

Information sheet on the taxation of sales and services and the application of the reverse charge process for iaf 2017



I. Principle

Trade fairs and exhibition services are to be classified as related to real estate and therefore subject to the value added tax (VAT) at the site of the property. This means that such services for trade fairs and exhibitions on German fairgrounds are subject to the German VAT that is currently at 19 %.

II. Assessment based on German VAT law

A. Event service

Since 01.01.2011, the so-called event service is included in the German VAT law (a single service by a service provider) that foresees the transfer of the tax liability (reverse charge) to the beneficiary (exhibitor). An event service exists when at least 3 further services from the catalogue of the German VAT application decree (UStAE, 3a.4) are agreed upon with the exhibitor (who must be an enterprise) and performed. If further services are agreed and performed subsequently, this will be considered as a contractual complement to the service event.

If a service event is performed, foreign exhibitors shall be invoiced without German VAT. Exhibitors from an EU Member State must additionally use their attributed and valid VAT identification number. If no valid VAT identification number is available, 19 % German VAT has to be invoiced. German exhibitors continue to receive an invoice with 19 % German VAT.

B. No event service

The rental of stand space at iaf 2017 by VDEI-Service GmbH is no event service. In these cases invoicing will be carried out according to UStAE (3a.4) after an individual assessment of the underlying service, whereby the performances stand rental and basic fee for exhibitors are always to be invoiced with German VAT. This also applies to companies within and outside the EU.

III. Services that are to be invoiced without German VAT, applying the reverse charge

This applies to services that are offered, ordered and performed through the service catalogue for exhibitors by MCC Halle Münsterland and that are separately invoiced by the latter.

IV. Congresses

Congress participations are interpreted as access authorisations and are taxable by the German VAT of currently 19 %.