NEWSLETTER 164 - 8 August 2024

Dear Readers,

Welcome to a new edition of our newsletter.

1. Import reference prices set for 3,279 types of goods

The Department of Trade under the State Administration Council ("SAC") announced on 6 August 2024 that an Import Value Review Team had set import reference prices for 3,279 types of goods which importers shall use when applying for an import license and making an import declaration starting from 12 August 2024. The list of goods was not attached to the notice.

CONVENIENCE TRANSLATION - ACCURACY NOT GUARANTEED

Notice 8/2024 Date: 6 August 2024

- 1. The Import Value Review Team, composed of the Customs Department and the Department of Trade, has reviewed the import reference prices for 3,279 types of goods with 373 HS Code lines to ensure the correctness of the prices of goods imported into Myanmar.
- Please be informed that when applying for an import license and making an import declaration for the goods referred to above, the import reference price determined for each good shall be used starting from 12 August 2024.
- 3. The import reference prices will be reviewed from time to time and the amendments will be notified.

Department of Trade

2. Exporters to exchange 25% of their earnings at the Central Bank rate

According to a notification of the Central Bank under the SAC dated 7 August 2024, exporters must exchange 25% of their earnings to MMK at the Central Bank rate (USD 1 = MMK 2,100), down from 35%. Unless exporters can make other arrangements (e.g., for importing petrol), they must in practice exchange the remainder at the online trading platform rate (USD 1 = approx. MMK 3,387).



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Republic of the Union of Myanmar Central Bank of Myanmar

Notification No. 37//2024 1386, 3rd Waxing Day of Wagaung (7 August 2024)

- 1. The Central Bank of Myanmar has issued this notification in exercise of the authority conferred by section 49 (b) Foreign Exchange Management Law.
- 2. The Central Bank of Myanmar has amended Notification No. 26/2023 dated 6 December 2023 which requires exporters to exchange 35% of their export earnings received from exports for Myanmar kyats according to the directives in Central Bank of Myanmar Notification No. 12/2022.
- 3. Instead of 35% of the export earnings received from exports, exporters shall only exchange 25% for Myanmar kyats according to the directives in Central Bank of Myanmar Notification No. 12/2022.
- 4. This notification shall be in force from 8 August 2024.

(Than Than Swe)
Governor

Letter No. Ma Ba Bha-1/108 (1303/2024)

Date: 7 August 2024

Distribution:

President's Office, State Administration Council Secretary, State Administration Council

3. Myanmar workers requested to deposit THB 6,000 with a Myanmar bank to renew paperwork to work in Thailand

Around the same time as the SAC imposed income tax on salaries earned by Myanmar workers abroad, the Ministry of Labour under the SAC directed overseas employment agencies to make

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Myanmar migrant workers remit 25% of their salary earned abroad to Myanmar through official channels starting from 1 September 2023.

Our understanding is that such salary is converted by banks in Myanmar to MMK at an "earning rate/away rate" which should currently be somewhere around USD 1 = MMK 3,387, reflecting the online trading platform rate.

Myanmar workers wishing to renew their papers that allow them to legally work in Thailand under the terms of a bilateral <u>memorandum of understanding</u> now have to show evidence that they transferred or deposited at least THB 6,000 in a Myanmar bank account.

CONVENIENCE TRANSLATION - ACCURACY NOT GUARANTEED

Urgent

Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Ministry of Labour Department of Labour Nay Pyi Taw

Letter No. 3/27/A La Nya (Migration) 2024 (1120)

Date: 30 July 2024

To:

Myanmar Overseas Employment Agencies Association

Subject: Notice to carry out supervision for knowledge and compliance Reference: Minister's Office Letter No. 49/A La/Hkwal (2) 2024 (14142)

- 1. Regarding the sending of workers to Thailand, the following steps will be taken from 1 August 2024:
 - (a) When sending back workers with the U-turn process in the MoU U-turn stations in the towns of Myawaddy and Kawthoung, the sending process will be continued only if evidence can be provided of the official transfer of 25% (THB 6,000) of 3 months basic salary (approx. THB 24,000) to the bank account of family members or workers in Myanmar.



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- 2. If workers who have not remitted money to family members and did not open a bank account in Myanmar previously open a bank account in the towns of Myawaddy and Kawthoung upon arrival and deposit money in it as a family remittance, the U-turn process is a process where [workers] are sent [back] on the same day, and because [workers] must be sent [back] to Thailand before 12:30 Myanmar time, evidence that the family remittance has been officially transferred shall be made ready in advance before visiting the U-turn stations for the process to avoid unwanted delays.
- 3. Therefore, concerning the sending back of workers to Thailand with the MoU Uturn process, please be notified so that overseas employment services supervision is carried out by the [relevant] Myanmar entrepreneurs association to ensure that employment agencies with licenses for Thailand know and comply with the particulars in paragraphs 1 and 2.

Maung Maung Than
Director General

Copies:

Ministry of Labour
Office of the Labour Attaché, Bangkok, Thailand
MoU U-turn station (town of Myawaddy)
MoU U-turn station (town of Kawthoung)
Office receipt
For circulation

4. Geographical indications

Currently, no applications for the registration of geographical indications (marks used to identify goods whose quality, reputation or other characteristics are associated with their geographical origin) may be filed in the new <u>online trademark filing system</u>. However, this may change in the not too distant future as draft regulations exist and a consultation meeting was held with ministries and (private) "organisations" on 31 July 2024.

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5. Seminar invitation: Criminal procedure in Myanmar

For a variety of reasons, we have seen a sharp increase in enquiries about criminal law over the last months and would like to take this opportunity to offer a seminar on criminal procedure in Myanmar to anybody interested.

Proposed agenda:

- From police complaint to trial, step by step
- Summons cases and warrant cases
- When and how the police may make an arrest
- Pre-trial detention
- Access to lawyers at the pre-trial and trial stages
- When and how bail may be obtained
- When and how the police may interview witnesses and request the production of documents
- When and how the police may enter premises and conduct searches
- Managing cases in the countryside
- Unlawful Associations Act and Counter-Terrorism Law

Date and time	Thursday, 22 nd August 2024, 2:30pm - 4:00pm
Place	Rose Garden Hotel, 171 Upper Pansodan Road, Yangon
Speaker	Sebastian Pawlita
Language	English
Participation fee	MMK 25,000 per person, payable in cash at the reception desk
Registration	Please register by sending an e-mail to info@lincolnmyanmar.com, stating the name of your organisation and the names of the participants.
Suggesting a topic	If you wish us to discuss a particular topic at the seminar, please do not hesitate to include this in your registration e-mail; we will be happy to amend the agenda.

We hope that you have found this information useful.

Sebastian Pawlita Managing Director



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About Lincoln Legal Services (Myanmar) Limited

Lincoln Legal Services (Myanmar) Limited provides the full range of legal and tax advisory and compliance work required by investors. We pride ourselves in offering result-oriented work, high dependability and a fast response time at very competitive prices. Please do not hesitate to contact us:

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