

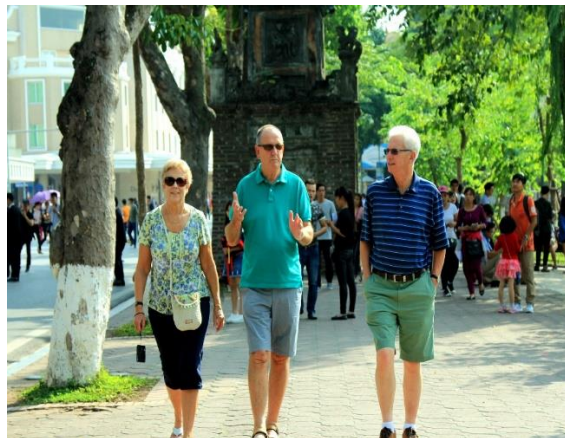


Culture – Sports - Tourism

Visa exemption policy expanded to citizens from more countries

The Prime Minister has recently requested the Ministry of Public Security (MPS) to consider expanding the coverage of the visa exemption policy under Directive No. 06/CT-TTg.

Meanwhile, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs will quickly review the application of the



Meanwhile, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs will quickly review the application of the unilateral visa exemption for citizens of 13 countries so far, and coordinate with the MPS to propose other countries for inclusion in Vietnam's unilateral visa exemption list.

The visa-free policy expansion is expected to attract more international tourists to Vietnam and enhance the country's tourism competitiveness compared to others in the region and the world.

Vietnam is currently exempting visa requirements for citizens of 25 countries, including 13 entitled to unilateral exemption, namely Germany, France, Italy, Spain, the UK, Russia, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Denmark, Sweden, Norway, Finland, and Belarus.

Since August 2023, it has granted electronic visas to citizens of all countries and extended the stay from 30 to 90 days with multiple entries. Meanwhile, citizens of the



countries entitled to the unilateral visa exemption have also had their stay in Vietnam extended to 45 from 15 days.

Education – Training – Vocational training

Particular regulations related to teachers brought into law

From July 2025, teachers who fully meet professional criteria would be granted a professional certificate, according to a draft Law on Teachers proposed by the Ministry of Education and Training.

Such certificate, which would be granted free of charge and valid nationwide, might be used in replacement of the decision on completion of the probationary period and the certificate of training based on professional title standards for teachers.

Teachers eligible for grant of the professional certificate include intern teachers who have completed their internship and meet the professional standards, incumbent teachers, and retired teachers. Foreign teachers who meet the law-prescribed conditions would also be granted such certificates. Those who possess a teacher's professional certificate would be allowed to work for multiple schools or work as guest teachers at other education institutions.

Once approved, regulations on professional certificate would help facilitate the movement of teachers between public and non-public education institutions as well as the transfer of teachers among different localities while ensuring uniformity in quality of teaching and educational activities.

The MOET also proposes that teachers would be entitled to enjoy the highest level in the salary scale system applicable to administrative and non-business units. Salaries and allowances for teachers working at non-public education institutions and education institutions applying the financial autonomy regime would not be lower than those for teachers with the same training level, seniority and title who work in public education institutions.

Regarding the working regime, under the draft Law, normal working time for a teacher would not exceed 40 hours per week. Teachers would be entitled to annual leave, including an exclusive eight-week summer holiday, which would replace the ordinary annual leave prescribed by the Labor Code, in addition to other public holiday and New Year holiday leaves, personal leaves, unpaid leaves and other days off according to regulations.

The draft also proposes support policies for young teachers, teachers working in difficulty-hit areas or special schools, and those teaching children with disabilities or teaching ethnic minority languages or Vietnamese to ethnic minority students or artistic subjects. The State would also introduce policies to attract talented individuals to become teachers.

The draft law is scheduled to be passed by the National Assembly this October.

Insurance

New strategy aims to expand social insurance coverage



By 2030, Vietnam will have 60 percent of the working-age population covered by social insurance, in which farmers and the informal sector's workers covered by voluntary social insurance will account for some 5 percent.

Such is one of the targets set forth under the Strategy for social insurance development approved by the Prime Minister under Decision 38/QĐ-TTg dated January 11.

Accordingly, there will be 45 percent of the working-age population covered by unemployment insurance, around 60 percent of retired people receiving pensions, monthly social insurance and retirement benefits, and over 97 percent of the entire population covered by health insurance.

Besides, the rate of people and businesses satisfied with administrative procedure settlement is expected to reach 95 percent and the index reflecting the satisfaction rate of social insurance participants will reach 90 percent.

It is also targeted to have 75 percent of the population receiving social insurance and unemployment insurance benefits by cashless payment modes in urban areas.

Another target set by the Strategy is to continue promoting digital transformation, researching and developing the information technology system of Vietnam's social security sector to meet the requirements on integration, interconnectivity, linkage and centralized processing of dossiers.



To that end, it is necessary to develop the National Insurance Database; and interconnect and share data of the National Insurance Database with the National Population Database and other national and specialized databases to facilitate the provision of public services, creating favorable conditions for the people and employers, and big data-based inspection and control activities.

Meanwhile, all information systems of the Vietnam Social Security that are related to the people, organizations and businesses will be restructured with application of modern technologies for putting into operation, and interconnected via datasharing platforms; and all the insured's dossiers (except those classified as state secrets) will be processed in the cyber environment.

To achieve the set targets, the Strategy sets out major tasks and solutions, including reforming administrative procedures, renovating the implementation of the single-window mechanism and interdisciplinary single-window mechanism in settling administrative procedures; and improving the sense of responsibility, and service attitude of civil servants, public employees and workers of the social insurance sector.

Also, social insurance-related administrative procedures will be further revised and simplified, with unnecessary dossier components removed and forms and declarations with similar information reduced

Land - Housing

Government issues new regulations on land valuation

The Government on February 5 issued Decree 12/2024/ND-CP, specifying four land valuation methods instead of the current five, namely comparison method, income-based method, surplus-based method and land price adjustment coefficient method.

In addition, the new regulation also details conditions applying those methods.

Under the new Land Law 2024, the land price list will be published on an annual basis with the first list applied from January 2026. On an annual basis, the provincial/municipal People's Committee will propose to the provincial/municipal People's Council adjustment, amendments and supplements for the land price list, which will become effective the following year.

The specific land price on the land price list is used as a starting price for auctioning land use rights when the State allocates land with collection of land use fees, or leases land with a one-time fee for the entire lease period.

The natural resources and environment agency is responsible for helping People's Committees at the same level carry out the determination of specific land prices.

Medical - Health

National Strategy for people's health protection approved

The Prime Minister has recently approved the National Strategy for protection, care and improvement of the people's health through 2030, with a vision toward 2045, setting the target that all citizens will have access to quality healthcare services.

Under Decision 89/QĐ-TTg, the prime objective of the Strategy is to ensure the



entire population is living in safe communities and being able to well develop both physically and mentally to enjoy improved living standards and provide quality human resources for national construction and defense.

The Strategy's specific targets are to intensify the prevention and control of diseases, particularly emerging infectious diseases; ensure health security and prompt response to climate change and public health emergencies; and gradually control disease risk factors, and improve the capacity to manage the medical environment, non-infectious diseases, occupational diseases and accidents.

At the same time, the quality and efficiency of the health service provision network from central to grassroots levels will be improved to respond to changing disease patterns and requirements of international integration and the Fourth Industrial Revolution. The primary health care system will be strengthened to narrow the gap in morbidity and mortality rates among regions and ethnic groups.

Meanwhile, medical human resources will be developed in terms of quantity, quality and structure, particularly those trained to provide healthcare services at the grassroots level and in rural, ethnic minority, mountainous and border areas and on islands. The Strategy also aims for a reasonable structure of medical doctors and nurses, thereby ensuring the balance between training and employment of medical personnel.



In addition, greater attention will be paid to the application of high technologies to the prevention, detection, diagnosis and treatment of diseases, and research and development of pharmaceuticals and medical equipment.

It is also necessary to ensure the availability of quality drugs, vaccines, biological products, medical supplies and equipment at reasonable prices, thus meeting the people's disease prevention and treatment needs, with priority given to the development of the domestic pharmaceutical industry, medicinal materials and medical equipment.

By 2045, it is targeted that the healthcare system will be improved with the quality of medical services on a par with advanced regional countries, with a view to meeting the ever-growing and diverse needs of the people and achieving the universal healthcare coverage.

Transport

MOT to raise ceiling airfares next month

From the beginning of March, the ceiling price for tickets on domestic flight routes will be increased, according to Circular 34 recently issued by the Ministry of Transport.

Under the circular, the price framework for basic economy class passenger transportation services will be amended. The ceiling airfares will remain unchanged at VND 1.6 million per one-way ticket for routes which serve the socio-economic development in remote areas or islands where there is only one carrier operating, and VND 1.7 million for other domestic routes below 500km.

The remaining flight routes are subject to a price increase of VND 50,000-250,000 per one-way ticket, depending on the length of each route.

The maximum price covers all costs a passenger must pay for an airline's service, excluding value-added tax and fees collected on behalf of the airport (including passenger service fees and security assurance fees, luggage; service charges with additional items).

According to the Civil Aviation Authority of Vietnam under the Ministry of Transport, the proposed increase in domestic air ticket prices is due to changes in the factors that form ticket prices, especially hikes of fuel prices and exchange rates.-



New policies related to road tolls

Effective from the beginning of February, Decree 90/2023/ND-CP provides regulations concerning the rates, collection, remittance, exemption, management, and use of road tolls.

As per the decree, road tolls apply to registered road vehicles (with vehicle registration certificates and license plates) that have been inspected for circulation (issued with safety certificates), including cars, tractors and similar vehicles.

Accordingly, passenger vehicles with less than 10 seats registered under an individual or business household name must pay VND 130,000 per month.

Those with less than 10 seats including trucks, specialized cars with a total mass of less than 4,000kg, public passenger transport buses (including buses transporting subsidized students and workers), cargo vehicles, and four-wheeled passenger vehicles with motors are subjected to VND 180,000 per month.

Trucks and specialized cars with a total mass from 19,000kg to under 27,000kg, tractors with self-weight plus allowed towing weight from 19,000kg to less than 27,000kg must pay VND 720,000 per month.

Road tolls can be paid annually, monthly, or according to the car's inspection cycle. The registration unit issues road toll payment stamps corresponding to the payment time.

For cars with an inspection cycle of one year or less, the vehicle owner must pay the road toll for the entire inspection cycle and receive a road toll payment stamp for that period.

For cars with inspection cycles of more than one year (18 months, 24 months, and 36 months), the vehicle owners can choose to pay road tolls annually (12 months) or for the entire inspection cycle.

In the case of paying road tolls according to the inspection cycle, the registry unit will issue a road toll payment stamp corresponding to the inspection cycle. At the end of the payment deadline (inspection cycle), the vehicle owner must go to the registration unit for inspection and pay the road toll for the next inspection cycle.

If vehicle owners arrive for inspection earlier or later than the prescribed inspection cycle, the registration unit will inspect the vehicle and calculate the continuing road toll from the end of the previous paid period until the end of the next inspection cycle.

LIST OF UPDATED LEGAL NORMATIVE DOCUMENTS

Natural Resources - Environment		
1	Circular 45/2023/TT-BCT amend Circular 23/2021/TT-BCT list of kinds and quality standards of exported minerals	<p>Issuing date: 29/12/2023</p> <p>Effective date: 15/02/2024</p> <p>Effect status: In force</p>
Finance - Banking		
2	Circular No. 23/2023/TT-NHNN dated December 29, 2023 of the State Bank of Vietnam stipulating the technical standards for money vaults and cash-in-transit vehicles of credit institutions and foreign bank branches	<p>Issuing date: 29/12/2023</p> <p>Effective date: 12/02/2024</p> <p>Effect status: In force</p>
Land - Housing		
3	Decree No. 12/2024/ND-CP dated February 05, 2024 of the Government amending and supplementing a number of articles of the Government's Decree No. 44/2014/ND-CP dated May 15, 2014, prescribing land prices, and the Government's Decree No. 10/2023/ND-CP dated April 3, 2023, amending and supplementing a number of articles of the decrees guiding the implementation of the Land Law	<p>Issuing date: 05/02/2024</p> <p>Effective date: 05/02/2024</p> <p>Effect status: In force</p>
Tax – Fee – Charge		
4	Decree No. 05/2024/ND-CP dated January 24, 2024 of the Government on Vietnam's Special Preferential Import Tariff to implement the Arrangement on Bilateral Trade Enhancement between the Government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam and the Government of the Kingdom of Cambodia in the 2023-2024 period	<p>Issuing date: 24/01/2024</p> <p>Effective date: 24/01/2024</p> <p>Effect status: In force</p>
Labor - Salary		
5		<p>Issuing date: 29/12/2023</p>



	Circular No. 15/2023/TT-BLDTBXH dated December 29, 2023 of the Ministry of Labor, Invalids and Social Affairs amending and supplementing a number of articles of Circular No. 28/2015/TT-BLDTBXH dated July 31, 2015, on guiding the implementation of Article 52 of the Law on Employment and a number of articles of the Government's Decree No. 28/2015/ND-CP dated March 12, 2015, detailing a number of articles of the Law on Employment regarding unemployment insurance	Effective date: 15/02/2024 Effect status: In force
6	Circular No. 20/2023/TT-BLDTBXH dated December 29, 2023 of the Ministry of Labor, Invalids and Social Affairs specifying coefficients for adjustment of monthly salaries and incomes for which social insurance premiums have been paid	Issuing date 29/12/2023 Effective date: 15/02/2024 Effect status: In force
Medical - Health		
7	Decree No. 96/2023/ND-CP dated December 30, 2023 of the Government detailing a number of articles of the Law on Medical Examination and Treatment	Issuing date: 30/12/2023 Effective date: 01/01/2024 Effect status: In force
Enterprise		
8	Circular No. 03/2024/TT-BCT dated January 30, 2024 of the Ministry of Industry and Trade amending and supplementing a number of articles of the Minister of Industry and Trade's Circulars concerning to franchise, representative offices and branches of foreign traders, the trading of goods and activities directly related to the trading of goods by foreign service providers	Issuing date: 30/01/2024 Effective date: 18/03/2024 Effect status: In force
9	Decree No. 193/2013/ND-CP dated November 21, 2013 of the Government detailing a number of articles of the Law on Cooperatives	Issuing date 21/11/2013 Effective date: 27/01/2014 Effect status: In force





Administration		
10	Decision No. 62/QD-BGTVT dated January 19, 2024 of the Ministry of Transport on publication of amended and supplemented registration-related administrative procedures under the management of the Ministry of Transport	Issuing date: 19/01/2024 Effective date: 15/02/2024 Effect status: In force
11	Resolution No. 41/2023/UBTVQH15 dated December 18, 2023 of the National Assembly Standing Committee on adjustments to the 2024 law-and ordinance-making program	Issuing date: 18/12/2023 Effective date: 18/12/2023 Effect status: In force

Thank you for your reading!

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