to the Act, all companies must pay their company annual fee for the current year by 31 March of the year. Deadline to pay the company annual fee for the year 2023 is 31 March 2023.

Private companies are required to pay MVR 2,000 as their company annual fee while public companies are required to pay MVR 10,000. Company annual fee

for the company registration year must be paid to the Ministry of Economic Development. All subsequent fee payments must be made to MIRA. Company Annual Fee can be paid online via VaaruPay and MIRAconnect.

A fine is charged if a company fails to pay the company's annual fee by the end of March. If the fee is paid before the end of April, a fine of MVR 1,000 is charged. If the fee is paid after the month of April, a fine of MVR 2,500 is charged.



**Note:** Even though you are exempt from filing an income tax return, you can still choose to file an income tax return.  
 If your tax year is less than 12 months, prorate your **gross income** and your **taxable income** accordingly.

# Invoice created in Microsoft Excel is not a valid tax invoice

Ahmed Shaheen, Deputy Manager, Facilitation

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Even if you are not registered for GST, you should be able to issue a bill or receipt upon request by the recipient of the goods or services. The receipt must have a pre-printed serial number. At the same time, in case a customer requests, the GST Act requires every GST registered person to issue a receipt or tax invoice that satisfies the requirements of the GST Act.

According to Section 41 of the GST Act, after a GST registered person sells goods or supplies services to another GST registered person, a tax invoice must be issued to that person within 28 days upon request by the purchaser or recipient of the service. The tax invoice issued in this manner shall contain the following conditions.

“Tax Invoice” should be written in Dhivehi or English on the tax invoice in a prominent manner. The name, address and TIN of the person selling the goods or providing the services, and the name, address and TIN of the purchaser or recipient of the goods must appear on the tax invoice. In addition, Section 48 of the GST Act requires the tax invoice to have a pre-printed or software generated serial number. At the same time, the date of issue of the invoice and the quantity and details of the goods sold or the details of the service rendered must be mentioned in the invoice. The price of the goods or services excluding the amount of GST payable on the goods or services, the amount of GST payable on the goods or services and the total price payable on the goods or services including GST, or GST within the price of the goods or services and the amount of GST included, should be indicated on the invoice.

Therefore, a tax invoice prepared and issued in

Microsoft Excel cannot be considered as a valid tax invoice. This is because the invoice number included when creating an invoice in Microsoft Excel is not generated by a software. The invoice number of the tax invoice created in Excel can be changed at any time.

In respect of goods or services supplied, if the services or goods were supplied to a person who is not registered for GST, in that case a receipt satisfying the requirements of the GST Act must be issued to that person. The receipt issued in this manner shall contain the name, address and TIN of the GST registered person, date of payment, receipt number (pre-printed or software generated number), quantity and details of goods or details of services, GST payable on goods or services, the price of the goods or services excluding the GST amount, the amount of GST payable on the goods or services and the total price payable on the goods or services including GST and the amount of GST if included in the price of the goods or services should be shown.

Therefore, if the receipt issued to the customer is also prepared in Microsoft Excel, it will not be considered as the type of receipt defined in the GST Act. As per Section 48 of the GST Act, invoices, receipts, credit notes and debit notes issued by a GST registered person shall contain a pre-printed serial number unless the number is generated by software.

The Commissioner General of Taxation has the discretion to impose penalties under sections 65 and 67 of the Tax Administration Act if a GST registered person fails to issue receipts and tax invoices in accordance with the requirements of the Act.



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