



Tax Talk – Real Time Tax and Customs Payments

The Fiji Revenue and Customs Service (FRCS) continues to simplify its Tax legislation and provide a reliable way where taxpayers can voluntarily comply with Tax and Customs laws of the country. FRCS will roll out its New Tax Information System (NTIS) in August this year and through this system we will ensure a higher level of tax compliance.

The New Tax Information System

The New Tax Information System is a self-service tax system that operates on an online platform. It is designed to assist the tax office to provide a wider range of tax services and more importantly it allows taxpayers to experience and access the wide range of tax services in a more convenient way.

The new tax system is also designed to assist taxpayers in a more personal way that allows them to access tax services through requests like TIN and Joint Card registration, Tax Compliance Certificates, Tax Clearances, Tax Exemptions, Statement of Tax Accounts, Objections etc. on an online platform without having to visit any FRCS office.

Real Time Tax and Customs Payments

The Fiji Revenue and Customs Service (FRCS) is working with the Bank of the South Pacific (BSP) and Bank of Baroda on a real time e-payments mechanism to be part of the New Tax Information System (NTIS) which will be rolled out in August this year.

Through this initiative, bank customers will use their respective online banking portals to make payments to FRCS and payments will be validated in real time against the specific tax types and amounts payable.

How will this system work?

Once you log into the New Tax Information System, you will be able to see the types of taxes that are due, the amount payable and the penalties that these overdue taxes have attracted. Once you have this information with you, log into your BSP or Bank of Baroda online banking portal and make your payments from anywhere, anytime. It saves time and is completely paperless.

These payments will be captured real time into our system and will be reflected in the taxpayer's ledger same time. This will reduce the number of suspense cases we get. For Customs payments through ASYCUDA it will also mean that business won't need to have a prepayment account with FRCS. They can keep their own money- earn interest on it and pay FRCS in real time even in the weekends.

Association of Banks in Fiji

Association of Banks in Fiji's Deputy Chairman Mr. Sudhansu Sekhar Khamari while applauding the initiative said that money transfer between accounts usually takes a few minutes, while a wire transfer or a postal one may take several days. Customers will not waste their time waiting in lines. This will be convenient to customers. All transfers can be performed at anytime, anywhere.

Accessing the New Tax Information System

Accessing the new tax information system will involve the use of the internet so in order to access the new tax system, the individual or non-individual who is using the tax service must have internet access. Every individual must understand that this is an online system which only operates where internet access is available.

NTIS - Online Processes

The New Tax Information System is the result of the digitalization of manual functions. This means that the implementation of the NTIS allows taxpayers to access tax services electronically. These includes online registration, online filing, online payments etc. One of the features of the new tax system is the ability to validate information online through an interface. For example, the birth registration number of a birth certificate will be validated through the registrar of births interfaced database.

NTIS Compatibilities

To access a single tax service, the NTIS does not necessarily require the user to have a computer. In other words, users can access their tax services through android electronic gadgets such as phones, ipads, tablets etc. as long as there is accessible internet coverage.

NTIS Abilities

1. Real time

The new tax system is able to transmit and receive data in real-time. The real-time feature enables FRCS to ensure the provision of tax services in a timely manner.

2. Data Validation

Data validation is a vital area of the new tax system as it will ensure that:

- a. the user provides the tax office clean and reliable data; and
- b. FRCS are capturing all relevant information of a taxpayer for tax purposes
- c. Data manipulation is reduced

3. High Level of Data Security

Any NTIS user can rest assured that data or information used in the new tax system is strictly confidential and will be used for tax or official purposes only. In other words, data security is very high as users will be required to go through certain levels of validation process to access any tax information.

4. Information Accessibility

In the New Tax Information System, users are able to access their own tax information without having to visit any of our FRCS offices. This simply means that there will be limited interactions between the taxpayer and the tax office. Every user can access any tax service in just a click of a button.

For more information please email us on info@frcs.org.fj