



This note sets out the changes this year to the way in which you file your VAT returns.

Who will need to file their VAT returns online?

Businesses with annual turnover of more than £100,000 will have to file their VAT return online for VAT accounting periods that start on or after **1 April 2010**.

Businesses which register for VAT on or after **1 April 2010** will have to file online, regardless of turnover.

Even if you do not need to file online, there are advantages of online filing including extra time to file and pay so you may wish to consider online filing anyway.

Payment of VAT

All businesses, regardless of how they file their returns, must normally ensure that payment is made to HMRC by the normal calendar month date.

For those that file online, such a payment must be done electronically but if payment is made by one of the approved electronic methods, an extension of a further seven calendar days is available.

What action do businesses need to take to be ready for this change?

In order to be ready for this change it is important that you register with either the Government Gateway or HMRC Online Services, both of which can be accessed from www.hmrc.gov.uk.

If you have already registered for another HMRC online service then you should be able to add VAT to the list of services which are available to you.

The registration process

In order to register for VAT online services with HMRC you will need the following information:

- your business VAT registration number
- the principal place of business postcode
- the effective date of VAT registration (from your VAT registration certificate)
- the final month of the last VAT return period end
- the 'Box 5' figure from your last VAT return.

If you would like help with this registration process, please let us know.

Advice that stands the test of time

This is intended to provide a guide to current tax issues.
It is not a substitute for technical advice. If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact us.

VAT Changes
Compulsory Online Filing & Electronic Payment

