

# Doing Business in Dubai

## Mistakes to Avoid

## Actionable Compliance Strategy

1

**Missing the  
Registration  
Deadline**

**Regularly Monitor Turnover:** Implement a monthly or quarterly system to track your **12-month rolling turnover**. Set a **trigger alert** when your revenue hits approximately **AED 300,000** to begin the registration process immediately.

2

**Incorrect  
Turnover  
Calculation**

**Include ALL Taxable Supplies:** Ensure you include all supplies taxable at the **5% standard rate** and the **0% zero rate** (like exports) when calculating the threshold. Do not use the calendar year; use a rolling 12-month period.

3

**Submitting  
Incomplete  
/Incorrect Data**

**Double-Check Documentation:** Before applying, create a checklist and ensure all documents (Trade License, Emirates IDs, financial statements) are **valid, current, and consistent** in spelling and business name. Inaccurate applications lead to delays and potential rejection.

4

**Inadequate  
Record  
Keeping**

**Implement a VAT-Compliant System:** Maintain all records (**Tax Invoices, Credit Notes, customs declarations, accounting ledgers**) for a minimum of **five years**. Use accounting software that is designed to be VAT-compliant to automate documentation.

5

**Misclassifying  
Supplies**

**Know Your Supplies:** Clearly understand the difference between **Standard-Rated (5%)**, **Zero-Rated (0%)**, and **Exempt** supplies. Misclassification leads to incorrect tax collection and potential penalties during an audit.