

LAOS TAX BOOKLET

2016

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Quick Reference Tax Rate Tables

Profit tax

Description	Rates
Standard rate	24%
Tobacco companies	26%
Freelancers & sole-trader enterprises	Progressive rates of 0% to 24%

Lump-sum tax

Annual turnover (LAK)	Lump-sum tax rates		
	Manufacturing	Trading	Services
Less than 12,000,000	Exempt	Exempt	Exempt
12,000,001 – 50,000,000	Fixed amount – but not exceeding LAK600,000 per year		
50,000,001 – 120,000,000	3%	4%	5%
120,000,001 – 240,000,000	4%	5%	6%
240,000,001 – 400,000,000	5%	6%	7%

Employee income tax

Level	Taxable Salary at Each Level (LAK)	Basis of Calculation (LAK)	Tax Rate	Income Tax at Each Level (LAK)	Cumulative Income Tax (LAK)
1	1,000,000 and below	1,000,000	0%	0	0
2	1,000,001 – 3,000,000	2,000,000	5%	100,000	100,000
3	3,000,001 – 6,000,000	3,000,000	10%	300,000	400,000
4	6,000,001 – 12,000,000	6,000,000	12%	720,000	1,120,000
5	12,000,001 – 24,000,000	12,000,000	15%	1,800,000	2,920,000
6	24,000,001 – 40,000,000	16,000,000	20%	3,200,000	6,120,000
7	Above 40,000,000		24%		

Non-residents & compulsory profit withholding tax

Income source	Gross profit rates	Profit tax deemed rates
Production activity (agricultural and industrial products)	3%	0.72%
Commercial activity	5%	1.2%
Services:		
1. Goods and passenger transportation	5%	1.2%
2. Construction and repairs	10%	2.4%
3. Exploitation and trading of trees, wood, minerals and other forest products	20%	4.8%
4. Tree plantation and exploitation	5%	1.2%
5. Black and red soil, sand and rock extraction, land filling activities	15%	3.6%
6. Entertainment activities	25%	6%
7. Legal, engineering, architecture and other consultancy activities	10%	2.4%
8. Brokers and agents	20%	4.8%
9. Development of lands and buildings for sale	20%	4.8%
Other services	10%	2.4%

Other income taxes

Type of income	Rates
Dividends, interest, commissions	10%
Sales of shares	2% or 10%
Rental of real estate, vehicles, machinery, goods	10%
Royalties from intellectual property	5%
Transfer of land-use, building-use rights	2% or 10%

Value added tax

Type of supply	Rates
Import of goods Local production of goods and supply of services Export of unprocessed natural resources	10%
Export of goods Export of processed natural resources	0%

Excise tax

Type of goods	Rates for 2016-2017	Rates for 2018-2019	Rates for 2020 and after
Fuel:			
- Gasoline (super)	35%	39%	
- Gasoline (normal)	30%	34%	
- Diesel	20%	24%	
- Jet fuel	10%	14%	
- Lubricants, hydraulic oil, grease, and brake oil	5%	9%	
Compressed natural gas for vehicles	10%		
Liquor or alcoholic drinks:			
- Liquor or drinks with alcoholic content of 20 percent and over	30%	50%	70%
- Liquor, wine and other drinks with alcoholic content under 20 percent	25%	45%	60%
Beer	50%		

Type of goods	Rates for 2016-2017	Rates for 2018-2019	Rates for 2020 and after
Ready-made drinks:			
- Soft drinks, sodas, mineral water, fruit juices and other similar drinks	5%		
- Stimulant drinks	10%		
Cigarettes:			
- Cigars	30%	45%	60%
- Cigarettes in packages	30%	45%	60%
- Tobacco	15%	25%	35%
- Others	30%	45%	60%
Crystal items or crystal adornments	20%		
Carpets with a value of LAK1 million or more	15%		
Furniture sets (sofas) with a value of LAK10 million or more	15%		
Perfumes and cosmetics	20%		
Playing cards and gambling materials if authorized by the relevant sectors	90%		
Traditional rockets, fireworks, firecrackers if authorized by the relevant sectors	80%		

Type of goods	Rates for 2016-2017	Rates for 2018-2019	Rates for 2020 and after
Vehicles:			
1. Motorcycles:			
- With engine volume of 110 cc and lower		20%	
- With engine volume of 111-150 cc		30%	
- With engine volume of 151-250 cc		40%	
- With engine volume of 251-500 cc		60%	
- With engine volume of 501 cc or more		80%	
- That use clean energy		5%	
- Motorbike spare parts		5%	
2. Transport vehicles:			
2.1. Vehicles using fuel:			
- With engine volume of 1,000 cc and lower		25%	
- With engine volume of 1,001-1,600 cc		30%	
- With engine volume of 1,601-2,000 cc		35%	
- With engine volume of 2,001-2,500 cc		40%	
- With engine volume of 2,501-3,000 cc		45%	
- With engine volume of 3,001-4,000 cc		70%	
- With engine volume of 4,001-5,000 cc		80%	
- With engine volume of 5,001 cc or more		90%	
2.2. Vehicles using clean energy		10%	
2.3. Small transport vehicles (2-door pick-ups, trucks):			
- using fuel		10%	
- using clean energy		5%	
2.4. Medium transport vehicles:			
- using fuel		8%	
- using clean energy		5%	
2.5. Large transport vehicles:			
- using fuel		5%	
- using clean energy		3%	
3. Vehicle spare parts			
		5%	

Type of goods	Rates for 2016-2017	Rates for 2018-2019	Rates for 2020 and after
Accessories for vehicles		20%	
Speedboats, yachts, motorboats, including their spare parts and accessories		20%	
Satellite television signal receivers, audio-video players, cameras, telephones, audio-video recorders, musical instruments, including their components and accessories		20%	
Electrical appliances, including air conditioners, washing machines, vacuum cleaners		20%	
Billiard tables, snooker tables, bowling equipment, football playing tables		30%	
All kinds of game players		35%	

Type of services	Rates for 2016-2017	Rates for 2018-2019	Rates for 2020 and after
Entertainment: Nightclubs, discotheques, karaoke	10%	20%	35%
Bowling services		10%	
Beauty services		10%	
Use of services for mobile phones, digital television, cable television, internet		10%	
Golfing services		10%	
Lottery services		25%	
Casino services, poker machines		35%	

Customs duty

Description	Rate
Import duty: From ASEAN countries From other countries	0 to 5% harmonized rates Variable
Export duty: Standard rate Specific rates for specific products	0% 5% to 40%

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Tax registration

Currently, there are two tax registration systems in Laos. Enterprises having annual revenue of LAK400 million or more must be registered under the value added tax (“VAT”) system. Enterprises with annual revenue of less than LAK400 million may voluntarily be registered under the VAT system or be subject to the lump-sum tax payment regime.

The determination of which tax system a new enterprise will be registered under is based on a number of factors, such as its business plan, the nature and expected size of the business activities, and its registered capital.

Tax audits

General tax audit process

The Tax Authority can pursue, within three accounting years, the following types of tax audits:

- i. **Regular audits:** conducted according to official targets and plans.
- ii. **Audits with advance notice:** unplanned but done at the taxpayer's premises when necessary.
- iii. **Urgent audits:** conducted out of official plan at the taxpayer's premises and in emergency.

Taxpayer's accounting documents are audited yearly by the Tax Authority and the tax computations are checked accordingly.

Each audit is summarized in an audit memorandum, which is signed by both the tax auditors and the taxpayer's accountant or representative.

If the taxpayer disagrees with the audit conclusion, an appeal can be filed within 30 days to the immediate next higher level of the Tax Authority.

If the taxpayer is not satisfied with the Tax Authority's final decision, an appeal can be filed with a court for judicial decision.

VAT audit process

Lao taxpayers may be subject to VAT tax audits at the discretion of the Tax Authority. They may be conducted for up to three years after the initial filing of VAT.

There are three kinds of tax audits:

- i. **Desk audit:** This is conducted at the Tax Authority's office.
- ii. **Field audit:** This is conducted at the taxpayer's office.
- iii. **Inspection at relevant sites:** This is conducted at locations where stock is held within the country.

Audits are intended to be conducted on a regular basis with prior notice and ends with a memorandum signed by both parties.

Taxpayers have 30 days from receipt of an assessment notice to file an appeal with the Tax Authority.

The claim will be considered and settled within 30 working days (extendable for up to 60 days) under a settlement agreement.

If there is still disagreement, the taxpayer is entitled to elevate its claim to the immediate next higher level of the Tax Authority within 20 working days for a final decision.

If the taxpayer remains unsatisfied with the Tax Authority's final decision, it can bring an action in accordance with the Law on the Handling of Petitions.

Profit tax / Corporate income tax

Residency

Lao taxpayers are all individuals, legal entities and organizations, including Lao citizens, aliens, foreigners and stateless persons, who operate businesses or make a living in Laos on a permanent or temporary basis, including persons residing or having a business in Laos but carrying out their business abroad, who are obligated to pay taxes to the State as provided in the laws and regulations.

Rates

A standard 24% rate applies to domestic and foreign companies that have legal entity status. A special 26% rate applies to tobacco companies. Progressive rates of from 0% to 24% apply to freelancer and sole-trader enterprises.

Computation

The annual accounting profit is both, in the balance sheet, the difference between total assets and total liabilities, and in the income statement, the difference between total business income and total business expenditures.

Profit tax is computed by applying the tax rate to the taxable basis, which is the accounting profit increased by any non-deductible expenses and reduced by any legally authorized deductions.

Deductible expenses and other tax adjustments

As a general rule, expenses are deductible if paid or incurred during the tax year, expended for business purposes, for a “reasonable” amount, invoiced and legally documented.

Expense/income	Tax adjustment
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Profit tax • Input VAT relating to fixed asset purchases, which is deducted on a monthly basis against output VAT • Deferred tax expenses and penalties • Fixed asset accounting depreciation • Accounting provisions • Provisions for the impairment of assets • Unrealized foreign exchange losses • Salaries paid by a partnership company to its partners who are not part of the management or the workforce • Loan interest derived from partners and outside the banking system • Interest on loans not used for the business • Entertainment, golfing and other expenses unrelated to the business • Donations stipulated in an MOU with the government 	<p>Non-deductible expense</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Travel for administrative purposes • Reception and communication expenses • Donations • Advertising costs 	<p>Deductible expense up to 0.3% to 0.6% of annual turnover</p>
Fixed asset tax depreciation	Deductible expense
Dividends received and already taxed	Non-taxable income
Provisions recovered and already taxed	Non-taxable income

Expense/income	Tax adjustment
Bad debts (previously taxed) with supporting evidence	Non-taxable income
Income from deferred tax	Non-taxable income
Unrealized foreign exchange gains	Non-taxable income

Depreciation

Lao law recognizes three depreciation methods: straight-line, double-declining and unit of production.

However, the Amended Tax Law 2015 only specifies the straight-line method according to the following rates:

Asset	Tax depreciation rate
Intangible fixed assets	
• Company establishment costs	50%
• Mining exploration and research costs	20%
• Software	50%
Tangible fixed assets	
• Industrial buildings with a useful life of 20 years or less	5%
• Industrial buildings with a useful life of more than 20 years	2%
• Permanent commercial and residential buildings	5%
• Semi-permanent commercial and residential buildings	10%
• Machinery, vehicles, equipment	20%
• Material and office supplies	20%
• Ships and boats	10%
• Passenger and cargo planes	Flight hours

Tax-loss utilization

Business operators are entitled to carry forward their tax losses for three consecutive tax years. The tax losses must have been certified by both the Tax Authority and an independent audit firm.

Filing and payments

The tax year-end is normally 31 December. Companies must file their financial report with other supporting documents by 1 March of the following year.

Profit tax is payable in advance on a quarterly basis, and the amount is based on either the previous year's tax payment, the current quarter's profit or the estimated profit tax according to the company's business plan. Each payment must be made by the 10th of the month following each quarter period-end.

The actual tax amount is computed in the annual tax return based on a company's final results. Any additional amount due must be paid upon submission of the annual return and financial report. If a company has made excess payments, the company will have a tax credit, which is then carried forward to the following year.

Profit tax of non-residents

Lao companies must withhold profit tax from payments made to their foreign providers for services performed in Laos and remit the amount to the Tax Authority within 10 days. The profit tax to be withheld is done using the deemed rate mechanism (details of rates at the beginning of this booklet).

Lump-sum Tax

Business operators that are not registered under VAT have to pay a lump-sum tax on their annual turnover. The applicable tax rate will vary depending on the industry and level of turnover.

Annual turnover (LAK)	Lump-Sum tax rates		
	Manufacturing	Trading	Services
Less than 12,000,000	Exempt		
12,000,001 – 50,000,000	Fixed amount – but not to exceed LAK600,000 per annum		
50,000,001 – 120,000,000	3%	4%	5%
120,000,001 – 240,000,000	4%	5%	6%
240,000,001 – 400,000,000	5%	6%	7%

The lump-sum tax is payable on a monthly, quarterly, semi-annual or annual basis, as agreed with the Tax Authority.

Income Tax

Overview

Income tax applies to any income generated in Laos regardless of the beneficiary's nationality or tax residency, except where a double taxation agreement ("DTA") applies.

Scope

Main types of income	Tax treatment
Employment income	
Salaries, wages, overtime, bonuses, allowances of executives directors and boards of directors, cash or in-kind benefits	Taxable
Salaries of LAK1,000,000 or less	Exempt
Salaries of foreign diplomats, and staff and experts of international organizations	Exempt
Financial income	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dividends	Taxable
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sales of shares	Taxable
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Loan interest, commissions, guarantee fees	Taxable
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Profit derived from shares sales on Stock Exchange	Exempt
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dividends distributed to partners or shareholders of a company registered on the Stock Exchange	Exempt
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Income from bonds issued by listed companies	Exempt
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Interest on deposits and Government bonds	Exempt
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Premiums for life and property insurance	Exempt

Main types of income	Tax treatment
Income from real estate and intellectual property rights	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Real estate rental income, revenue from movable assets, royalties and other income derived from intellectual property 	Taxable
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sales price of real estate rights transfer 	Taxable
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rent from the assets of a business operator 	Exempt
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Income from the transfer of real estate rights recorded in the balance sheet of a business operator 	Exempt
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inheritance from a vertical line relative 	Exempt

Rates

Employment income is taxed at the following progressive rates:

Level	Taxable Salary at Each Level (LAK)	Basis of Calculation (LAK)	Tax Rate	Income Tax at Each Level (LAK)	Cumulative Income Tax (LAK)
1	1,000,000 and below	1,000,000	0%	0	0
2	1,000,001 – 3,000,000	2,000,000	5 %	100,000	100,000
3	3,000,001 – 6,000,000	3,000,000	10%	300,000	400,000
4	6,000,001 – 12,000,000	6,000,000	12%	720,000	1,120,000

Level	Taxable Salary at Each Level (LAK)	Basis of Calculation (LAK)	Tax Rate	Income Tax at Each Level (LAK)	Cumulative Income Tax (LAK)
5	12,000,001 – 24,000,000	12,000,000	15%	1,800,000	2,920,000
6	24,000,001 – 40,000,000	16,000,000	20%	3,200,000	6,120,000
7	Above 40,000,000		24%		

Other types of income are subject to flat rates as follows:

Type of income	Rates
Dividends, interest, commissions	10%
Sales of shares	2% or 10%
Rental of real estate, vehicles, machinery, goods	10%
Royalties from intellectual property	5%
Transfer of land, building use rights	2% or 10%

Computation, filing and payment

Income tax from salaries must be calculated and withheld from salary payments by employers on a monthly basis. The tax must be remitted to the Tax Authority before the 15th of the following month.

For real estate rentals or transactions, the tax is calculated based on the lease agreement and areas standard prices defined in specific regulations. The beneficiary must declare the tax due to the Tax Authority within 10 days from the date of receiving the rental payment.

Income tax other than from the types of income mentioned above must be calculated and paid within 10 days from the date payment is made. Depending on the case, either the payer or the beneficiary will be responsible for paying the tax.

Value Added Tax

Overview

VAT is an indirect tax that is collected on the consumption of goods and services within Laos. Individuals, legal entities and organizations that are operating businesses in Laos are responsible for collecting VAT from the consumers of their goods and services. They are entitled to deduct the input VAT they paid on purchases of goods and services directly used in their business.

Scope of application

Taxable supplies of goods and services cover the importation of goods, and supplies within Laos, including the services of non-residents, legal entities and organizations unincorporated in Laos. Disbursements to non-residents and organizations unincorporated in Laos must be by the applicable VAT and paid by the Lao client.

Non-taxable goods and services

The Lao VAT Law includes most common exemptions (importation of stamps, aircraft, goods for the official work of embassies and international organizations, medical services and equipment). Specific exemptions mostly relate to key public priorities:

- **Agriculture:** Importation or sale of non-processed products and animals, seeds, fertilizers, equipment
- **Education:** Importation and sale of textbooks, teaching manuals and materials, modern learning materials, educational services
- **Finance:** Insurance business of health, life, animals and forests, deposit interest, and loan interest from transactions of authorized commercial banks or financial institutions

If a business only makes exempted supplies, it will not be able to claim any input VAT. If a business makes a mix of non-taxable and taxable supplies, input VAT will be deductible only up to the proportion that is liable for VAT.

Registration

Compulsory VAT registration applies to businesses whose annual turnover equals or exceeds LAK400 million (US\$47,000).

Rates of tax

Taxable supplies made in or imported into Laos are subject to VAT at one of two rates:

TYPE OF SUPPLY	RATE
Import of goods	10%
Local production of goods and supply of services	
Export of unprocessed natural resources	
Export of goods	0%
Export of processed natural resources (Specific regulation) Imported of raw materials, chemical substances, equipment, production machinery and devices that cannot be domestically or sufficiently made for use in production and investment in fixed assets	

Zero-rated supplies are not the same as non-taxable supplies, as it is possible for entities providing zero-rated supplies to claim input VAT credit.

Basics of taxation

For the supply of goods and services, VAT is payable monthly, and returns must be filed before the 15th of the following month. For imports, the VAT return must be submitted at the same time as the customs return and the VAT due is paid at the time of customs clearance.

An invoice report schedule must also be submitted for every quarter not later than the 15th of the month following the quarter-end.

VAT refunds are limited to export businesses, businesses that merge, split, dissolve or go bankrupt, tourists, embassies, international organizations, and any other individual or entity who did a VAT overpayment.

A VAT refund request can be made each month, but cannot be made later than six months from the date the refundable VAT occurred.

If a refund is not requested, the VAT credit can be carried forward to the following tax period.

Excise Tax

Scope

Excise tax is another indirect tax, but with a more restricted scope than VAT and a number of different rates. Supplies or imports of specific goods, as well as supplies of specific services, are subject to excise tax unless expressly exempted.

Rates

Please refer to the excise tax quick reference table at the beginning of this booklet.

Basics of taxation

Excise tax is an ad-valorem tax, i.e. it applies to either the CIF value increased by the customs duty in the case of imports, or the commercial value of the taxable supply.

Excise tax must be declared and paid at the time of import in conjunction with the customs duty, or monthly before the 15th of the month following the supply.

Excise tax on cars applies to the sales price of the car regardless of whether it is imported or produced in Laos. It has to be paid by the customer directly to the Tax Authority.

Customs Duty

Import duty

There are a number of goods on which import duty applies, with some exceptions, including goods temporarily imported into Laos, personal belongings, goods transported because of relocation, and essential items used for education, health, scientific study and religious purposes.

Exemptions or reduced duty might be available for exports and imports done under the Investment Promotion or the Special/Specific Economic Zones policies.

Customs duty is levied on goods entering Laos at variable rates.

Laos is part of ASEAN and therefore party to the ASEAN Free Trade Agreement and Common Effective Preferential Tariff scheme. Accordingly, Lao customs duty rates have been reduced so that many goods coming from another ASEAN country have a maximum 5% import duty imposed.

Export duty

There is no export duty other than on a limited list of restricted products at rates of 5% to 40%.

ASEAN and Double Taxation Agreements

The aim of the ASEAN Economic Community (“AEC”) is to provide regional economic integration by creating a single market across ASEAN countries, similar to the European Union. The purpose of this is to stimulate economic growth in all participating countries by allowing a free flow of human resources, goods, services and investment between countries.

From a tax perspective, the AEC is working towards establishing DTAs among ASEAN countries and removing withholding taxes that may locally apply on interest, royalty, dividend and service fee payments.

Laos currently implements DTAs signed with Brunei, China, South Korea, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam.

Laos also has DTAs that have been negotiated, but are not yet in force or enforced at the time of writing, with Indonesia, Kuwait and Russia.

Transfer pricing

There are currently no formal transfer pricing regulations in Laos.

The current practice of some tax auditors is to use point 12 of Article 34 of the Amended Tax Law 2015 to reject any expense that is “higher than reality”.

Intragroup loans are also restricted under the regulation with point 8 of the same article, which forbids the tax deduction of interest paid to partners.

The “arm’s length” principle is the standard universally adopted in international tax law: it should be followed by Lao taxpayers for all expense transactions, whether with third or related parties.

Invoicing is required for any transaction (point 12 of Article 34 of the Amended Tax Law 2015), and contractual documents, such as bills, must be kept for 10 years.

If the taxpayer is part of a group that has a transfer pricing group policy, this documentation should also be maintained, even if not required by law, to explain and provide supporting evidence for the pricing used in transactions between the Lao entity and its related parties.

Investment Projects Incentives

The promoted sectors under Lao investment regulations are agriculture, industry, handicraft and services, categorized into three different levels and three different prioritized zones.

The customs duty and tax incentives provided in the investment regulations are as follows:

- Profit tax exemption for a certain number of years depending on the zone and level of the investment (see table below), starting from the first commercial operational date.
- Profit tax exemption in the accounting year following the reinvestment of the net profit into the business for expansion.
- Exemption from import duty on the importation of raw materials, equipment, spare parts and vehicles.
- Exemption from export duty on the exportation of general goods and products.
- Tax losses can be carried forward for three consecutive accounting years.

ZONE	LEVEL	PROFIT TAX EXEMPTION PERIOD
1	1	10 years
	2	6 years
	3	4 years
2	1	8 years
	2	4 years
	3	2 years
3	1	4 years
	2	2 years
	3	1 years

Administration

Tax payment plan

Lao taxpayers are required by law to prepare a tax payment plan each year for each type of tax they are liable for and submit it to the Tax Authority.

Accounting and invoicing

Accounting systems must comply with the local GAAP (Lao accounting standards) and supporting documents must be kept available for 10 years. IFRS will become applicable by law in Laos starting 1 January 2017.

For every service or supply, taxpayers must issue invoices that meet the Lao requirements and conform to the specific and general formats issued by the Ministry of Finance.

Complaints and refunds

Taxpayers who want to amend their tax return and correct their tax payment must file a request within 30 days from the date of the said tax payment.

The Tax Authority has to answer the complaint within 30 days of receipt of the request: it shall, if possible, refund the taxpayer and, if not, allow the offset of such amount on the following period's tax liability.

If the taxpayer does not receive a response, or the request is rejected by the Tax Authority, the taxpayer has the right to appeal to the immediate next higher level or to initiate court proceedings.

Tax due dates

TYPE OF TAX	DUE DATE
Profit tax: Submission of the financial report Submission of the profit tax return Payment of the 1 st installment Payment of the 2 nd installment Payment of the 3 rd installment Payment of the 4 th installment Filing and payment of withholding tax on non-resident service fees	1 March (of the next year) 30 March (of the next year) 10 April 10 July 10 October 10 January (of the next year) Within 10 days of service fee payment
Income tax (return filing and tax payment): Employee salaries - monthly Rentals, Dividends, interests, royalties	15 th of the next month Payment within 10 days from the date of payment
Value added tax: Filing of return and payment of tax Invoice report schedule	15 th of the next month 15 th of the next month
Excise tax: Imports Sale of local production	At customs clearance 15 th of the next month
Customs duty: Imports Exports	At customs clearance At customs clearance

Penalties

The following penalties apply depending on the tax and the violation.

VIOLATION	PENALTY RATE OR AMOUNT
<p>Delay in submitting return and tax payment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (General) Late filing and payment (VAT) Late filing and payment (VAT) Late submission of a nil return <p>Incomplete declaration and tax payment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (General) Underreporting or payment (General) Failure to invoice or false invoices issued Inaccuracy of VAT return Incomplete VAT payment Incorrect input VAT deduction <p>Failure to register, report and pay:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (General) Bookkeeping failure (General) Failure to declare revenue Failure to submit VAT return Failure to pay VAT (General) Failure to answer to the Tax Authority 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 0.1% of tax due per day 0.1% of tax due per day LAK500,000 20% to 60% 20% to 60% 50% 50% 50% 30% to 100% 30% to 100% LAK1,500,000 30% to 100% 30% to 100%



Jean Loi

Jean is one of the region's most experienced tax and regulatory specialists with more than 12 years of experience in Indochina, Myanmar and Singapore. She has advised on a large number of project transactions and tax disputes in the specialty areas of structuring, power plant projects and oil and gas. As the managing partner of VDB Loi, Jean has extensive experience with the projects related to the market entries of companies in the infrastructure, telecommunications and financial services industries in the region, as well as with supply chains. In Laos, she works with clients from a variety of Industry sectors, conducting due diligence and advising on investments and M&A projects.

She has been recognized for her outstanding practice with a number of awards. Jean is accredited for Income Tax and GST Advisory by the Singapore Institute of Accredited Tax Professionals (SIATP) and is a member of the Chartered Accountants of Australia and New Zealand.



Edwin
Vanderbruggen

Edwin was formerly with Loyens & Loeff and a partner at DFDL. He has 21 years of experience as a legal advisor, academic, author and government consultant. He has worked in Southeast Asia for 16 years.

Edwin has structured some of the largest acquisitions and investments in the region, and is a renowned tax specialist. In Laos, Edwin has assisted clients with tax disputes and advising on the legal and tax implications of their operations. He has worked on transactions and compliance issues in Laos since 2008. He advised on the purchase of one of the largest telecom operators in the country, on the acquisition of an oil and gas interest by an exploration company based in the UK, and has advised development financial institution on financing transactions with Lao borrowers and sovereigns.

LEGAL AND REGULATORY TEAM



**Daodeuane
Duangdara**

Daodeuane is regarded as one of Laos' most experienced and knowledgeable advisors. She has over 14 years of experience, including leading the tax team at PwC in Laos, and prior to that, working at a top regional law firm.

Daodeuane advises multinational and local firms in Laos across a wide range of sectors including mining, hydropower, gas exploration, and banking, and has formed excellent working relationships with the government authorities.



**Sornpheth
Douangdy**

Previously an associate director managing PwC Lao's legal practice, Sornpheth is an attorney-at-law with an impressive legal background, having been a district court judge, a legal researcher, and a law lecturer in Laos. He was part of the working group that prepared the civil law textbook, and amended the contract, tort and economic arbitration organization laws, and is an expert in anti-corruption. At VDB Loi, Sornpheth provides legal advisory to clients from a broad range of industry sectors on their Lao law matters.



Lucas Vosh

Lucas is an Australian qualified lawyer with over 12 years of experience. His practice areas include real estate and construction, corporate, commercial and banking and finance. He has considerable experience acting for international and local clients across the property development, agriculture, manufacturing, and mining sectors.



**Meckhala
Vilivong**

Meckhala, a member of the Lao Bar Association, is an experienced legal advisor, and worked for five years with PwC Laos in the legal and tax services division. She has assisted a wide range of local and international clients with their corporate and legal issues, on matters such as investments, labor issues, market entry, company setup and legal due diligence.



**Pout Aloun
Vongpranakhone**

Pout studied in Moscow and received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Law from the People's Friendship University of Russia. Prior to joining VDB Loi, he was an intern at the People's Supreme Court in Vientiane. Pout supports clients from a variety of industries with their market entry, corporate registration, licensing, and labor and immigration issues. He speaks Laotian, Russian and English.



**Anonglack
Phongsavanh**

Anonglack, an experienced legal advisor, worked as a senior consultant for PwC Laos in its legal and tax services division before joining VDB Loi. He assists a wide range of local and international clients with their corporate and legal issues, including on investment, labor, immigration, company establishment and legal due diligence.

TAX AND COMPLIANCE TEAM



**Anthony
Assassa**

Anthony is a French expert in taxation with varied international experience. He spent several years in tax consulting with Big Four firms Ernst & Young and PwC in emerging markets. A consultant for the Cameroon and Comoros tax and customs authorities, he understands customs duty and cross-border taxation from both the government's and the client's perspectives. Anthony advises clients across a range of industries, and has particular expertise with regard to the energy sector, advising and clients' power and resources projects.



**Inthakesy
Sithimolada**

Inthakesy (known as Lada) comes to VDB Loi from the commercial sector where she most recently held executive assistant positions in the hospitality industry. Educated in the fields of accounting and hospitality management in the USA and Australia, she also has financial experience through her work within the international NGO sector.



Jenny Ng

Jenny, an ACCA-certified accountant, brings over 10 years of finance experience to VDB Loi. She worked for several years with Ernst & Young as an auditor, assisting clients across a broad range of industry sectors. She has since held management positions for several large conglomerates in the garment sector, as well as having run her own business. At VDB Loi, she assists clients with their accounting and tax compliance matters.



**Phompasit
Sadettan**

Phompasit is a tax advisor for our office in Laos. Before joining VDB Loi, he worked as a tax and legal consultant for PwC Laos. At VDB Loi, Phompasit assists clients from a range of industry sectors with their tax compliance needs.

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VDB Loi is a network of leading law and advisory member firms and affiliated companies that comprises 11 partners and over 100 lawyers and advisors, with offices in Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Myanmar and Vietnam, and representatives in Japan and Singapore. We provide the highest quality solutions for transactions and taxation. With our fast-growing team of foreign and local professional advisors, we are a leading firm in Laos.

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