Maldives GST update

Eighth Amendment extends scope to non-resident tourism suppliers

Key actions for foreign tour operators, travel agents and booking services

The Maldives has enacted the Eighth Amendment to the Goods and Services Tax Act through Law No. 10/2026. The amendment was ratified and published in the Gazette on 31 August 2026. The amendment introduces specific GST provisions for certain inbound tourism products and related agency or booking services supplied by persons without a fixed place of business in the Maldives. The new provisions apply from 1 October 2026.

Why this matters?

The amendment brings specified inbound tourism products within the Maldives GST framework. Non-resident businesses should assess whether their activities, contractual arrangements and payment flows create GST registration, pricing and compliance obligations. An early, transaction-level review will help identify the impact before the provisions become effective.

Key changes

1. Expanded scope

Inbound tourism products and related agency or booking services supplied to unregistered GST recipients may be treated as supplied in the Maldives.

2. Inbound tourism product

The term includes accommodation, meals, transportation and other tourist activities in the Maldives.

3. 17% tourism GST

Relevant "inbound tourism products" and agency or booking services supplied by a person who does not have a fixed place of business in the Maldives will be subject to GST at the applicable Tourism GST rate of 17% from 1 October 2026.

4. Valuation rule

Where consideration is monetary, the value is determined by reference to consideration received, including GST, reduced by amounts payable to registered persons relating to the inbound tourism product.

5. GST registration

Persons required to register under the relevant provisions must apply within 30 days of commencing the activity.

6. Input tax restriction

Suppliers of inbound tourism products who do not have a fixed place of business in the Maldives will not be entitled to set off input tax against output tax.

How can Grant Thornton Bharat support

1. Reviewing the company's business model, transaction flows and contracts
2. Assessing the applicability of the amendment on the company's operations
3. Evaluating registration requirements under Maldives GST
4. Assessing pricing implications, valuation requirements and preparing the compliance framework
5. Aligning internal SOPs, invoicing and compliance processes with the new framework
6. Handholding the company with end-to-end Maldives GST compliance — from registration to periodic compliance requirements

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