



# MTD for VAT- the key facts

Making Tax Digital or in short MTD, came into force for VAT in April 2019 as a part of the government's wider plan to embrace the benefits of the 'Digital Age'. MTD is designed to make the administration of the tax system more effective and efficient, by reducing avoidable mistakes in tax returns.

HMRC published the VAT Notice 700/22 as useful guidance for businesses that are above the VAT threshold. The full notice details can be found [here](#).

## The key facts you need to know

### MTD VAT rules

This is now applicable now for all VAT registered businesses where taxable turnover exceeds the VAT registration threshold. This will be applicable for the remainder of VAT registered business from your first VAT period starting on or after 1 April 2020.

### Accounting software

In order to submit your VAT return under MTD the software must have the capability of communicating directly to HMRC's interfacing platform (Application Programming Interface, or in short API). The manual box entry will no longer be available as transferring data manually will not be acceptable under MTD.

### MTD exemptions

HMRC will allow exemptions to new rules, in the instance of religious beliefs, impracticality of using digital tools or you are subject to an insolvency procedure. However, you will need to provide satisfactory evidence that you meet any of the aforementioned instances.

### Digital record keeping

All VAT registered businesses must keep and preserve certain records and accounts. In practical terms, if a hard copy invoice is received and manually typed into the accounting software, the original copy must be kept. Hard copy invoices that are scanned in full and the full image is held on the accounting software, the hard copy invoice does not need to be kept.

### Digital links and Excel

Digital links remove the need for manual intervention as the links serve to exchange data electronically. In the practical application of using

Excel spreadsheets to calculate VAT returns, digital links are classified as a formula in one sheet that is directly linked to the source's value in another cell. The cutting and pasting of information within Excel or between any other software programs will not be acceptable under MTD from 1 April 2021.

### Transitional Grace Period for cutting and pasting data

HMRC will accept the cutting and pasting of information as being a digital link for VAT periods between 1 April 2019 and 31 March 2021. However, this "soft-landing period" ends for VAT periods starting on or after 1 April 2021. Read more [here](#).

## **Bridging software**

This is a digital tool that creates the necessary digital links between single/ multiple spreadsheets and accounting software, in order to facilitate the flow of digital information between HMRC and you.

## **API spreadsheets**

Spreadsheets that are API enabled and are either combined with the accounting software or used to digitally record the VAT information, to upload the return directly to HMRC.

## **Designatory data**

In order to be MTD compliant, you will need to have a digital record of your business name, principal trading place of business, VAT registration number and VAT schemes that you use.

## **Contact us**

**If your business needs support and advice in preparing for MTD, please contact us by email at [enquiries@krestonreeves.com](mailto:enquiries@krestonreeves.com) or by phone on +44 (0)330 124 1399 to arrange to speak with one of our specialists in London, Kent and Sussex.**

**To read more on MTD please [click here](#). Do call us for a free initial consultation.**

For more than accountancy, business and financial advice.

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