

UAE Ministerial Decision 230: Recognised Price Reporting Agencies

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To (inside your company): CFO • Head of Tax • Treasury • Commodity Trading • Legal & Compliance

Executive takeaways

- Establishes an official list of 13 recognised price reporting agencies for Free Zone qualifying commodity trading activities.
- The decision is effective retroactively from 1 June 2023, providing certainty for commodity pricing in Free Zone tax exemption determinations.
- Directly supports Ministerial Decision No. 229 of 2025 on qualifying activities by defining acceptable pricing sources.
- This is critical for Free Zone entities engaged in commodity trading to maintain their 0% Corporate Tax rate eligibility.

What changed & why it matters

- Pricing Source Certainty** — MD 230 provides a definitive list of acceptable price reporting agencies for qualifying commodity trading. *Why it matters:* This eliminates ambiguity around acceptable pricing sources, reducing audit risk for Free Zone commodity traders claiming tax exemptions.
- Retroactive Application** — The decision applies retrospectively from 1 June 2023, covering the entire Corporate Tax regime period to date. *Why it matters:* This provides validation for pricing methodologies used since Corporate Tax implementation, potentially protecting past positions from challenge.
- Comprehensive Industry Coverage** — The list includes major global agencies covering oil, gas, metals, chemicals, and agricultural commodities. *Why it matters:* This supports diverse commodity trading operations across multiple sectors within UAE Free Zones.

Action checklist

- Audit current commodity pricing sources against the 13 recognised agencies list immediately.
- Document all pricing methodologies used since 1 June 2023 to ensure compliance with recognised sources.
- Review commodity trading contracts to ensure pricing mechanisms reference the recognised agencies.
- Update internal procedures to mandate the use of recognised price reporting agencies for all qualifying activities.
- Assess the impact on Free Zone qualification status for any non-compliant pricing sources used in the past.

Impact matrix

Compliance	H
Systems/ERP	M
Finance/Cash	H
Operations	H
Documentation	H
Training/Change	M

Timeline

Now — audit pricing sources & document compliance

30 days — update procedures & contracts

Ongoing — monitor new commodity trading arrangements

Take Away

MD 230 represents critical infrastructure for Free Zone commodity trading operations, providing the pricing certainty needed to maintain 0% Corporate Tax eligibility. The retroactive application offers protection for historical positions while the comprehensive agency list supports diverse trading operations. Companies must immediately verify their pricing sources align with the recognised agencies to avoid jeopardizing their Free Zone tax benefits.

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