Global Transfer Pricing Review

Andorra

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The corporate income tax and transfer pricing rules are applicable to Andorran taxpayers for fiscal years started on or after 1 January 2012. It is not yet clear how the Andorran tax authorities will address transfer pricing matters, interpret the new regulations or engage in tax audits. The transfer pricing regulations do not establish documentation requirements for Andorran taxpayers, although they refer to the arm’s length principle as the standard to price controlled transactions.

Transfer pricing study snapshot

The purpose of a transfer pricing study

| Legal requirements | ☒ |
| Protection from penalties | ☒ |
| Reduce risk of adjustment | ☒ |
| Shifts burden of proof | ☒ |

Basic information

Tax authority name
Tax Administration (Administració tributària).

Citation for transfer pricing rules

Effective date of transfer pricing rules
The transfer pricing rules are applicable to taxpayers on fiscal years started on or after 1 January 2012.

What is the relationship threshold for transfer pricing rules to apply between parties?
Generally, two entities are considered related parties when the same individuals or legal entities, directly or indirectly, manage, hold an equity investment or otherwise control both entities.

The Andorran tax regulations specifically state that the following relationships trigger the consideration of related parties:

- an entity and its shareholders (for non-publicly traded entities, when they hold a participation of 15 percent or more; for publicly-traded entities, when the participation is equal or greater than three percent)
- an entity and its board members, as well as the relatives of the board members up to the third-degree
- an entity that holds an indirect participation equal to, or greater than, 25 percent of another entity
- two entities that are part of a group; and
- an entity and its permanent establishments.

What is the statute of limitations on assessment of transfer pricing adjustments?
Three years following the final date to file the tax return.

Transfer pricing disclosure overview

Are disclosures related to transfer pricing required to be submitted to the revenue authority on an annual basis (e.g. with the tax return)?
No. The corporate income tax return does not require the disclosure of controlled transactions, although a schedule requires the identification of the taxpayer’s participation and/or ownership of other legal entities as of fiscal year-end.

What types of transfer pricing information must be disclosed?
Not applicable.
What are the consequences of failure to submit disclosures?
Not applicable.

**Transfer pricing study overview**
Can documentation be filed in a language other than the local language? If yes, which ones?
Not applicable.

When a transfer pricing study is prepared, should its content follow Chapter V of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Guidelines?
Not applicable.

Does the tax authority require an advisor/tax practitioner to have specific designation in order to prepare or submit a transfer pricing study?
No.

**Transfer pricing methods**
Does your country follow the transfer pricing methods outlined in Chapter II of the OECD Guidelines? If exceptions apply, please describe.
Yes. The regulations refer to the OECD Guidelines regarding transfer pricing methods.

**Transfer pricing audit and penalties**
When the tax authority requests a taxpayer’s transfer pricing documentation, are there timing requirements for a taxpayer to submit its documentation? And if so, how many days?
No.

When the tax authority requests a taxpayer's transfer pricing documentation, are there timing requirements for a taxpayer to submit its documentation? Please explain.
Not applicable.

If an adjustment is proposed by the tax authority, what dispute resolution options are available?
The taxpayer may appeal against the proposed adjustment before the Andorran courts. Dispute resolutions will depend on treaties to be signed in the future.

If an adjustment is sustained, can penalties be assessed? If so, what rates are applied and under what conditions?
Penalties are only referred to in the General Tax Code and may range from 50 percent to 150 percent of the additional tax base that arises from the adjustment. The percentage of the penalty may be determined by the tax authorities considering the following circumstances of the taxpayer: good faith, economic capacity, prior infringements of tax regulations, obstruction to the tax audit process, spontaneous compliance by the taxpayer, the taxpayer’s agreement to the proposed adjustment, relevance of the infringement and adjustment amount.

There is no specific reference on how penalties would be applied in the case of a transfer pricing adjustment and there is no experience. There are reasons to think that unless the adjustment is based on tax evasion, tax authorities might take the view that the adjustment does not levy penalties based on the nature of the transfer pricing adjustment.

To what extent are transfer pricing penalties enforced?
At this time, Andorran tax authorities have only just initiated limited audits of local taxpayers (as far as we know, the audits did not involve related party transactions).

What defenses are available with respect to penalties?
Transfer pricing documentation, Advance Pricing Agreements (APAs) are also available.

What trends are being observed currently?
The Andorran tax authority is in the process of developing its capacity and skill set to adapt to the new tax regime. The Andorran tax authorities have only started performing some limited scope audits, as the corporate income tax was only applicable to fiscal years starting on or after 1 January 2012.

**Special considerations**
Are secret comparables used by tax authorities?
No experience yet, but it is anticipated that secret comparables will not be used.

Is there a preference, or requirement, by the tax authorities for local comparables in a benchmarking set?
No experience.

Do tax authorities have requirements or preferences regarding databases for comparables?
No experience.

Does the tax authority generally focus on the interquartile range in a TNMM analysis?
Not applicable.

Does the tax authority have other preferences in benchmarking? If so, please describe.
No experience.

What level of interaction do tax authorities have with customs authorities?
No experience.

Are there limitations on deductibility of management fees beyond the arm’s length principle?
No.

Are management fees subject to withholding?
Not applicable.

Are there limitations on the deductibility of royalties beyond the arm’s length principle?
Not applicable.

Are royalties subject to withholding?
Not applicable.

Are taxpayers allowed to file tax return numbers that differ from book numbers?
Yes. Although there is no experience yet, the legislation does not prohibit year-end adjustments.
Other unique attributes?
The Andorran CITL includes special regimes applicable to Andorran entities that engage in certain cross-border, intercompany transactions:

- regime for entities engaged in the cross-border license of intangible assets and/or provision of cross-border, intercompany services
- regime for entities engaged in intercompany financing activities.

Both special regimes require prior approval from the tax authorities, and provide for an 80 percent reduction of the relevant tax base. In both instances, the approval from the tax authorities is required (we expect that this process will be similar to that of rulings in other jurisdictions) and thus, we anticipate that the transfer prices will need to be set at arm’s length and tested under one of the OECD transfer pricing methods.

**Tax treaty/double tax resolution**

What is the extent of the double tax treaty network?

Minimal. The tax treaties signed so far refer to the exchange of information. Tax treaties with France and Spain are being negotiated.

If extensive, is the competent authority effective in obtaining double tax relief?

No experience.

When may a taxpayer submit an adjustment to competent authority?

No experience.

May a taxpayer go to competent authority before paying tax?

No experience.

**Advance pricing agreements**

What APA options are available, if any?

Unilateral, bilateral.

Is there a filing fee for APAs?

Not applicable. The regulations do not explicitly mention an application fee. However, there is no experience to date with APAs in Andorra.

Does the tax authority publish APA data either in the form of an annual report or through the disclosure of data in public forums?

No.

Are there any difficulties or limitations on the availability or effectiveness of APAs?

Yes. The Andorran tax administration is still in the process of developing its capacity. Hence, the lack of experience in negotiating APAs limits the effectiveness of potential APA submissions.
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