

France

This guide is for e-commerce companies that sell online via web-stores or at marketplaces.

French VAT (TVA).

VAT Standard rate

20 %

VAT Reduced rate

10 %

Certain products and services are eligible for the special reduced rate, including food, pharmaceutical products, hotel accommodation, pay/cable TV.

5.5%

Certain products and services are eligible for the special reduced rate, including books, non-alcoholic beverages, admission to sports events

2.1%

Certain products and services are eligible for the special reduced rate, including newspapers and periodicals, television licence fees, admission to cultural events.

Thresholds

€ 35,000 – distance sales threshold

When a company's distant sales hit the threshold, the company must register for the VAT. A merchant may apply to be registered for VAT in France before they reach the threshold.

€ 0

- If a seller uses a local warehouse (for example Amazon FBA)
- If a seller sells excise goods, such as tobacco or alcohol

Deductible VAT

If goods or services were used to make taxable supplies in France, VAT in input invoices might be credited.

Examples include:

- VAT paid at custom clearance with your EORI number
- VAT paid to French suppliers

Registration procedure

When a company has the obligation to register, the owners will be required to complete and submit a VAT registration form, along with supporting documentation:

- Certificate of incorporation (along with the translation into French)
- Trade register extract (along with the translation into French)
- Articles of Associations (along with the translation into French of main provisions)
- If the company is appointing a local tax agent or Fiscal Representative, then a Letter of Authority or Power of Attorney

Tax representative

Taxable companies established outside the European Union are obliged to appoint fiscal representative in order to handle all formalities related to VAT registration and filling except for the following countries:

- Australia
- Azerbaijan
- Georgia
- India
- Iceland
- Mexico
- Moldova
- Norway
- South Korea
- St. Bartholomew
- South Africa
- Aruba
- Curacao
- Ghana
- Greenland
- Faroe Islands
- Mauritius
- Japan
- New Zealand
- French Polynesia
- Saint Martin
- Sint Marteen
- Tunisia
- Ukraine

Keeping records

Records must be kept by the taxable person or by the keeper of its accounts.

Using of the electronic invoices was imposed in a phased manner from 2017. However mandatory e-invoicing is expected to be applied in 2023.

Although the legal obligation stipulates preserving invoices for 6 years, it is common practice for issuer and recipient to keep the original documents for at least 10 years due to the different interpretations that may be drawn from the specifications set forth in the different French codes.

VAT payment date

Periodical VAT payments are due on a monthly or a quarterly basis. The VAT due must be paid before the 19th day of the month following the period.

Filing VAT returns

A taxpayer must transmit VAT returns to the Service des impôts des entreprises étrangères (SIEE) by electronic means. Lovat platform supports digital submission.

The tax period is one month or one quarter. VAT returns must be filed by electronic means before the 19th of the month following the period.

Filing of annual VAT return is not applicable.

Companies can also keep track of deadlines at the Lovat portal.