

# NEWSLETTER

May 2026



## CONTENT

### I. ACCOUNTING - TAX

1. Official Letter No. 2959/CT-CS dated 11 May 2026 on corporate income tax applicable to cash sponsorships for a clean water project.
2. Official Letter No. 3147/CT-CS dated 19 May 2026 on corporate income tax in relation to court documents.
3. Official Letter No. 3337/CT-CS dated 25 May 2026 on invoicing for shopping cards.
4. Official Letter No. 3418/CT-CS dated 27 May 2026 on value added tax applicable to agricultural products.
5. Official Letter No. 3473/CT-CS dated 28 May 2026 regarding the land rent policy.
6. Official Letter No. 3475/CT-CS dated 28 May 2026 on value added tax applicable to package outbound tours.
7. Official Letter No. 3477/CT-CS dated 28 May 2026 on value added tax applicable to agricultural products.
8. Official Letter No. 3514/CT-CS dated 29 May 2026 on invoicing for end of period trade discounts.
9. Official Letter No. 3546/CT-CS dated 29 May 2026 on value added tax applicable to normally preliminarily processed plantation timber.

### II. INVESTMENT - ENTERPRISES

1. Decision No. 1103/QD-BTC dated 11 May 2026 on amendments to administrative procedures in the insurance business sector.
2. Resolution No. 66.18/2026/NQ-CP dated 18 May 2026 on decentralization, reduction and simplification of administrative procedures and business conditions.
3. Circular No. 56/2026/TT-BTC dated 15 May 2026 amending regulations on fees and charges in telecommunications activities.
4. Decision No. 23/2026/QD-TTg dated 15 May 2026 promulgating the list of high technologies prioritized for investment and products encouraged for development.
5. Resolution No. 66.17/2026/NQ-CP dated 15 May 2026 on reducing and amending conditional investment and business sectors and trades.
6. Circular No. 55/2026/TT-BTC dated 15 May 2026 promulgating document and report templates on investment activities and investment promotion.

### III. LABOR - INSURANCE

1. Decision No. 526/QD-BNV dated 13 May 2026 on amendments and supplements to administrative procedures relating to foreign workers.
2. Circular No. 09/2026/TT-BNV dated 15 May 2026 amending and supplementing regulations on labor supply contracts and brokerage fees for workers working overseas.
3. Circular No. 08/2026/TT-BNV dated 15 May 2026 providing detailed regulations on the management and execution of electronic labor contracts.
4. Decision No. 1222/QD-BTC dated 21 May 2026 on amendments and supplements to administrative procedures at Vietnam Social Security.
5. Decree No. 162/2026/ND-CP dated 15 May 2026 on an 8% increase in pensions and social insurance allowances for nine groups of beneficiaries.
6. Circular No. 14/2026/TT-BNV dated 29 May 2026 on adjusting the calculation of pensions, social insurance allowances and monthly allowances.

## DETAIL CONTENT

### I - ACCOUNTING AND TAX UPDATES

#### **Official Letter No. 2959/CT-CS**

- **Issuing authority:** Tax Department
- **Issuance date:** 11/05/2026
- **Content:** Corporate income tax applicable to cash sponsorships for a clean water project.

The Tax Department issued Official Letter No. 2959/CT-CS dated 11 May 2026 to Ho Chi Minh City Tax regarding the Corporate Income Tax policy for cash sponsorships to implement an investment project to build a clean water system.

According to the Tax Department, Corporate Income Tax law allows enterprises to include certain sponsorship expenses as deductible expenses, such as sponsorships for education, healthcare, culture, natural disaster and epidemic prevention and remediation, great solidarity houses, gratitude houses, scientific research, technology development and innovation, and digital transformation; or sponsorships prescribed by the Government or the Prime Minister for localities in areas with especially difficult socio-economic conditions.

In addition, certain expenses supporting the construction of public works may also be treated as deductible expenses if such works also serve the enterprise's production and business activities and fully satisfy the requirements on invoices, supporting documents and non-cash payment under the regulations.

#### **Official Letter No. 3147/CT-CS**

- **Issuing authority:** Tax Department
- **Issuance date:** 19/05/2026
- **Content:** Court receipts and payment slips may not be used as a basis for recording deductible expenses

The Tax Department issued Official Letter No. 3147/CT-CS dated 19 May 2026 to Hue City Tax regarding Corporate Income Tax policy in connection with issues arising from the disposal of collateral at the request of the civil judgment enforcement authority.

According to the Tax Department, for an expense to be deductible when determining taxable income for Corporate Income Tax purposes, the enterprise must satisfy the prescribed conditions: the expense must actually arise and relate to production and business activities; it must be supported by lawful invoices and

documents; and there must be non-cash payment documents for expenses reaching the threshold requiring non-cash payment under the regulations.

For the disposal of collateral at the request of a civil judgment enforcement authority, the Tax Department stated that enforcement decisions, receipts and payment slips issued by the Court are not documents under the regulations on invoices and documents, and therefore are not a basis for an enterprise to record deductible expenses for Corporate Income Tax purposes.

**Official Letter No. 3337/CT-CS**

- **Issuing authority:** Tax Department
- **Issuance date:** 25/05/2026
- **Content:** Issuing invoices for the sale of shopping cards

4

The Tax Department issued Official Letter No. 3337/CT-CS dated 25 May 2026 to Thai Nguyen Province Tax regarding Value Added Tax policy.

According to the Tax Department, where a business establishment sells goods or services on an installment or deferred payment basis and charges installment or deferred payment interest, the taxable price for VAT purposes shall be determined in accordance with the 2024 Law on Value Added Tax and Decree No. 181/2025/ND-CP.

Where a business establishment sells shopping cards to customers, and the customers then use the cards as a payment instrument to purchase goods or use services at a partner company, the time of invoice issuance is the time when the customers use the shopping cards to purchase goods or services.

**Official Letter No. 3418/CT-CS**

- **Issuing authority:** Tax Department
- **Issuance date:** 27/05/2026
- **Content:** Value Added Tax on agricultural products

The Tax Department issued Official Letter No. 3418/CT-CS dated 27 May 2026 to Dong Nai Province Tax regarding Value Added Tax policy applicable to products arising from the cashew oil pressing process.

According to the Tax Department, based on the Law on Value Added Tax and its guiding decrees, from 1 January 2026, where an enterprise or cooperative paying VAT under the credit method purchases cashew nut shells for pressing to produce cashew oil and obtains by-products being cashew shell residue, also known as

cashew oil residue, the sale of such products to another enterprise or cooperative is not subject to VAT declaration or payment by the seller.

**Official Letter No. 3473/CT-CS**

- **Issuing authority:** Tax Department
- **Issuance date:** 28/05/2026
- **Content:** Land rent policy

5

The Tax Department issued Official Letter No. 3473/CT-CS dated 28 May 2026 to Can Tho City Tax regarding land rent policy, based on the request letter of this unit.

In the letter, the Tax Department cited relevant legal provisions, including the 2024 Land Law, Government decrees on collection of land rent and land use levy, and mechanisms for resolving difficulties in the implementation of the Land Law.

The Tax Department clarified that land laws over different periods have provided specific rules on offsetting compensation and site clearance costs against payable land rent. However, there is currently no provision allowing compensation and site clearance costs to be offset against amounts payable to the state budget, such as additional land rent, supplementary amounts calculated on the increased amount, or land rent payable under subsequent land lease decisions if such amounts have been included in the investment capital costs of the project.

**Official Letter No. 3475/CT-CS**

- **Issuing authority:** Tax Department
- **Issuance date:** 28/05/2026
- **Content:** Value Added Tax applicable to package outbound tours

The Tax Department issued Official Letter No. 3475/CT-CS dated 28 May 2026 to Khanh Hoa Province Tax regarding Value Added Tax policy applicable to international travel service business activities.

According to the Tax Department, where a company engaged in international travel services signs a contract with customers for an outbound package tour that includes air tickets for transporting customers from Vietnam to overseas and from overseas back to Vietnam, overseas tour guide expenses and other expenses incurred overseas, then when issuing VAT invoices to customers, the amounts collected to pay for the above items shall be deducted from the price, i.e. VAT-taxable revenue, if supported by lawful documents.

The Tax Department also stated that input VAT serving package tour activities may be fully declared and credited in accordance with the regulations.

For the application of the 0% VAT rate to international transportation, business establishments must satisfy the conditions applicable in each period. Before 1 July 2025, the provisions of Circular No. 219/2013/TT-BTC apply. From 1 July 2025, the provisions of Decree No. 181/2025/ND-CP apply.

**Official Letter No. 3477/CT-CS**

- **Issuing authority:** Tax Department
- **Issuance date:** 28/05/2026
- **Content:** Value Added Tax on agricultural products

The Tax Department issued Official Letter No. 3477/CT-CS dated 28 May 2026 to Dong Thap Province Tax regarding Value Added Tax policy applicable to rice husk pellets and rice husk briquettes.

According to the Tax Department, based on the 2024 Law on Value Added Tax, the 2025 Law amending and supplementing a number of articles of the Law on Value Added Tax and the guiding decrees, rice husk pellets and rice husk briquettes self-produced and sold by organizations or individuals are not subject to VAT.

From 1 January 2026, where an enterprise or cooperative paying VAT under the credit method sells rice husk pellets or rice husk briquettes to an enterprise or cooperative at the commercial trading stage, such sale is not subject to VAT declaration or payment.

Where rice husk pellets or rice husk briquettes are sold to other purchasers, such as business households, individual businesses, organizations or other individuals, the 5% VAT rate applies.

**Official Letter No. 3514/CT-CS**

- **Issuing authority:** Tax Department
- **Issuance date:** 29/05/2026
- **Content:** Invoicing for end of period trade discounts

The Tax Department issued Official Letter No. 3514/CT-CS dated 29 May 2026 regarding invoices and documents for an end of period trade discount program.

According to the Tax Department, where an enterprise implements an end-of-period trade discount program based on the quantity or revenue of goods sold to customers, the discount amount for the goods sold shall be handled in one of the following ways:

7

The enterprise may adjust the discount amount on the invoice for the last purchase or the following period, provided that the discount amount does not exceed the value of goods stated on the invoice for the last purchase or the following period.

If the enterprise does not apply the above method, it may issue an adjustment invoice together with a list of the invoice numbers to be adjusted, the adjusted amounts and adjusted tax amounts. The list must be retained by the unit and presented upon request by the tax authority or competent state authority. Based on the adjustment invoice, the seller and the buyer shall declare adjustments to purchase and sales revenue, output VAT and input VAT in the period in which the adjustment invoice is issued.

**Official Letter No. 3546/CT-CS**

- **Issuing authority:** Tax Department

- **Issuance date:** 29/05/2026

- **Content:** Value Added Tax on ordinarily processed plantation timber

The Tax Department issued Official Letter No. 3546/CT-CS dated 29 May 2026 on Value Added Tax policy applicable to ordinarily processed timber.

According to the Tax Department, from 1 January 2026, where an enterprise, cooperative or union of cooperatives paying VAT under the credit method purchases and then sells plantation timber that has only undergone ordinary processing to another enterprise, cooperative or union of cooperatives at the commercial trading stage, such sale is not subject to VAT declaration or payment.

This policy also applies where an enterprise, cooperative or union of cooperatives purchases timber and carries out additional processing steps, but the sold product is still determined to be plantation timber that has only undergone ordinary processing.

8

The determination of what constitutes ordinarily processed timber shall comply with Decree No. 181/2025/ND-CP and Circular No. 84/2025/TT-BNNMT.

## II - POLICY UPDATES OF INVESTMENT AND ENTERPRISES

### **Decision No. 1103/QD-BTC**

- **Issuing authority:** Ministry of Finance
- **Issuance date:** 11/05/2026
- **Content:** Insurance business

On 11 May 2026, the Ministry of Finance issued Decision No. 1103/QD-BTC announcing amended and supplemented administrative procedures in the insurance business sector under its management.

The Decision revises and supplements procedures for licensing the establishment and operation of insurance enterprises, reinsurance enterprises, foreign branches in Vietnam, insurance brokerage enterprises, and the establishment of branches, representative offices, and other forms of commercial presence abroad by insurance brokerage enterprises.

Compared with previous regulations, the Decision simplifies dossier requirements and integrates online processing through the National Public Service Portal, thereby optimizing processing time and reducing compliance costs for enterprises.

*Decision No. 1103/QD-BTC takes effect from the date of signing.*

### **Resolution No. 66.18/2026/NQ-CP**

- **Issuing authority:** Government
- **Issuance date:** 18/05/2026
- **Content:** Simplification of administrative procedures

On 18 May 2026, the Government issued Resolution No. 66.18/2026/NQ-CP on delegation of authority, reduction, and simplification of administrative procedures and business conditions.

The Resolution focuses on reducing and amending business lines whose conditions are no longer appropriate, while issuing technical standards for sectors subject to such reductions. Ministries and agencies are required to decentralize administrative authority and shift from a “pre-inspection” mechanism to a “post-inspection” mechanism.

*Resolution No. 66.18/2026/NQ-CP takes effect on 1 July 2026.*

**Circular No. 56/2026/TT-BTC**

- Issuing authority: Ministry of Finance
- Issuance date: 15/05/2026
- Content: Fees and charges in telecommunications activities

On 15 May 2026, the Ministry of Finance issued Circular No. 56/2026/TT-BTC amending and supplementing a number of provisions of Circular No. 52/2025/TT-BTC dated 24 June 2025 of the Minister of Finance, which prescribes the rates, exemptions, collection, remittance, management and use of telecommunications operation right fees, licensing fees for telecommunications service business licenses, and telecommunications operation licenses.

The Circular reduces telecommunications operation fees, particularly for technology start-ups, and expands cases eligible for exemption or reduction of licensing fees to support digital infrastructure development.

*Circular No. 56/2026/TT-BTC takes effect on 1 July 2026.*

**Decision No. 23/2026/QD-TTg**

- Issuing authority: Prime Minister
- Issuance date: 15/05/2026
- Content: List of high technologies prioritized for investment and products encouraged for development

On 15 May 2026, the Prime Minister issued Decision No. 23/2026/QD-TTg promulgating the List of High Technologies Prioritized for Investment and Development and the List of High-Tech Products Encouraged for Development.

The Decision prioritizes the development of technological fields such as artificial intelligence (AI), big data, cloud computing, high-performance computing, the Internet of Things (IoT), blockchain technology, quantum technology, renewable energy technologies, advanced energy storage technologies, and next-generation microbiological technologies.

The Decision also encourages the development of technologies that support green growth, climate change adaptation, agriculture, healthcare and pharmaceuticals, and environmental protection.

*Decision No. 23/2026/QD-TTg takes effect on 1 July 2026.*

**Resolution No. 66.17/2026/NQ-CP**

- Issuing authority: Government

- Issuance date: 15/05/2026

- Content: Reduction and amendment of conditional investment and business sectors and trades

On 15 May 2026, the Government issued Resolution No. 66.17/2026/NQ-CP on the reduction and amendment of conditional business investment sectors and trades.

Specifically, the Resolution abolishes 56 conditional business lines for which investment and business conditions may instead be regulated through standards, technical regulations, or professional standards. At the same time, it shifts the regulatory and supervisory approach from a pre-inspection mechanism to a post-inspection mechanism.

*Resolution No. 66.17/2026/NQ-CP takes effect on 1 July 2026.*

**Circular No. 55/2026/TT-BTC**

- Issuing authority: Ministry of Finance

- Issuance date: 15/05/2026

- Content: Document and report templates on investment activities and investment promotion

On 15 May 2026, the Ministry of Finance issued Circular No. 55/2026/TT-BTC prescribing standard forms and reports relating to investment activities and investment promotion in Vietnam.

Accordingly, the Circular introduces new forms and reporting templates that are aligned with the current investment regulations. State authorities responsible for investment administration, investors carrying out investment activities in Vietnam, and other organizations and individuals involved in investment and investment promotion activities in Vietnam are required to apply the new forms when submitting periodic reports or investment promotion dossiers.

The Circular also emphasizes that any valid dossiers received by the competent authorities prior to the effective date of the Circular but for which results have not yet been issued shall continue to be processed and resolved by the competent authorities in accordance with the applicable procedures.

*Circular No. 55/2026/TT-BTC takes effect from the date of signing.*

### III - POLICY UPDATES OF LABOR AND INSURANCE

#### **Decision No. 526/QD-BNV**

- **Issuing authority: Ministry of Home Affairs**
- **Issuance date: 13/05/2026**
- **Content: Foreign workers**

On 13 May 2026, the Ministry of Home Affairs issued Decision No. 526/QD-BNV announcing amended and supplemented administrative procedures relating to foreign employees working in Vietnam in the field of employment under the state management authority of the Ministry of Home Affairs.

Compared to previous regulations, the Decision abolishes certain additional documentary requirements, particularly those relating to supporting documents for managers, executive directors, experts, and technical workers in certain cases of new work permit applications and renewals.

In addition, for applications for work permit extensions and extensions of confirmations of exemption from work permit requirements, only the personal information page of the passport is required. Where there is no change in passport information, employers are no longer required to resubmit the passport or copies of all passport pages as previously required.

*Decision No. 526/QD-BNV takes effect from the date of signing.*

#### **Circular No. 09/2026/TT-BNV**

- **Issuing authority: Ministry of Home Affairs**
- **Issuance date: 15/05/2026**
- **Content: Labor supply contracts and brokerage fees for workers working overseas**

On 15 May 2026, the Ministry of Home Affairs issued Circular No. 09/2026/TT-BNV amending and supplementing a number of provisions of Circular No. 21/2021/TT-BLDTBXH dated 15 December 2021 of the Minister of Labor, Invalids and Social Affairs, which provides detailed guidance on a number of provisions of the Law on Vietnamese Workers Working Abroad under Contract.

Compared with previous regulations, the Circular abolishes the general regulatory framework applicable to groups of labor markets and instead separates and standardizes labor supply contract forms into eight distinct appendices corresponding to specific labor markets.

In addition, with respect to service charges, the Circular introduces a new brokerage fee ceiling schedule set out in Appendix X, aimed at reducing costs and increasing transparency in fees by occupation, thereby alleviating the financial burden on workers. At the same time, the entire system of reporting forms and contract registration forms has been replaced with new templates to ensure consistency with the online public service system.

*Circular No. 09/2026/TT-BNV takes effect on 30 June 2026.*

**Circular No. 08/2026/TT-BNV**

- Issuing authority: Ministry of Home Affairs

- Issuance date: 15/05/2026

- Content: Management and execution of electronic labor contracts

13

On 15 May 2026, the Ministry of Home Affairs issued Circular No. 08/2026/TT-BNV providing detailed regulations and guidance for the implementation of certain provisions of Government Decree No. 337/2025/ND-CP dated 24 December 2025 on electronic labor contracts.

Accordingly, the Circular requires employers and employees, when entering into and managing labor contracts, to register for and access the Electronic Labor Contract Platform using their VNeID electronic identification accounts. Each contract successfully created on the system will be assigned a unique 12-digit identification code (ID) to facilitate data retrieval, management, and interoperability.

In addition, the Circular imposes stricter technical requirements regarding the responsibility of e-contract service providers to submit online contracts to the National Platform. It also sets out specific obligations for enterprises concerning periodic reporting and the retention of electronic data.

*Circular No. 08/2026/TT-BNV takes effect on 1 July 2026.*

**Decision No. 1222/QD-BTC**

- **Issuing authority: Ministry of Finance**

- **Issuance date: 21/05/2026**

- **Content: Administrative procedures at Vietnam Social Security**

On 21 May 2026, the Ministry of Finance issued Decision No. 1222/QD-BTC announcing amended and supplemented administrative procedures applicable to Vietnam Social Security under the Ministry of Finance, implementing the restructuring of procedures and the replacement of dossier components with digital data in accordance with Resolution No. 66.7/2025/NQ-CP.

The Decision focuses on modernizing the approach to dossier submission and processing by replacing traditional paper-based documents with interconnected digital data. In particular, in line with the principles set out in Government Resolution No. 66.7/2025/NQ-CP, individuals and enterprises carrying out social insurance administrative procedures will no longer be required to resubmit supporting documents where such information is already available and verified within national databases.

Furthermore, the procedures for receiving and reviewing dossiers at social insurance authorities have been restructured to optimize online processing time, eliminate unnecessary intermediary steps, and minimize repeated requests for additional documentation.

*Decision No. 1222/QD-BTC takes effect from the date of signing.*

14

**Decree No. 162/2026/ND-CP**

- **Issuing authority: Government**

- **Issuance date: 15/05/2026**

- **Content: Pensions and social insurance allowances**

On 15 May 2026, the Government issued Decree No. 162/2026/ND-CP on the adjustment of pensions, social insurance benefits, and monthly allowances.

Specifically, the Decree provides for an 8% increase in pensions, social insurance benefits, and monthly allowances based on the amounts payable in June 2026 for the beneficiaries specified in Clause 1, Article 1 of the Decree.

In addition, beneficiaries whose adjusted entitlements remain below VND 3,800,000 per month after the general increase will receive further adjustments. Those receiving VND 3,500,000 per month or less will be granted an additional VND 300,000 per person per month, while those receiving more than VND 3,500,000 per month but less than VND 3,800,000 per month will have their benefits increased to VND 3,800,000 per month.

*Decree No. 162/2026/ND-CP takes effect on 1 July 2026.*

**Circular No. 14/2026/TT-BNV**

- Issuing authority: Ministry of Home Affairs

- Issuance date: 29/05/2026

- Content: Calculation of pensions, social insurance allowances and monthly allowances

On 29 May 2026, the Ministry of Home Affairs issued Circular No. 14/2026/TT-BNV providing detailed guidance on the adjustment of pensions, social insurance benefits, and monthly allowances under Decree No. 162/2026/ND-CP.

Accordingly, from 1 July 2026, pensions, social insurance benefits, and monthly allowances received by beneficiaries prior to 1 July 2026 will be increased by 8% compared with the amounts payable in June 2026. The Circular also provides detailed guidance on determining the adjusted benefit levels for low-income beneficiaries, including those receiving VND 3,500,000 per month or less and those receiving more than VND 3,500,000 per month but less than VND 3,800,000 per month.

*Circular No. 14/2026/TT-BNV takes effect on 1 July 2026.*

# Contact

## «Ho Chi Minh Head Office»

- General Director

**Takata, Shin (Mr.)**

[s-takata@esnet.com.vn](mailto:s-takata@esnet.com.vn)

- Deputy Director

**Hoang Dang Khoa (Mr.)**

[h-khoa@esnet.com.vn](mailto:h-khoa@esnet.com.vn)

## «Ha Noi Branch Office»

- Branch Manager

**Takata, Shin (Mr.)**

[s-takata@esnet.com.vn](mailto:s-takata@esnet.com.vn)

