



taxautomation

# VAT Controller

## Essential VAT Compliance

The combination of SAO compliance and compulsory on-line filing has turned the spotlight on to VAT systems and processes. While the collation of the "numbers" for VAT returns may have been given an SAO "tick", what about your internal controls and storage of standing data?

Our experience suggests that organisations may struggle to access immediately complete details of:

- Group members and their VAT registrations;
- Configurable analyses of VAT Return boxes;
- Detailed breakdown of consolidated Group Returns;
- History of VAT returns filed;
- Amendments to filed returns; and
- HMRC Government Gateway login details.

However, managing your VAT compliance process can become simple and straightforward by using Tax Automation's VAT Controller software.

How? By bringing together online filing, document storage, SAO compliant sign-off procedures and a comprehensive audit trail into one robust platform, VAT Controller significantly improves transparency and risk management in your VAT compliance.

VAT Controller addresses the full life-cycle of VAT Returns from consolidating business unit data, completing the forms, authorizing the return and submission to tracking and auditing.

VAT Controller also provides a central repository for standing data and VAT Group information.

Further, being web based, VAT Controller is ideal for ensuring effective central management of shared service centres or any decentralised organisation, with all users accessing the same secure database.

## HMRC Filing update – Dec 2017

### Bypass 2-Step verification

HMRC have advised that registering for 2 step verification for filing VAT returns will become mandatory from January 2018.

VAT Controller enables VAT Returns to be filed without the hassle of 2 step verification – Gateway passwords are encrypted in the VAT Controller database so once a VAT Return has been signed off by 2 staff the return can be submitted to HMRC with no need to look up the password, or remember which mobile has been used for the 2-Step verification registration.

**MTD for VAT** – from **April 2019** HMRC will switch off the on-line portal for VAT filing – VAT Controller will fully support the new filing platform.

*"VAT Controller has given us the control and governance that we needed. It provides us with due diligence and an audit trail. Authorised senior people can sign off on the numbers with confidence – they can log into VAT Controller and all the information is there."*

**Rachael Hurst, Indirect Tax Manager, BAE Systems plc**

*"We wanted to implement a solution that would enable us to have more control around our VAT Returns and payments processes and a clear audit trail, and VAT Controller has helped us achieve this. Another key benefit is that it puts all the data into one central location."*

*"I wouldn't hesitate in recommending the product."*

**Sandy Frew, Director of Tax, ITV plc**

# VAT Controller – key benefits

- **Increase SAO compliance** with clearly defined processes, consistent checklists and a full audit trail documenting every step in the VAT Return cycle;
- **Bypass HMRC's 2-step verification** by using VAT Controller's XML filing protocol – verified by HMRC;
- **Reduce the time** spent preparing, reviewing and submitting VAT and ECSL returns by adopting a standard process. Configuration allows VAT Return boxes to be analysed across consistent categories for all business units;
- **Improve management control** with a facility to monitor VAT Return preparation and submission progress across the entire group;
- **Provide comfort** to finance, HMRC and your auditors that your VAT process is actively managed and controlled;
- **Automatic consolidation** of business unit data for the VAT Return to reduce the reliance on error prone spreadsheets;
- **Reduce the time** to collate answers to audit questions by having immediate access to all relevant VAT documentation and facts;
- **Protect yourself** from business continuity issues such as staff and business changes by having a defined and documented process;
- **Ensure data portability** by easy export to Excel when you need it;
- **Track returns** regardless of the location of the business units; and
- Become a “**best practice**” VAT team.

*“We knew that we needed a centralised platform and a better way of managing the preparation, consolidation and review of the Group's VAT Return. We wanted to avoid manually typing in the numbers and our goal was to have these automatically uploaded straight into the HMRC Gateway.”*

*Innes Burns, Tax Manager, Balfour Beatty*

**VAT Controller is available as a secure hosted service.**

**For more information or a demonstration of the software, please contact us.**