

### BUSINESS PARTICIPATION IN

# LEGISLATION

#### Highlights

Laws deliberated and passed at the National Assembly's session in November 2015

#### Receptiveness

Evaluation of 18 legal documents promulgated from July to December 2015 and commented by VCCI

#### Quick look

List of 59 drafts commented by VCCI from July to December 2015





# The BUSINESS PARTICIPATION IN LEGISLATION is a publication by

Vietnam Chamber of Commerce and Industry about Vietnam business community participation in current legislation.

Highlights reflect VCCI's major comments/ recommendations on drafts of legal documents with significant impact on business community.

Receptiveness evaluates how state agencies are receptive to VCCI's inputs through comparison of issued legal documents against VCCI's recommendation sent to drafting board.

Quick look provides list of drafts of legal documents which VCCI has commented and main points.



**Regulations Poll** 



Top ten Regulations (TTR) is a poll by business community for 10 best and 10 worst business regulation issued by state agencies in recent years. The poll is a forum for business community to encourage and praise regulations and policies that brought positive impact on businesses, economy and society, and at the same time a chance to single out regulations and policies that that hinder businesses and adversely affect business environment of Vietnam.

The poll aims at selecting 10 best and 10 worst regulations for business environment. Result of the poll is recognition by business community of government agencies' efforts in improving business environment through promulgation of good regulations; it is also a warning on regulations that unreasonably hinder business activities. It shall serve as a suggestion for government agencies to look back at current regulations for review, assessment, evaluation in order to amend, supplement as necessary, and for development of criteria for efficient drafting in future.

TTR is conducted for the following purposes:

- Praising effective legislations which have positive impact
- Warning about the provisions that have adverse effect on business and economy
- Making recommendations to amend bad regulations
- Contributing to build and improve the criteria system for assessing policy and legislation quality
- Empowering, creating forums for businesses to contribute and supervise the construction process, amending policies and laws of state agencies

TTR is implemented by Vietnam Chamber of Commerce and Industry (VCCI) with support from The Restructuring for a more Competitive Vietnam Project (RCV).

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(July-December, 2015)

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Full draft of legal normative documents and supporting materials, comments and recommendations, information on related past and upcoming events are posted on our website: www.vibonline.com.vn



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# TOWARD A TRANSPARENT AND FAVOURABLE LEGAL ENVIRONMENT OF BUSINESS

Vietnam Business Forum Online at www.vibonline.com.vn is developed and managed by Vietnam Chamber of Commerce and Industry (VCCI) to contribute to the formation of a transparent and favourable Vietnam legal environment of business.



## HIGHLIGHTS

Among Laws deliberated and/or passed at November 2015 session, VCCI commented on the following Laws:



#### LAW ON EXPORT DUTY. **IMPORT DUTY**

On types of duty: request to have clear regulation on when/which items to be levied duty on: percentage duty, absolute duty, combined duty; or principles defining scope/objects to be applied each type of duty in this Draft.

Explanation of terms: provide clearer definition on guaranteeing conditions for customs check, monitoring, control: what is guaranteeing, what is the level of control?

Jurisdiction on promulgation of tariff and duty rate: Scenario of National Assembly issuing duty range for each category. Scenario of Prime Minister promulgating export duty, import duty, list of items subjected to absolute levying and rate of absolute duty, outside tariff quota on each item is rational because it simplifies process of promulgating export duty, import duty; creates transparency, simplicity in jurisdiction on concrete duty types and tariff; upholds efficiency value of tariff towards duty - subjected items.

#### On duty exemption:

- Gifts: request to specify the limit for duty exemption;
- Imported goods used for inclusion in fixed asset: request to specify on whether duty-free conditions for imported items for fixed asset in investment-incentives projects are applied simultaneously or just need to fulfill one of the conditions?

Defense measures through application of duty: request to re-consider inclusion of trade defense measures in the Draft. It is best if current Ordinances are amended and completed instead of including such measures in this Law. Even if full and persuasive explanation is provided on inclusion of 03 Ordinances into this Draft, there will still be a number of issues to be adjusted, and as such it is suggested:

- Need to fully include regulations in 03 current Ordinances into this Law;
- Need to review regulations of 03 Ordinances for completion and adjustment in order to comply with requirements in related Agreements in WTO (especially in Ordinance on anti-subsidy).



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LAW ON AMENDING, SUPPLEMENTING SOME ARTICLES OF VAT LAW, EXCISE LAW AND LAW ON TAX ADMINISTRATION

#### LAW ON VALUE ADDED TAX

On un-deducted tax in investment projects to be carried over next period: Request to abolish requirement "Business are not refunded VAT, instead, un-deducted tax amount shall be carried over to investment project in accordance with investment law for next period in the following cases:

Investment projects of business that fall short of registered capital; operating in business sectors with special conditions while business conditions are not met as required by Investment Law or not guaranteed to be maintained during business operation...".

Request to clarify the basis for setting out requirement: "Investment projects in mining natural resources where total value of natural resources plus energy cost that equals to 51% and over of product cost in investment project".

On tax refund to organizations, individuals abroad: request to abolish requirement "Refund of the tax of export goods for organizations, individuals abroad will only be levied on goods exported through international border gates, main border gates in accordance with government regulations".

#### **EXCISE LAW**

On pricing for domestically produced goods and imported goods: request to abolish requirement "For goods produced domestically, the price is the one set by the manufacturer; for imported goods, the price is the one set by the importer... ", because above import price calculating will increase excise tax on imported goods. On the other hand, the importer can sell goods to many partners (whole sale, retail) at many different prices. What is the basis for calculating sale price in this case? Are there measures to prevent pricing fraud? Drafting committee has to foresee calculating formula, formalities that business and tax authorities will have to undertake to carry out tax payment and collection required by this method in order to calculate cost and effect.

On pricing by daughter companies for tax calculation: request not to amend current regulation, keep current regulation as it is and apply leverage of 10% as set in Article 4 of Decree 26/2009/NĐ-CP. Because regulation in the Draft "For goods sold through daughter companies or other daughter companies under same mother company, price for excise tax calculation is the one set by the daughter company on the market (except vehicles under 24-seats). Daughter-mother relationship between companies is determined under Enterprise Law and guiding legislations" will cause many consequences (details are provided in VCCI commenting documents).

#### LAW ON TAX ADMINISTRATION

On off-writing tax payment debts, overdue: request to abolish criteria on determining subjects qualified to off-writing penalties on tax overdue and tax payment overdue related to tax overdue arising from July 1, 2007 to July 1, 2013 that faced objective difficulties and paid principal debt by December 31, 2015: "Partners breaching on commercial contract or not fulfilling commercial contract, as a result creating to tax payers accumulated inventories and high-interest debt from credit agencies and leading to tax debt and penalties on overdue and overdue".

On interest on tax payments overdue: request to change agency announcing interest rate on tax payments overdue from Ministry of Finance to State Bank.

#### CIVIL CODE (AMENDED)

On relationship between Civil Code (CC) and other related international treaties, laws: Positioning, role of CC by regulations in the Draft do not truly correspond to nature of the original law on CC.

Request to amend regulations in the direction of:

- Sectoral law can only specify in details, concretely, but can not regulate contrarily to CC (all CC, not only basic principals in Article 3; and guarantee regulations that CC refers to in "other laws" in that cases obviously other laws will prevail);
- In case sectoral law regulates otherwise, does not regulates concrete issue, then CC will be applied;
- Abolish regulation "In case of discrepancy on the same subject between regulations in civil code and international treaties that Vietnam is a member to, international treaty regulation will be applied".

**Define legal entity:** The Draft has some confusion between conditions of legal entity and features of legal entity.

Request to:

- Not to regulate conditions for when an organization is considered a legal entity, instead, civil code and/or sectoral laws shall determine what type of organization is a legal entity in legal relationship;
- Convert conditions in Article 73 of the Draft into features of the legal entity (meaning organization, once defined legal entity, shall have such competence, features by default.

General regulation on Legal entity: the Draft regulates too much in details on legal entity in the CC, and therefore depriving CC of its broad coverage. CC shall only regulates on general issues which are generic for all legal entities; while details related to each of the legal entity have been and are regulated by concrete legal documents.

*Participation of state agencies in civil transactions:* In accordance with regulations and by practice, currently in Vietnam's

government agencies there is no entity as "State of Socialist Republic of Vietnam" participating in civil transactions (because in all cases, there shall be concrete state agency at central or local level, and there is no "State" in general. Therefore, it is requested to remove the entity of "State of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam" from regulations on entities participating in civil transactions.

Handling of nullified civil transactions: "Guilt" factor in civil transactions seems to be too vague. Request to review regulations on definition of nullified transactions; legal consequencies of nullified civil transactions as follows:

- Right to declare nullification shall be of the agrrieved party as a result of the other party; and
- Consequencies of declaration of nullification shall be determined on guilt factor that caused nullification of the transaction (not only "guilt in causing damage" as stated in Article 137 of CC).

### Besides, VCCI has also commented in details on each clause to regulations on:

- Property rights
- Protection of rights of the bona fide third person as soon as transaction is nullified
- Representation
- Possession
- Disposal right of non-owner
- People-owned asset in state-owned company
- Handling of ownership for assets derived from the property of others
- The right to use surface right
- Warranty measures
- Interest

#### LAW ON ACCESS TO INFORMATION

Subject to access information: need to supplement business as a subject entitled to access to information.

Provide information at the request of citizens: amend regulations on approach to request to provide information by citizens with consideration of the vulnerable groups or elimination of obstacles for some groups access to information, such as:

- Amend format of the request for information so as there is no limitation on format of the request for information, the requesting party needs only to request for needed information under any format;
- Simplify content of the request for information (e.g. abolish requirement on provision of the identity card or passport, etc.);
- Reduce time to provide information, especially for information that can be supplied at once;
- Simplify procedure steps on information that needs processing: eliminate the stage of verifying whether request for information is accepted;
- Apply quantifying principle to notions that are ambiguous, that can't be interpreted uniformly between applicable subjects, or can affect subjects' access to information, such as "information of large amount" or "information that require preparation time", etc.

Public, open information: request to specify in details type of information to be made public right in the Law.

Announce, publicize information on electronic webpage: request to expand the scope of information that must be made public on electronic webpage.

*Use of information by subjects that request information:* request to supplement regulation on right of the subject that request access to information to full entitlement of information that they access to.



#### PHARMACY LAW

Master plan for pharmaceutical industry: request to clarify the following issues:

- Which agency has jurisdiction over promulgation of master plan? (Article 10 only regulates on responsibility of master plan development and not on jurisdiction of master plan promulgation)
- What is the term of master plan? How will it amended, supplemented?
- How will consultation process with stakeholders during master plan development be handled?
- How will strategic environmental assessment be carried out?
- How will master plan be made public after development and promulgation?
- Which agency will handle development and promulgation of the master plan for pharmaceutical distribution system?

Classification of pharmaceutical practice certificates: request to specify right in the Law on names of the pharmaceutical practice certificate in accordance with concrete professional occupation. Moreover, there shall be effort to group those occupations with similar professional requirements as to reduce to minimum number of professional certificates and facilitate pharmacists to adjust the job in accordance with the requirements.

Conditions for pharmaceutical practice certificates (PPC): request to abolish cases of refusal to issue pharmaceutical practice certificate when "is being prosecuted for criminal liability" or "is executing court sentence or criminal sentence or court verdict on administrative measures to be put into compulsory education establishments, rehabilitation establishments by court".

Conditions for practice certificates for foreigners: request to regulate so as health care agencies issue PPC to foreign individuals before they are issued working license. As such, CCP is a document confirming on capacity and qualification of worker. The worker shall get working license afterwards in accordance with the working place and job at certain timing.

*Duration of the practice certificate:* request to regulate as to:

- Do not specify duration of the CCP, i.e. CCP to have eternal validity;
- Regulate on revoking of the certificate only in case the pharmacist does not attend professional training courses for 2 consecutive years.

**Right to change drugs by pharmacist:** request to regulate as to:

- Consultation of change of drugs by the pharmacist shall be with the consent of doctor, unless the pharmacist got a bachelor degree or at least 5 years of drugs retailing practice;
- Supplement regulation on defining scope of responsibilities by pharmacist and doctors in case the pharmacists consult on change of drugs without doctor's consent.

**Business license for drugs distribution centers:** request to move drugs distribution centers to category of business-qualified certificate (though with very high standards) instead of issuing business license.

**Conditions for pharmaceutical trading:** request to regulate in the Law instead of assigning the task to Government.

Clinical pharmacy: Regulate clinical pharmacy as a type of pharmaceutical service business, and allow free clinical pharmacy service providing units once qualified to certain business conditions. Moreover, request Ministry of Health to come up with a plan to establish some state clinical pharmacy service providing units in order to protect people's legitimate rights.

Registration for circulation of excipients as raw materials for drugs: supplement regulation on exemption of regulation for circulation of excipients.

# **EVALUATION OF DRAFTING BOARD'S RECEPTIVENESS**

During the last 6 months of 2015, there were 18 legal documents issued in many sectors under administration of 10 Ministries to which VCCI have comments, including:



#### DECREE OF THE **GOVERNMENT**

- Decree No. 67/2015/ND-CP of the Government dated 14/8/2015 on amending, supplementing some articles of Decree No. 110/2013/ND-CP dated 24/9/0213 onadministrative fine in field of judicial support, judicial administration, marriage and family, civil execution, enterprise's corruption, cooperatives
- Decree No. 76/2015/ND-CP of the Government dated 10/9/2015 on detailing some articles of Law on real estate business
- Decree No. 77/2015/ND-CP of the Government dated 10/9/2015 on regulating planning public medium term and annual investment

- Decree No. 78/2015/ND-CP of the Government dated 14/9/2015 on business registration
- Decree No. 96/2015/ND-CP of the Government dated 19/10/2015 on detailing some articles of Law on Enterprises
- Decree No. 108/2015/ND-CP of the Government dated 28/10/2015 on detailing and guiding some articles of Law on Excise Tax and Law on amending, supplementing some articles of Law on Excise Tax
- Decree No. 118/2015/ND-CP of the Government dated 12/11/2015 on detailing and guiding some articles of Law on Investment
- Decree No. 124/2015/ND-CP of the Government dated 19/11/2015 on amending, supplementing some articles of Decree No. 185/2013/ND-CP of the Government dated 15/11/2013 on administrative fine in field of trading, manufacturing and purchasing fake, prohibited goods; consumer's protection

#### PRIME MINISTER'S DECISION

• Decision No. 35/QD-TTg of the Prime Minister dated 20/8/2015 on amending, supplementing Decision No. 02/2012/QD-TTg of the Prime Minister dated 13/01/2012 issuing List of essential goods and services have to register standard form (boilerplate) contract, general transaction's conditions

#### CIRCULAR AND JOINT CIRCULAR OF MINISTRIES

- Circular No. 23/2015/TT-BKHCN of Ministry of Science and Technology dated 13/11/2015 on regulating import of used machine, equipment, technology line
- Circular No. 31/2015/TT-BTTTT of Ministry of Information and Communication dated 29/10/2015 on guiding some articles of Decree No. 187/2013/ND-CP of Government dated 20/11/2013 on export and import used information technology product
- Circular No. 37/2015/TT-BCT of Ministry of Industry and Trade dated 30/10/2015 on regulating limit and examination of concentration of formaldehyde and aromatic amine transform from azo dye in textile product
- Joint circular No. 45/2015-TTLT-BN-NPTNT-BKHCN of Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development dated 23/11/2015 on guiding labeling of packed genetically modified product
- Circular No. 48/2015/TT-BYT of Ministry of Health dated 01/12/2015 on regulating foods safety examination in manufacturing and trading in foods under administration of Ministry of Health
- Circular No. 77/2015/TT-BGTVT of Ministry of Transportation dated 07/12/2015 on regulating passenger and luggage transportation on urban rail way
- Circular No. 47/2015/TT-BNNPTNT of Ministry of Agriculture and rural Development dated 15/12/2015 on regulating quality examination, certification of regulation conformity and announcement of plant variety regulation conformity certification

VCCI had 124 recommendations for above 18 documents (not including drafting technique recommendation), averagely 7 recommendations per draft. Among those, 59 recommendations were accepted, account for 48% - compared to the overall receptive rate in 2015.

VCCI had 47 recommendations on transparency (2,6 recommendation per draft), 51% of those were accepted.

Reasonability is the most recommended criteria (3,1 recommendations per draft). However, receptive percentage is quite low, 41%.

Among 10 drafting Ministries, only 6 Ministries received recommendations on consistency. Two third of them have receptiveness percentage more than 50%.

# QUICK LOOK

### List of documents commented by VCCI

### In the last 6 months of the year, VCCI had comments on 59 drafts<sup>1</sup> cateforized by types as below

NO.	NAME	DRAFTING AGENCY		
LAW/ORDINANCE DRAFTS				
1	Civil Code (amended)	Ministry of Justice		
2	Export and Import tax Law (amended)	Ministry of Finance		
3	Law on amending, supplementing some articles of Value added tax Law, Excise tax Law, Tax Administration Law	Ministry of Finance		
4	Law on Information Accessment	Ministry of Justice		
5	Law on Pharmacy	Ministry of Health		
6	International Treaty Law (amended)	Ministry of Foreign Affairs		
7	Ordinance on Market Administration	Ministry of Industry and Trade		
DECREE OF THE GOVERNMENT DRAFTS				
1	Decree replaces Decree No. 72/2006/ND-CP on representative office, branch of foreign trader in Vietnam	Ministry of Industry and Trade		
2	Decree on goods, service, area of State monopoly in trade activity	Ministry of Industry and Trade		
3	Decree on amending, supplementing Decree No,. 155/2013/ND-CP of the Government on sanctioning administrative violations in planning and investment activities	Ministry of Planning and Investment		
4	Decree on detailing and guiding some articles of Excise tax Law and Law on amending and supplementing some articles of Excise tax Law	Ministry of Finance		
5	Decree on compulsory insurance in constructional invesment	Ministry of Finance		
6	Decree on commercial mediation	Ministry of Justice		
7	Decree on adding micronutrients to foods	Ministry of Health		
8	Decree on amending, supplementing some articles of Decree No.101/2012/ND-CP of the Government dated 22/11/2012 on non-cash payment	State Bank of Vietnam		
9	Decree on environmental technology development	Ministry of Industry and Trade		
10	Decree on manufacturing and trading in salt	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development		
11	Decree on amending, supplementing some articles of Decree No. 127/2013/ND-CP of the Government dated 15/10/2013 on sanctioning administrative violation and enforcing administrative decision in customs area	Ministry of Finance		
12	Decree on supplementing some contents of collecting fee of land usage and land lease	Ministry of Finance		

<sup>1</sup> For key recommendations on the drafts, please refer to Vietnamese version. For full comments, please visit our website: www.vibonline.com.vn (Vietnamese)

NO.	NAME	DRAFTING AGENCY
	DECREE OF THE GOVERNMENT DRAFTS	
13	Decree of on environmental protection fee of mining exploitation	Ministry of Finance
14	Decree on amending, supplementing some article of Decree No. 109/2013/ND-CP dated 24/9/2013 on sanctioning of administrative violation in price	Ministry of Finance
15	Decree on amending and supplementing regulations on zoning, planning of land usage, land acquisition, land allocation, land lease	Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment
16	Decree on replacing Decree No. 15/2012/ND-CP of the Government dated 9/03/2012 detailing some articles of Law on Minerals	Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment
17	Decree on amending, supplementing some articles of Decree No.79/2012/ND-CP of the Government dated 05/10/2012 on art performance, fashion show, beauty and model contest; circulation and trading on record and video of music, dance and theatre	Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism
18	Decree replaces Decree No. 124/2007/ND-CP of the Government dated 31/7/2007 on constructional materials administration	Ministry of Construction
19	Decree on vaccination	Ministry of Health
	PRIME MINISTER'S DECISION DRAFTS	
1	Decision on refusing exit permission, suspend exit in cases of uncompled tax duties	Ministry of Finance
2	Decision of Prime Minister on approving Conprehendsive plan for e-commerce development period 2016-2020	Ministry of Industry and Trade
3	Decision of Prime Minister on announcing maritime transport charge and port service tariff	Ministry of Transport
	CIRCULAR/JOINT CIRCULAR DRAFTS	
1	Joint circular on amending, supplementing Joint circular No. 44/2013/TTLT-BCT-BKHCN on quality management of domestic and imported steel	Ministry of Industry and Trade
2	Circular on managing e-commerce activities on mobile flatform	Ministry of Industry and Trade
3	Circular on examining specialized motorbike on technical safety quality and environment protection	Ministry of Transport
4	Circular on guiding the implementation some articles of the Regulation on protecting port construction and maritime channel attached to Decree No. 109/2014/ND-CP of the Government dated 20/11/2014	Ministry of Transport
5	Circular on forms of processing investment procedure and reporting investment activities in Vietnam	Ministry of Planning and Investment
6	Circular on guiding value added tax refund	Ministry of Finance
7	Circular on applying risk management in tax administration	Ministry of Finance
8	Circular on guiding some regulations on foreign exchange administration of foreign loans and repayment of enterprises	Ministry of Finance
9	Circular on foods safety examination in manufacture, foods trading under administration of Ministry of Health	Ministry of Health
10	Circular on detailing some articles of Decree No. 100/2014/ND-CP on doing business and usage of nutrition products for infant, feeding bottle and pacifier	Ministry of Health
11	Circular on regulating limit and examination of concentration of formaldehyt and aromatic amine transform from azo dye in textile product	Ministry of Industry and Trade

NO.	NAME	DRAFTING AGENCY		
CIRCULAR/JOINT CIRCULAR DRAFTS				
12	Circular on guiding implementation of Decision No. 52/2015/QD-TTg on administering border trading activity with countries have common borders	Ministry of Industry and Trade		
13	Circular on import tax adjustment of steel cast and steel product	Ministry of Finance		
14	Circular on passenger and luggage transportation on urban railway	Ministry of Transport		
15	Circular on passenger and luggage transportation on urban railway	Ministry of Transport		
16	Joint circular on guiding procedure to change name of enterprises, to compulsorily remove violated element in name of enterprises, to withdraw Certification of business registration in case of the name violates regulation on intellectual propert	Ministry of Science and Technology ty		
17	Circular on certification of regulation conformity and announcement of plant variety regulation conformity certification	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development		
18	$\label{thm:condition} \textbf{Circular on amending product description with skin filler in preferential import tariff}$	Ministry of Finance		
19	Circular on mechanism, preferential policy on supporting State budget, tax and development investment credit of the State according to Decision No. 1193/QD-TTg of the Prime Minister dated 30/7/2015 on piloting some specific mechanisms, policies for developing Vietnam-Korea technology incubator in Can Tho city	Ministry of Finance		
20	Circular on issuing special preferential import tariff of Vietnam to implement ASEAN — Korea Agreement on trade in goods period 2015-2018	Ministry of Finance		
21	Joint circular on implementing interchange procedure of notary, land and property attached to land's usage registration and tax	Ministry of Justice		
22	Joint circular on procedure to change, withdraw domain violating regulation on intellectual property	Ministry of Information and Communication		
23	Circular on administrating household chemicals, chemicals, insecticides, disinfectant for household and medical use	Ministry of Health		
24	Circular on issuing National technical regulation on amending, supplementing some regulations of National technical regulation QCVN 5-1:2010/BYT for liquid diary product attached to Circular No. 30/2010/TT-BYT of Minister of Health dated 02/06/20	Ministry of Health		
25	Circular on selection of medicine supply sub-contractor	Ministry of Health		
	OTHER DRAFTS			
1	Resolution of Council of Judges, People's Supreme Court on implementing some regulations of Law on bankruptcy	Ministry of Justice		
2	Recommendation on amending, supplementing Decree No. 90/2011/ND-CP on issuing enterprise bonds	Ministry of Finance		
3	Identify the nature of supplementary fee of maritime charge	Ministry of Finance		
4	Policy on import tax and value added tax of n-hexane solvent products	Ministry of Finance		
5	Simplification plan for group of administrative procedure related to Certification of satisfying conditions in security applied to conditional business lines under administration of Ministry of Public Security	Ministry of Justice		