

How long can it take to get my VAT number after the start of trading

The taxman has advised in guidance notes that it should take a maximum of six working weeks. However, the taxman can take up to six months to process VAT registration these days.

The reason for this...

The taxman is quite skeptical about the IT consultancy business. The reason for this is because this kind of business can be involved in the buying and selling of computer parts and software, which is considered to have a significant risk of tax evasion. The 'taxman' is currently aware of a large scale of VAT fraud in this business sector.

This situation is affecting the genuine small businesses which are waiting for VAT numbers. Delay in VAT registrations can have a negative impact on cash flow. For the larger businesses it can delay acquisition and restructuring, with property transactions being held up.

