



RWANDA REVENUE AUTHORITY  
TAXES FOR GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT

# EXCISE DUTY

HERE FOR YOU TO SERVE

## WHAT IS EXCISE DUTY?

Excise Duty is a tax levied on:

- Imported products
- Products manufactured in Rwanda
- Services supplied in Rwanda

### TAX BASE:

- For an imported product a tax base is calculated in accordance with the provisions of the East African Community Customs Act;
- The tax base for a product manufactured in Rwanda & a service supplied in Rwanda is the selling price of the product or service
- The tax base for cigarettes is the combination of a specific base and the retail price, tax inclusive

### TAXATION AND TAX PERIOD

#### Excise duty is due when:

- A locally produced product leaves the factory
- An imported product is under customs control
- A taxable service is supplied

**Tax period:** Calendar month

**Declaration & payment deadline:** Within 5 days after the end of the tax period

**For imports:** Excise duty is paid concurrently with customs duties

### TAXPAYER'S OBLIGATIONS AND RIGHTS

Obligations:

- Keeping registers (a register of inventory of the products manufactured; a sales register; a register of raw materials; a register of ongoing operations)
- Affixing a tax stamp on a taxable product (wines, liquors and tobacco)
- Submission to the Tax Administration of a reconciliation statement on the usage of tax stamps

- Keeping books of accounts in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles.

**Rights:** A taxpayer has the right to self-assessment in accordance with the Laws.

### Excisable Products & Services and corresponding tax rates

| Products  | Rate   |
|---|--|
| Juice from fruits, vegetables or other plants whose local raw material content, is at least 30% by weight of its constituents, including water                | 10 %   |
| Other juices from fruits, vegetables or other plants  | 39 %   |
| Lemonade, Soda and other juices   | 39 %   |
| Flavoured or coloured syrups and other preparations intended to be consumed as beverages after simple dilution with water (in the form of powder or granules) | 39 %   |
| Beer whose local raw material content, excluding water is at least 70% by weight of its constituents  | 40 %   |
| Other beers   | 65 %   |
| Wine whose local raw material content, excluding water, is at least 70% by weight of its constituents   | 40 %   |
| Other Wines   | 70% of the value of a litre<br>Not exceeding<br>FRW 40,000 |
| Brandies, liquors and whisky whose local raw material content, excluding water, is at least 70% by weight of its constituents                                 | 60 %   |
| Other brandies, liquors and whisky  | 70% of the value of a litre not exceeding FRW 150,000      |
| Other fermented beverages   | 65 %   |
| Other alcoholic beverages with local raw material content   | 30 %   |

|  |   |
|--|---|
| Cigarettes   | 36% of retail price of a pack of 20 rods plus FRW 230 per pack  |
| Cigars and similar products containing tobacco or tobacco substitutes  | 160 %   |
| Electronic cigarette   | FRW 30,000 per unit   |
| cartridge with liquid for use in electronic cigarette  | FRW 24,400 per unit   |
| Premium (excluding benzene)  | FRW 183/litre   |
| Gaz oil  | FRW 150/litre   |
| Lubricants or fluids for motor vehicle and machinery maintenance   | 37 %  |
| Vehicles with an engine capacity of less than 1500 cc or hybrid vehicles which are not more than three years of age from the date of manufacture   | 5 %   |
| Vehicles with an engine capacity of between 1500 and 2500 cc or hybrid vehicles which are more than three years of age but not more than eight years of age from the date of manufacture | 10 %  |
| Vehicles with an engine capacity above 2500 cc or hybrid vehicles which are more than eight years of age from the date of manufacture  | 15 %  |
| Sweets and Chewing gum   | FRW 322/kg  |
| Chocolate  | FRW 1,930/kg  |
| Cosmetics and beauty products  | 15 %  |
| Telephone communications   | 12% for the first year following the date of commencement of the Law<br>14% during the second year following the date of commencement of the Law. |

|  |   |
|--|---|
|  | 15% from the third year following the date of commencement of the Law |
| Amount or commission charged on financial transactions | 15 %  |

### EXEMPTION ON EXCISE DUTY

The following goods are exempt from the excise duty:

- Goods for charitable organizations;
- Vehicles assembled in Rwanda;
- One personal vehicle of a former diplomat returning from a foreign diplomatic mission or an international organization;
- One vehicle of a Rwandan returnee or any other person returning back from a foreign country who fulfils exemption conditions set forth under the Customs Law.
- Vehicles of the following categories: minibus and bus that can carry not less than 14 persons, lorries and single cabin pickups manufactured to carry goods, refrigerating vehicles, tourist vehicles, ambulances and vehicles designed for persons with disabilities.
- Products specifically manufactured for export.
- Products sold to duty-free shops or legally specified persons

### Faults, Offences, Sanctions and Penalties

Failure to keep tax stamps register or timely submit to Tax Administration reconciliation statement on the usage of tax stamps:

- Administrative fine of not less than FRW 1,000,000 but not more than FRW 2,000,000

### Penalties for offences related to the usage of tax stamps

#### Offences:

- Fails to affix tax stamps on a product;
- makes an overprint or defaces tax stamps
- Submission of incorrect or incomplete reconciliation statement on the usage of tax stamps;
- Selling a taxable product without tax stamps

#### Penalties:

- Imprisonment for a term of not less than 6 months but no more than 1 year and to a fine of not less than FRW 1,000,000 but not more than FRW 2,000,000 or one of these penalties.
- For a person other than an individual, there is a fine of not less than FRW 5,000,000 but not more than FRW 10,000,000
- In case of recidivism within a period not exceeding two years, the fine is doubled

#### NOTES:

1. Information contained in this document does not replace the law, as it is written in simplified language to make it easier for readers to understand;
2. If you need legal terms and details, read the following law; Law n° 011/2025 of 27/05/2025 establishing the excise duty; [https://www.rra.gov.rw/fileadmin/user\\_upload/Law\\_on\\_Excise\\_Duty\\_May\\_2025.pdf](https://www.rra.gov.rw/fileadmin/user_upload/Law_on_Excise_Duty_May_2025.pdf)