

## Sales to the EU

When VAT registered businesses sell goods or services in the EU, they may be required to submit additional returns to HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC). This may include an 'EC Sales List' and in some cases an 'Intrastat' return.

### What is an EC Sales List and When Does One Need to be Completed?

An EC sales list is a return separate to the normal VAT return which lists the goods and services supplied to VAT registered customers in other EC countries. The value of the goods supplied and the customer's VAT number must be supplied.

All UK VAT registered businesses making taxable supplies to VAT registered traders in EC countries must complete an EC sales list. These normally need to be completed on a quarterly basis for calendar quarters.

Businesses that act as an intermediary in such transactions will also be required to complete an EC sales list, even if they never physically receive the goods in question.

Like VAT returns, penalties may be imposed on businesses who fail to complete a correct EC Sales list and it is therefore important to ensure they are correctly completed.

### What is Intrastat and What do I need to do?

Intrastat is a system used by the EU to collate information relating to the trade between member countries. When a VAT registered business trades with businesses or individuals in other EU countries, they must report this trading to HMRC.

Each individual product has its own reference code and these are used to complete the relevant returns. However if your sales to the EU do not exceed £260,000 in a year, you will not normally be required to submit Intrastat returns.

### How Can Wisteria Help?

Wisteria recognises that VAT is a complex tax and dealing with customers in the EU adds a further level of complexity. Wisteria's tax specialists can guide you through this minefield and also help you to prepare the necessary returns and remain compliant. In addition, Wisteria are happy to actively review your position and advise on all available VAT planning opportunities.

For further information please contact:

Nick Tagg BSc ATT

Head of Taxation Services

email: [ntagg@wisteria.co.uk](mailto:ntagg@wisteria.co.uk)

