

Guidelines – VAT Refunds to non-residents

Refund of VAT paid on goods purchased in Malta

Subsidiary Legislation 406.13 [the Value Added Tax (Refund to Non-Residents) Regulations] provides for the repayment by Government of an amount not exceeding the Maltese VAT paid on supplies made in Malta to non-EU travellers of goods exported by them outside the European Union (EU) in their accompanying luggage.

This VAT refund is applicable to physical persons whose permanent address or habitual residence is situated outside the EU, as evidenced in a passport or other identification document considered as valid by the Maltese authorities (such as a residence card).

The VAT refund is **not** applicable to:

- Goods wholly or partly consumed in Malta;
- Goods exported for business purposes;
- Goods where the value of such goods purchased from a single establishment as shown on a single fiscal receipt is below fifty euro (€50).

The VAT refund claim is further subject to the following conditions:

- i. An approved application form is filed at the Customs Exit Point (this may be obtained either from the shop where the purchase is made, or at the Customs Exit Point);
- ii. The goods are taken out of the EU by the end of the 3rd month from the date on which the good was purchased (*ex: if goods are bought on the 4th of January 2022, the traveller has up to the end of April 2022 to reclaim the VAT incurred thereon*);
- iii. **Where Malta is the last EU departure point**, the goods are to be officially certified to have been taken out of the EU by the Maltese Customs Authorities by way of an official stamp on the application form;
- iv. **Where Malta is not the last EU departure point**, the goods are to be endorsed to have been taken out of the EU by the relevant authorities of the EU Member State being the last EU departure point (*ex: A traveller departing Malta and transiting through another EU Member State with a final destination being outside the EU, should obtain endorsement in the EU Member State where the final transit to a non-EU country occurs*);
- v. Original fiscal receipts in respect of the purchase of goods for which repayment is being claimed are to be attached to the application form;
- vi. Any other information (such as travel documents) as may be requested by the Maltese Authorities are to be provided;

- vii. A commission may be withheld by the appointed authorised refund operator as agreed/approved by the Office of the Commissioner for Revenue.

The officially certified application form together with the supporting documentation required is to be posted into the appropriate box situated just outside the Customs Office at the Customs Exit Point at the airport or seaport.

Refunds of **foreign** VAT paid where Malta is the last EU departure point

Non-EU travellers who wish to claim VAT on purchases made in other EU Member States on goods to be exported by them outside the EU in their accompanying luggage where Malta is their **last** departure point in the EU, are required to:

1. Obtain and fill out a refund application form in the EU Member State in which they made the purchase, i.e. where the VAT was charged;
2. Submit the refund application form for endorsement at the Malta Customs Exit Point;
3. Post the endorsed application form into the appropriate box situated within the departure lounge.

The refund application would then be considered by the Member State in which the purchase was made, i.e. where the VAT was paid.

Other General Conditions for Official Certification or Endorsement by Maltese Customs Authorities

Certification/Endorsement by Malta Customs shall be rejected if:

- the goods are not physically presented for verification by the Customs Authorities; and
- valid fiscal receipts for the purchase are not presented. A credit/debit card payment acknowledgement is not a valid fiscal receipt (*copies of receipts including e-printouts, second copies, duplicates, or receipts including the word [COPY] shall not be accepted*).

Persons who encounter any difficulties or have any queries are invited to call on 153 or send an e-mail to servizz@gov.mt.

Disclaimer

The Commissioner for Revenue may substitute, alter or withdraw these guidelines at any time.

Date: November 2022