

Legal news

March 2012

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HIGHLIGHTED UPDATES

1. **70 million VND (or US\$ 3500) is the maximum fine for each administrative violation in the field of protection of consumers' interests.**

This content is contained in Decree No. 19/2012/ND-CP dated 16 March 2012 providing sanctions for administrative violations in the field of protection of consumers' interests ("Decree 19").

According to Decree 19,

- (i) Administrative violations in the field of protections of consumers' interests are intentional or unintentional behaviours of individuals, agencies or organizations violating provisions of the laws on protection of consumers' interests, which are not crimes and shall be administratively sanctioned in accordance with the laws.
- (ii) Personal secrets of the consumers are information fully satisfying conditions on information relating to the consumers themselves; which security measures have been applied to by the consumers or other relevant organizations or individuals and the disclosure or use thereof is not approved by the consumers and is likely to adversely affect the consumers' health, life, assets or cause other material and mental damages to the consumers.
- (iii) Third-parties relating to the supply of information about goods and services to the consumers are organizations or individuals requested by organizations or individuals trading goods and services to conduct the supply of information about goods and services, including: organizations or individuals doing business conduct the service of supplying information about goods and services to the consumers; organizations or individuals doing business participate in setting up information about goods and services; owners of communication media, communication service suppliers and other organizations or individuals requested to supply information.

Decree 19 also provides the maximum fine for violations in the field of consumer protection. Specifically:

- (i) A fine of up to the maximum of VND 70,000,000 shall be applied to:
 - (a) Acts of violating registration of standard form contracts and general trading conditions;
 - (b) Acts of entering into contracts or general trading conditions, which contain invalid provisions, with the consumers;
 - (c) Acts of violating obligations to provide warranty for goods, components and auxiliaries; and
 - (d) Acts of trading unquality goods and services.
- (ii) A fine of up to the maximum of VND 50,000,000 shall be applied to:

- (a) Third parties' violations of supplying information about goods and services to the consumers; and
- (b) Acts of violating responsibilities for recovering defective goods;
- (iii) A fine of up to the maximum of VND 30,000,000 shall be applied to:
 - (a) Acts of violating protection of the consumers' information;
 - (b) Acts of advertising in order to mislead the consumers;
 - (c) Acts of violating the implementation of standard form contracts;
 - (d) Acts of violating the implementation of general trading conditions; and
 - (e) Acts of forcing the consumers.
- (iv) A fine of up to the maximum of VND 20,000,000 shall be applied to:
 - (i) Violations of organizations or individuals doing business in supplying information about goods and services to the consumers;
 - (ii) Acts of violating contracts signed with the consumers;
 - (iii) Acts of violating form of standard form contracts and general trading conditions;
 - (iv) Acts of violating distance contracts;
 - (v) Acts of violating contracts on supplying continuous services;
 - (vi) Acts of violating door-to-door sales contracts; and
 - (vii) Acts of disturbing the consumers.
- (v) A fine of up to the maximum of VND 10,000,000 shall be applied to:
 - (a) Acts of violating the submission of transaction evidence; and
 - (b) Acts of not implementing requests of State authorities in charge of protecting the consumers' interests.
- (vi) A fine of up to the maximum of VND 2,000,000 shall be applied to violations of individuals who are independently and regularly engaged in commercial activities not subject to business registration;

With respect to other acts of violating provisions on transactions with customers and consumers, the dealing therewith shall be in accordance with Article 27 of Decree No. 06/2008/ND-CP dated 16 January 2008 providing sanctions for administrative violations in commercial activities.

Authority to impose administrative sanctions and the maximum fine are stipulated in Decree 19 as follows:

- (i) Director General of Vietnam Competition Authority, Presidents of provincial – level People's Committees have the authority to impose fines of up to VND 70,000,000;

- (ii) Presidents of district – level People’s Committees have the authority to impose fines of up to VND 30,000,000;
- (iii) Managers of Market Control Sub-departments have authority to impose fines of up to VND 20,000,000;
- (iv) Leaders of Market Control Teams have authority to impose fines of up to VND 5,000,000;
- (v) Presidents of commune – level People’s Committee have authority to impose fines of up to VND 2,000,000;
- (vi) Market controllers being on official duties have the authority to impose fines of up to VND 200,000.

People’s Police Agencies, Border Guard Units, Marine Police, Customs, Tax Offices, Specialized Inspectorates and other agencies have the authority to impose fines on administrative violations in the field of protection of consumers’ interests in accordance with authorities stipulated in Ordinance on dealing with administrative violations of 2002 and Ordinance amending and supplementing a number of Articles of Ordinance on dealing with administrative violations of 2008.

Decree 19 comes into full force and effect as of 1 May 2012.

2. **Promulgating guidelines on implementation of the Law on Independent Auditing**

On 13 March 2012, the Government promulgated Decree No. 17/2012/ND-CP detailing and providing guidelines for the implementation of a number of articles of the Law on Independent Auditing (“Decree 17”).

Accordingly, Decree 17 provides detailed regulations and guidelines for the implementation of a number of articles of the Law on Independent Auditing with respect to:

- (i) The Professional Auditing Associations;
- (ii) Auditing enterprises;
- (iii) Provision of cross-border auditing services;
- (iv) Audited entities;
- (v) Audit reports; and
- (vi) Archiving, use and destruction of audit files.

Decree 17 is applicable to entities comprised of:

- (i) Auditors;
- (ii) Practicing Auditors;
- (iii) Auditing enterprises;
- (iv) Branches of foreign auditing enterprises;
- (v) Foreign auditing enterprises providing cross-border auditing services in Vietnam;

- (vi) Audited entities;
- (vii) The Professional Auditing Associations; and
- (viii) Other organizations and individuals involved in independent auditing activities.

According to Decree 17, audited entities include:

- (i) Enterprises and organizations required by law to have their annual financial statements compulsorily audited, must be audited by an auditing enterprise or branch of a foreign auditing enterprise in Vietnam, such enterprises and organizations, specifically:
 - (a) Enterprises with foreign owned capital;
 - (b) Credit institutions established and operating in accordance with the Law on Credit Institutions, including the branches of foreign banks in Vietnam;
 - (c) Finance organizations, insurance enterprises, re-insurance enterprises, insurance broking enterprises and branches of foreign non-life insurance enterprises; and
 - (d) Public companies, issuing organizations and securities business organizations.
- (ii) Other enterprises and organizations compulsory subject to audit in accordance with relevant laws.
- (iii) Enterprises and organizations compulsorily subject to audit by an auditing enterprise or branch of a foreign auditing enterprise in Vietnam, comprising:
 - (a) Annual financial statements of State owned enterprises must be audited, except for State owned enterprises operating in State secret sectors as stipulated by law;
 - (b) Finalization reports on projects completed by enterprises and organizations implementing nationally important projects and projects of Group A funded by State capital must be audited, except for projects in State secret sectors as stipulated by law;
 - (c) Annual financial statements of enterprises and organizations in which a State Group or State Corporation holds 20% or more of the voting rights as at the end of the financial year must be audited;
 - (d) Annual financial statements of enterprises in which listing organizations, issuing organizations and securities business organizations hold 20% or more of the voting rights as at the end of the financial year must be audited;
 - (e) Annual financial statements of auditing enterprises and of branches of foreign auditing enterprises in Vietnam must be audited.
- (iv) Other enterprises and organizations may be voluntarily audited.

Audit reports on financial statements and audit reports on other auditing works regarding entities compulsorily subject to audit as stipulated by law must be prepared in accordance with Vietnamese auditing standards. A practicing auditor is not permitted to sign an audit report on the same audited entity for more than three consecutive years.

Auditing enterprises and branches of foreign auditing enterprises in Vietnam must design and implement their own policies and procedures on maintaining confidentiality, safety, integrity, accessibility and recoverability of audit files (in paper form or in electronic data form) in accordance with provisions in auditing standards.

Auditing enterprises and branches of foreign auditing enterprises in Vietnam must design and implement their own policies and procedures on archiving audit files for a minimum ten (10) year period from the date of issuance of an audit report on auditing work in accordance with provisions in auditing standards.

Decree 17 shall be of full force and effect as from 1 May 2012.

3. Till 2020, public passenger transport system by bus will be synchronous developed.

This is one of the targets stated in Decision No. 280/QĐ-TTg dated 8 March 2012 of Prime Minister approving Project on developing network of public passenger transport by bus for period from 2012 to 2020 (“Decision 280”).

Accordingly, Decision 280 proposes the targets as follows:

- (i) Developing the network of public passenger transport by bus comprehensively and compatibly between forms of transportation in the urban (urban railway, subway and waterway) and from urban centre to districts and towns of provinces and cities, from specific urban to satellite urban, industrial parks;
- (ii) Developing public passenger transport by bus in the direction of supplying bus service convenient for and suitable with travel demand of majority of people (including number of bus route running in a day, open and closure times of bus routes, arrangement of bus stations convenient for picking up and giving back people, issuance of bus tickets comfortable for using) in order to promote people’s use of buses, make premise for restriction with using private facilities to contribute to settle traffic jams when urban is developed with every passing day;
- (iii) Setting up logical network of routes ensuring convenience for the people when travelling in the direction of developing bus routes to the centres of districts, towns, industrial parks of provinces or cities;
- (iv) Improving quality of buses as means of public passenger transport, ensuring the investment in facilities in compliance with transportation infrastructure system and people’s demand for travel;
- (v) Encouraging the provinces and cities to invest in buses running on environmentally-friendly fuel; and

- (vi) Apply new technologies in managing and directing operation of buses, ensuring logical adjustment in and supervision of bus services.

The main contents of the Project on developing the network of public passenger transport by bus for the period from 2012 to 2020 include:

- (i) Planning on development of the network of bus routes of provinces and cities. In which, Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City need to concentrate on re-planning on the existing network of bus routes combined with investment in fast-bus route transporting huge volumes and urban railway and subway system in the coming time;
- (ii) Investment in facilities involved in activities of public passenger transport by bus;
- (iii) Use of, new investment and promotion of investment in infrastructure serving public passenger transport by bus;
- (iv) Service quality management of public passenger transport by bus;
- (v) Propagandizing and mobilizing people to travel by bus, organization of training courses for officers and staffs working in the field of public passenger transport by bus;
- (vi) Mechanisms and policies on developing public passenger transport by bus for period from 2012 to 2020; and
- (vii) Expenditures for performance of the Project are ensured by State budget and capital mobilized from other resources (equity of enterprise, capital borrowed from credit institutions, and international sponsoring).

Prime Minister allocates the works and assigns tasks to Ministry of Transportation, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Information and Communications, Ministry of Planning and Investment, People's Committees of provinces and central run cities to perform the Project to be fruitful.

Decision 280 is effective from the signing date.

4. Credit institution system will be re-structured

The foregoing content is contained in Decision No. 254/QDD-TTg dated 1 March 2012 of the Prime Minister approving Project on "Restructuring the credit institution system for period from 2011 to 2015" ("Decision 254").

Decision 254 provides orientation and solutions as follows:

- (i) Restructure of:
 - (a) State commercial banks;
 - (b) Joint stock commercial banks, finance companies and finance leasing companies of Vietnam (hereafter referred to as "CI"); and
 - (c) Foreign credit institutions.

- (ii) Strengthening and developing People's credit funds and micro-finance institutions.

Decision 254 provides solutions for restructure of IC, particularly as follows:

- (i) With respect to wealthy ICs:
 - (a) ICs' setting up and implementing of plans by themselves to consolidate and correct their operations and enhance capacity of competition in accordance with resolutions as provided for in Clause 5, Item II, Part B, aiming at fast developing on scale, operation, finance and getting administrative knowledge and modern technologies;
 - (b) encouraging and creating favourable conditions for IC to merge, consolidation and acquisition in voluntary principle in order to increase their scale of operation and capacity of competition;
 - (c) extending the scale and the extent of operation; actively engaging in financial market in the region and in the world; and
 - (d) participating in settlement of poor ICs and ICs lacking of liquidity; lending support to liquidity in respect of the poor ICs and the temporary insolvent ICs losing temporary insolvency; acquiring and merging the poor ICs.
- (ii) With respect to ICs lacking of temporary liquidity:
 - (a) State Bank of Vietnam refinances the ICs lacking of temporary liquidity in order to ensure such ICs' solvency and possibility to return their normal operation;
 - (b) IC works out and implements the Plan on recovering solvency; IC must restrict growing of credit and actively raise capital aiming at repaying debts to State Bank of Vietnam and increasing solvency;
 - (c) State Bank of Vietnam strictly supervises status of finance and operation of IC refinanced;
 - (d) IC must implement the correction, the strengthening of finance, the operation and the administration in accordance with resolutions as provided for in Clause 5, Item II, Part B, in order to ensure security and business efficiency, in which are included resolution of bad debts, improvement of solvency, decrease of debt coefficient and capital use coefficient;
 - (e) Encouraging and create favourable conditions for ICs of this group to merge and consolidate each other, and with the wealthy ICs; and
 - (f) Subject to nature and level of risk, the State Bank of Vietnam shall take the following measures:
 - restricting expansion of extent, scale and operational locality of ICs;

- obliging ICs to implement one or a number of security ratios, which is/are higher than generally providing level.
- (iii) With respect of the poor ICs:
 - (a) Ensuring the solvency of the poor ICs through suitable measures as provided for in Decision No. 254; and
 - (b) Merging, consolidating and acquiring the poor ICs.

Decision 254 took effect as from the signing date.

Other Sectors

Finance - Banking

- Decision No. 407/QD-NHNN dated 12 March 2012 of the State Bank of Vietnam on the refinancing, discount and overnight interest rates in the inter-bank electronic payments and the loans for balance of finance shortage in clearing transactions between the State Bank of Vietnam and commercial banks.
- On 20 March 2012, the State Bank of Vietnam stipulated Circular No.07/2012/TT-NHNN on foreign currency status of credit institutions and foreign banks' branches.
- Circular No. 05/2012/TT-NHNN dated 12 March 2012 of the State Bank of Vietnam amending and adding a number of articles of Circular No. 30/2011/TT-NHNN dated 28 September 2011 providing for maximum interest rates applicable to savings deposits in Vietnamese Dong of organizations and individuals at credit institutions and foreign banks' branches.
- On 8 March 2012, the State Bank of Vietnam issued Circular No. 04/2012/TT-NHNN providing for trust and trust receipt operations by credit institutions and foreign banks' branches.
- Circular No. 03/2012/TT-NHNN dated 8 March 2012 of the State Bank of Vietnam providing for loans in foreign currencies by credit institutions and foreign banks' branches to borrowers being residents.
- On 2 March 2012, the Ministry of Finance stipulated Circular No. 35/2012/TT-BTC providing guidelines for a number of articles of Decree No. 75/2011/ND-CP dated 30 August 2011 on investment and export credits of the State.

Securities

- Decision No. 252/QD-TTg dated 1 March 2012 of the Prime Minister approving the development strategy of Vietnam's stock market for the period from 2011 to 2020.
- On 1 March 2012, the Ministry of Finance issued Circular No. 34/2012/TT-BTC providing guidelines for issuance of government-guaranteed bonds.

Taxation

- Decision No. 737/QD-BTC dated 23 March 2012 of the Ministry of Finance correcting Circular No. 21/2012/TT-BTC dated 15 February 2012 of the Minister of Finance promulgating the Preferential Import Tariff of Vietnam for the

implementation of Vietnam – Japanese Economic Partnership Agreement for the period from 2012 to 2015.

- On 23 March 2012, the Ministry of Finance stipulated Decision No. 734/QD-BTC correcting Circular No. 21/2012/TT-BTC dated 15 February 2012 of the Ministry of Finance promulgating the Special Preferential Import Tariff of Vietnam for the implementation of Vietnam – Japanese Economic Partnership Agreement for the period from 2012 to 2015.
- Decision No. 723/QD-BTC dated 21 March 2012 of the Ministry of Finance promulgating the standard form of receipt slip of taxes paid in cash for import goods.
- On 13 March 2012, the Ministry of Finance issued Decision No. 662/QD-BTC on the exemption of import tax applicable to goods for gifts and presents.
- Decision No. 247/QD-TCT dated 12 March 2012 of General Department of Taxation on tax treating and sanctioning administrative violations in inspections of compliance with laws on taxation.
- On 30 March 2012, the Ministry of Finance stipulated Circular No. 51/2012/TT-BTC amending the effectiveness of Circular No. 15/2012/TT-BTC dated 8 February 2012 of the Ministry of Finance and promulgating the standard form of declaration of export and import goods.
- Circular No. 05/2012/TT-BCT dated 20 March 2012 of the Ministry of Industry of Trade providing for the import under tariff quota in years 2012 and 2013 with import tax rate of 0% applicable to the goods having Cambodian origin.
- On 16 March 2012, the Ministry of Finance issued Circular No. 45/2012/TT-BTC on promulgating the preferential import tariff of Vietnam for the implementation of ASEAN – India Trade In Goods Agreement for the period from 2012 to 2014.
- Circular No. 44/2012/TT-BTC dated 16 March 2012 of the Ministry of Finance promulgating the Special Preferential Import Tariff of Vietnam for the implementation of ASEAN – Australia – New Zealand Free Trade Area Agreement for the period from 2012 to 2014.
- On 12 March 2012, the Ministry of Finance stipulated Circular No. 42/2012/TT-BTC providing guidelines for the implementation of Decision No. 04/2012/QD-TTg dated 19 January 2012 of the Prime Minister on 3-month deferment of time limit for payment of Corporate Income Tax amount payable by small and medium sized enterprises and enterprises employing many employees in the first and second quarters of year 2011.
- Circular No. 39/2012/TT-BTC dated 8 March 2012 of the Ministry of Finance providing guidelines for preferential import tax rates applicable to a number of commodities under heading 2710 in the Preferential Import Tariff.

- On 2 March 2012, the Ministry of Finance issued Circular No. 37/2012/TT-BTC providing guidelines for preferential import tax rates applicable to commodities under heading 2711 in the Preferential Import Tariff.
- Circular No. 36/2012/TT-BTC dated 2 March 2012 of the Ministry of Finance providing guidelines for import taxes applicable to goods entitled to Viet – Lao preferential import tax rates.

Labour

- On 12 March 2012, Vietnam Social Insurance stipulated Decision No. 278/QD-BHXH on the assignment of tasks to General Director and Vice General Directors of Vietnam Social Insurance.
- Circular No. 05/2012/TT-BLDTBXH dated 30 March 2012 of the Ministry of Labour, War Invalids and Social Affairs promulgating national technical regulation on labour safety for lift equipment.
- On 6 March 2012, the Ministry of Transport issued Circular No. 05/2012/TT-BGTVT providing working hours and rest time for the boatmen working on Vietnam vessels.

Education

- Decision No. 1146/QD-BGDDT dated 26 March 2011 of the Ministry of Education and Training promulgating this Ministry's plan of reviewing administrative regulations and procedures in 2012.
- On 6 March 2012, the Ministry of Education and Training stipulated Circular No.10/2012/TT-BGDDT promulgating the Regulation on high-school finals.
- Circular No. 09/2012/TT-BGDDT dated 5 March 2012 of the Ministry of Education and Training promulgating the Regulation on entrance of colleges and junior colleges in regular system.
- On 5 March 2012, the Ministry of Education and Training issued Circular No.08/2012/TT-BGDDT promulgating the Regulation on Pedagogic standard professional skills of professional intermediate-level teachers.

Health

- Decision No. 14/2012/QD-TTg dated 1 March 2012 of the Prime Minister amending and supplementing a number of articles of Decision No. 139/2002/QD-TTg dated 15 October 2002 of the Prime Minister on medical examination and treatment for the poor.
- On 29 February 2012, the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Finance jointly stipulated Inter-ministerial Circular No. 04/2012/TTLT-BYT-BTC promulgating

maximum levels in range of prices for a number of medical services at public medical establishments.

Transport

- Decree No. 21/2012/ND-CP dated 21 March 2012 on the management of seaports and maritime traffic flows.
- On 13 March 2012, the Government issued Decree No. 18/2012/ND-CP on Land Road Maintenance Fund.
- Circular No. 09/2012/TT-BGTVT dated 23 March 2012 of the Ministry of Transport on the amendment and supplement to a number of articles of the regulations on scope of responsibility of boatmen, boat controller and minimum safety fixed staffing on means of inland waterways accompanied by Decision No.28/2004/QD-BGTVT dated 7 December 2004 of the Minister of Transport.
- On 23 March 2012, the Ministry of Transport stipulated Circular No.08/2012/TT-BGTVT providing guidelines for the implementation of a number of articles of the Agreement between the Government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam and the Royal Government of Cambodia on waterway transportation.
- Circular No. 07/2012/TT-BGTVT dated 21 March 2012 of the Ministry of Transport providing for the titles and tasks associated with such titles of boatmen and registration for the boatmen working on Vietnam vessels;
- On 9 March 2012, the Ministry of Finance issued Circular No. 41/2012/TT-BTC providing guidelines for the collection of a number of maritime charges for ships of large tonnage docking in Cai Mep - Thi Vai port.
- Circular No. 06/2012/TT-BGTVT dated 8 March 2012 of the Ministry of Transport providing for responsibilities and dealing with violations in training, examine and issuance of driver licenses of land road motorized vehicles.
- On 29 February 2012, the Ministry of Transport stipulated Circular No.04/2012/TT-BGTVT prescribing on licensing procedures for inland transport of vessels of foreign registry.

Construction

- Decision No. 576/QD-BGTVT dated 16 March 2012 of the Ministry of Transport approving the planning of Quang Ninh International Airport until 2020 with orientation to 2030.
- On 2 March 2012, the Prime Minister issued Decision No. 296/QD-TTg approving the task of general planning on construction of Nam Can Economic Zone, Ca Mau Province until 2030.

- Circular No. 33/2012/TT-BTC dated 1 March 2012 of the Ministry of Finance providing guidelines for the regime on collection, payment and use management of fees in the field of construction.

Land – Real Estate

- On 8 March 2012, the People’s Committee of Hanoi stipulated Decision No.05/2012/QD-UBND promulgating the price list taken as basis to calculate registration fees of houses and personal income tax levied on assignment of houses in the area of Hanoi.
- Decision No. 646/QD-BTC dated 12 March 2012 of the Ministry of Finance on keeping houses and land for using.
- On 16 March 2012, the Ministry of Finance issued Circular No. 48/2012/TT-BTC providing guidelines for the determination of initial prices and financial regime in the operation of auction of land use rights in order to allocate land with land use levy or to lease land.

Natural Resources - Environment

- Decree No. 22/2010/ND-CP dated 26 March 2012 providing for the auction of right to exploit minerals.
- On 9 March 2012, the Government stipulated Decree No. 15/2012/ND-CP detailing a number of articles in Law on Minerals.
- Decision No. 366/QD-TTG dated 31 March 2012 of the Prime Minister approving the National Target Program on Rural Clean Water and Environmental Sanitation for the period from 2012 to 2015.
- On 23 March 2012, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment issued Decision No. 341/QD-BTNMT promulgating the list of provincial river catchment areas.
- Decision No. 326/QD-TTg dated 20 March 2012 of the Prime Minister approving the scheme on overall investigation and evaluation of coal resources in mainland and Red River basin.
- On 6 March 2012, the People’s Committee of Ho Chi Minh City stipulated Decision No. 09/2012/QD-UBND on decentralization for the Department of Natural Resources and Environment to extend, amend and revoke licenses of harmful waste management.
- Circular No. 02/2012/TT-BTNMT dated 19 March 2012 of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment providing for the National technical regulation on basic geographic information.
- On 16 March 2012, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment issued Circular No. 01/2012/TT-BTNMT on formation, assessment, approval,

examination and certification of the implementation of detailed environmental protection schemes, and formation and registration of the simple environmental protection schemes.

Science - Technology

- Decree No. 13/2012/ND-CP dated 2 March 2012 promulgating the Regulation on Initiatives.
- On 23 March 2012, the Ministry of Science and Technology stipulated Decision No. 474/QD-BKHHCN approving the List of projects under Intellectual property support and development program to be selected for implementation in two years 2012 and 2013.
- Decision No. 317/QD-TTg dated 15 March 2012 of the Prime Minister approving the scheme on improvement of capacities of the science and technology progress application centers and quality measuring standard technology centers of provinces and central run cities.
- On 12 March 2012, the Ministry of Industry and Trade issued Decision No.1092/QD-BCT approving the master plan on industrial development of Mekong Delta key economic region until 2020 with orientation to 2030.
- Decision No. 989/QD-BCT dated 6 March 2012 of the Ministry of Industry and Trade approving the planning on industrial development of Lang Son – Hanoi - Hai Phong economic corridor until 2020, with orientation to 2025.
- On 5 March 2012, the Prime Minister stipulated Decision No. 265/QD-TTg approving the scheme on improvement of technical research, deployment and support capacity to serve atomic energy application development and to ensure safety and security.
- Circular No. 05/2012/TT-BKHHCN dated 12 March 2012 of the Ministry of Science and Technology on the amendment and supplement to Article 1 of Decision No. 05/2005/QD-BKHHCN dated 11 May 2005 of the Minister of Science and Technology on amending and supplementing Decision No.28/2004/QD-BKHHCN dated 1 October 2004 on methods of determining the localization rates of automobiles.

Information - Communications

- On 22 March 2012, the Ministry of Information and Communications issued Decision No. 463/QD-BTTTT promulgating guidelines on implementation of criterion of building new rural in the information and communication field.
- Decision No. 16/2012/QD-TTg dated 8 March 2012 of the Prime Minister providing for the auction and assignment of right to use radio frequencies.

- On 20 March 2012, the Ministry of Information and Communications stipulated Circular No. 03/2012/TT-BTTTT providing a list of radio engineering devices exempted from licence for use of radio engineering frequencies.
- Circular No. 02/2012/TT-BTTTT dated 15 March 2012 of the Ministry of Information and Communications detailing the provision and use of postal services.

Administration - Judiciary

- On 20 March 2012, the Government issued Decree No. 20/2012/ND-CP providing for data basis of criminal judgment enforcement.
- Decision No. 348/QD-TTg dated 26 March 2012 of the Prime Minister on the adjustment in Program on drafting documents that detail the implementation of the Laws passed in Legislature XIII of the National Assembly, 2nd session.
- On 14 March 2012, the Prime Minister stipulated Decision No. 304/QD-TTg promulgating the Program on drafting documents that detail the implementation of the Laws passed in Legislature XIII of the National Assembly, 2nd session.
- Decision No. 272/QD-TTg dated 6 March 2012 of the Prime Minister on the establishment of State Steering Committee for renovation of public non-business professional units' operational mechanism.
- On 5 March 2012, the Prime Minister issued Decision No. 263/QD-TTg approving the plan of reviewing central administrative procedures in 2012.
- Decision No. 1111/QD-UBND dated 5 March 2012 of the People's Committee of Ho Chi Minh City promulgating Program on legal assistance to enterprises in Ho Chi Minh City's area for the period from 2012 to 2015.
- On 2 March 2012, the Ministry of Labour, War Invalids and Social Affairs stipulated Decision No. 252/QD-LDTBXH promulgating the plan of implementing Law on Anti-corruption of Labour, War Invalids and Social Affairs branch in 2012.
- Circular No. 01/2012/TT-BNG dated 20 March 2012 of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs providing guidelines for a number of provisions of Decree No.111/2011/ND-CP dated 5 December 2011 on consular certification and consular legalization.
- On 16 March 2012, the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Justice jointly issued Inter-ministerial Circular No. 47/2012/TTLT-BTC-BTP on providing for the estimate formation, management, use and finalization of expenditures funded by the State budget to ensure the construction and perfection of legal documents of the People's Councils and the People's Committees.
- Joint Circular No. 46/2012/TTLT-BTC-TTCP dated 16 March 2012 of the Ministry of Finance and the Government Inspectorate providing for the regime

on improvement of officers and civil servants who do the work of receiving peoples and handling complaints, denunciations, petitions and reflection letters.

Agriculture – Forestry - Fishery

- On 30 March 2012, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development stipulated Decision No. 700/QD-BNN-TCCB on the establishment of Inspection and Legal Department under the National Argo – Forestry - Fisheries Quality Assurance Bureau.
- Decision No. 678/QD-BNN-PC dated 29 March 2012 of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development promulgating the Regulation on operation of the Committee for Coordinating legal education and popularization works of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development.
- On 22 March 2012, the Prime Minister issued Decision No. 338/QD-TTg approving the scheme on strengthening State management capacity of veterinary branch for the period from 2012 to 2020.
- Decision No. 279/QD-TTG dated 7 March 2012 of the Prime Minister approving the Program on development of seafood exports up to 2015 with orientation to 2020.
- On 27 March 2012, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development stipulated Circular No. 14/2012/TT-BNNPTNT providing guidelines for professional dossiers of botanical quarantine.
- Circular No. 13/2012/TT-BNNPTNT dated 19 March 2012 of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development promulgating the additional list of fertilizers permitted for production, trade and use in Vietnam.
- On 1 March 2012, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, the Ministry of Finance, and the Ministry of Planning and Investment jointly issued Inter-ministerial Circular No. 11/2012/TTLT-BNNPTNT-BTC-BKHDT providing guidelines for the regime on management and use of expenditures funded by State budget for the project on developing agricultural and forestry plant varieties, domestic animals and aquatic varieties up to 2020.
- Circular No. 12/2012/TT-BNNPTNT dated 1 March 2012 of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development issuing “Additional list of plant varieties permitted for production and trade in Vietnam”.

Culture - Tourism

- On 12 March 2012, the Government stipulated Decree No. 16/2012/ND-CP on sanctioning administrative violations in the field of tourism.

- Decision No. 1232/QD-BVHTTDL dated 30 March 2012 of the Minister of Culture, Sports and Tourism on setting up the Scheme on implementing “one stop shop” mechanism in agencies of the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism.
- On 30 March 2012, the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism issued Circular No. 03/2012/TT-BVHTTDL providing for the management of technological and scientific tasks of the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism.
- Inter-ministerial Circular No. 20/2012/TTLT-BVHTTDL-BTC dated 7 March 2012 of the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism and the Ministry of Finance providing guidelines for management and use of expenditures funded by State budget for creative activities and art and literature works in Central and local art and literature associates for the period from 2011 to 2015.

Miscellaneous

- On 1 March 2012, the Government stipulated Decree No. 12/2012/ND-CP on registering and managing operations of foreign Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) in Vietnam.
- Decision No. 12/2012/QD-UBND dated 20 March 2012 of the People’s Committee of Ho Chi Minh City promulgating the Regulation on coordinating and managing business activities of debt chasing services in Ho Chi Minh City’s area.
- On 27 March 2012, the Ministry of Industry and Trade issued Circular No.06/2012/TT-BCT detailing the licensing order and procedures for the establishment of representative offices of foreign trade promotion organizations in Vietnam.
- Circular No. 49/2012/TT-BTC dated 20 March 2012 of the Ministry of Finance providing guidelines for supporting operational funds to politics - society associations’ branches in communes with special difficult conditions.

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