

# Legal news

December 2008

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## HEALTH INSURANCE LAW

### A look at the new health insurance law

*By Vuong Son Ha*

The Law on Health Insurance, passed by the National Assembly on November 14, 2008, will take effect next July 1.

Applicable to all domestic and foreign individuals and organisations, the law will govern eligibility and the scope of health insurance coverage, health insurance funding, rights and obligations of insurers and insured, and a road map for universal health insurance.

From the point-of-view of enterprises, the new law will have a considerable impact, as they will be obligated between now and 2014 to provide health insurance coverage to all employees working under indefinite-term labour contracts or labour contracts with a definite term of three full months or more, as well as enterprise managers receiving wages. An employee's maternity leave remains to be included into his/her continuous period of health insurance payment eligible for such insurance regime enjoyment, although during this time the employee and the employer do not have to pay insurance premium.

Article 13, Clause 1, of the law would provide for a premium level of up to 6 per cent of the employee's monthly wage, of which the employer is obligated to pay two-thirds and the employee one-third.

For employees working under multiple labour contracts, the health insurance premium will be based on the labour contract with the highest wage level. However, in no case will the maximum base wage used to calculate insurance premiums exceed 20 times the minimum wage.

As under current regulations, the employer will pay premiums monthly to the health insurance fund on behalf of the employee, deducting the amount submitted for the employee's contribution from his/her wage. (The period can be expanded to every three or six months for enterprises in agriculture, forestry, fisheries and salt-making which pay wages on a seasonal rather than monthly basis.)

Under the new law, health insurance participants have the right to be granted a health insurance card, choose their initial examination and treatment provider, receive examination and treatment, receive reimbursement for costs of examination and treatment from a health insurance organisation in accordance with the health insurance regime, request and receive information about the health insurance regime, and make claims and denunciations against breaches of the law on health insurance.

Participants in the health insurance system also have the obligation to fully and timely submit health insurance premiums, use their health insurance card for proper purposes and not lend them to others, comply with health insurance regulations, and pay those healthcare costs not lawfully covered by the health insurance fund.

The organisations and individuals submitting health insurance premiums have the responsibility to prepare the application file for granting a health insurance card and deliver the card to the participant, to fully and timely submit premiums, and maintain full and accurate records related to the payment of health insurance premiums.

The law also acknowledges a role for labour unions, trade associations and other groups that represent either employees or employers in ensuring the enforcement of rights and obligations under the health insurance law.

To settle disputes that may arise under the new law, e.g., disputes arising out of employee or employer rights or obligations under the law, or disputes involving health insurance organisations and healthcare providers, the parties are obligated to seek conciliation. If the conciliation fails, either party will reserve the right to take the matter to court.

In addition to advancing the noble objective of universal health insurance and supplying detailed health insurance regulations, the new law also poses a challenge to enterprises, who face a sudden increase in labour costs at a time of economic difficulty. This could cause enterprises to reconsider their human resource needs and lead to layoffs. It also remains to be seen whether the increased premium levels required under the law will eliminate the risk of insolvency of the health insurance fund.

## Other Sectors

### Finance

- On December 25, 2008, the Ministry of Finance issued Decision No. 120/2008/QD-BTC promulgating the accounting regime for the State budget and professional activities of the State Treasury.
- Decision No. 08/2008/QD-KTNN of the State Audit, dated December 19, 2008 promulgating the regulations on making and issuing annual auditing plan of the State Audit.
- On December 5, 2008, the Ministry of Finance stipulated Decision No. 114/2008/QD-BTC announcing interest rates for State's investment credits and export credits and the difference of interest rates calculated for post-investment support.
- Decision No. 118/2008/QD-BTC of the Ministry of Finance, dated December 16, 2008 on the amendment of and supplement to Decision No. 73/2006/QD-BTC, dated December 18, 2006 of the Ministry of Finance providing the regime of collection, submission and use of fees and charges in the field of customs.
- On December 24, 2008, the Ministry of Finance issued Circular No. 128/2008/TT-BTC guiding the collection and management of State budget's revenues through the State Treasury;
- Circular No. 117/2008/TT-BTC of the Ministry of Finance, dated December 5, 2008 providing guidelines on the management and use of costs for the investment project management for investment projects funded by the State budget.
- On December 2, 2008, the Ministry of Finance stipulated Circular No. 115/2008/TT-BTC guiding a number of points on the organization of implementing the State budget's estimate for 2009.

### Banking

- Decision No. 3158/QD-NHNN of the State Bank, dated December 19, 2008 on the adjustment of ratios of the credit institutions' obligatory reserves regarding deposits in Vietnamese Dong.
- On December 16, 2008, the State Bank stipulated Decision No. 35/2008/QD-NHNN on the amendment of and supplement to a number of articles of the regulations on process and procedures on implementation of changes of People's Funds that must be approved by the State Bank accompanying Decision No. 05/2007/QD-NHNN of the Governor of State Bank, dated January 30, 2007.
- Decision No. 34/2008/QD-NHNN of the State Bank of Vietnam, dated December 5, 2008 on the amendment of and supplement to a number of articles of the

regulations on ratios for ensuring safety in operations of credit institutions accompanying Decision No. 457/2005/QD-NHNN of the Governor of State Bank, dated April 19, 2005.

- On December 3, 2008, the State Bank issued Decision No. 33/2008/QD-NHNN on interest rates for loans in Vietnamese Dong granted by grass-root People's Credit Funds with respect to clients.
- Decision No. 2951/QD-NHNN of the State Bank, dated December 3, 2008 on the adjustment of obligatory reserves regarding credit institutions.

## **Taxation**

- On December 11, 2008, the Government stipulated Decree No. 124/2008/ND-CP detailing and guiding the implementation of a number of articles of the Law on Corporate Income Tax.
- Decree No. 123/2008/ND-CP, dated December 8, 2008 detailing and guiding the implementation of a number of articles of the Law on Value-added Tax.
- On December 10, 2008, the Ministry of Finance issued Decision No. 117/2008/QD-BTC adjusting rates of preferential import tax regarding a number of items under Group 2710 in the Preferential Import Tariff.
- Decision No. 115/2008/QD-BTC of the Ministry of Finance, dated December 9, 2008 on the adjustment of rates of preferential import tax regarding a number of items in the Preferential Import Tariff.
- On December 1, 2008, the Ministry of Finance stipulated Decision No. 112/2008/QD-BTC promulgating Vietnam's Special Preferential Import Tariff to implement the Agreement for ASEAN – Korea Free Trade Area for the period from 2009 to 2011.
- Decision No. 111/2008/QD-BTC of the Ministry of Finance, dated December 1, 2008 promulgating Vietnam's Special Preferential Import Tariff to implement the Agreement for ASEAN – China Free Trade Area for the period from 2009 to 2011.
- On December 1, 2008, the Ministry of Finance issued Decision No. 110/2008/QD-BTC adjusting rates of preferential import tax regarding a number of items under Group 2710 in the Preferential Import Tariff.
- Circular No. 134/2008/TT-BTC of the Ministry of Finance, dated December 31, 2008 guiding the implementation of tax obligations applicable to foreign organizations and individuals doing business in Vietnam or having incomes derived from Vietnam.
- On December 26, 2008, the Ministry of Finance stipulated Circular No. 130/2008/TT-BTC guiding the implementation of a number of articles of the Law on Corporate Income Tax No. 14/2008/QH12 and of Decree No. 124/2008/ND-

CP, dated December 11, 2008 detailing the implementation of a number of articles of the Law on Corporate Income Tax.

- Circular No. 129/2008/TT-BTC of the Ministry of Finance, dated December 26, 2008 providing guidelines on the implementation of a number of articles of the Law on Value-added Tax and of Decree No. 123/2008/ND-CP, dated December 8, 2008 detailing and guiding the implementation of a number of articles of the Law on Value-added Tax.

### Insurance

- On December 31, 2008, the Government issued Decree No. 134/2008/ND-CP on the adjustment of monthly incomes that paid social insurance regarding employees participating in voluntary social insurance.
- Decree No. 127/2008/ND-CP, dated December 12, 2008 detailing and guiding the implementation of a number of articles of the Law on Social Insurance with respect to unemployment insurance.
- On December 30, 2008, the Ministry of Health stipulated Decision No. 5205/QD-BYT promulgating the Regulation on combination of activities in the implementation of policies and laws on health insurance.

### Trade

- Decision No. 49/2008/QD-BCT of the Ministry of Industry and Trade promulgating the Regulation on online provision of public services managed by this Ministry.
- On December 8, 2008, the Ministry of Industry and Trade issued Decision No. 44/2008/QD-BCT promulgating the Regulation on grant of AJ-form Certificate of Origin to enjoy incentives under ASEAN – Japan Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement.
- Circular No. 17/2008/TT-BCT of the Ministry of Industry and Trade, dated December 12, 2008 guiding the implementation of applying the regime of automatic import license grant for a number of items.
- On December 9, 2008, the Ministry of Industry and Trade stipulated Circular No. 16/2008/TT-BCT guiding the import of items falling within the list for management of import under tariff quotas in 2009;
- Circular No. 15/2008/TT-BCT of the Ministry of Industry and Trade, dated December 2, 2008 providing guidelines on the implementation of a number of articles of Decree No. 06/2008/ND-CP, dated January 16, 2008 sanctioning administrative violations in the field of commercial activities.

- On December 4, 2008, the Ministry of Finance issued Circular No. 116/2008/TT-BTC guiding the customs procedures for goods under processing in combination with foreign traders.

### Labour

- Decree No. 122/2008/ND-CP, dated December 4, 2008 on the implementation of regional allowances regarding persons who enjoy retirement wage, once social insurance, monthly allowance for incapacitation and monthly allowance for labour accidents or occupational diseases.
- On December 31, 2008, the Ministry of Labour, War Invalids and Social Affairs stipulated Decision No. 73/2008/QD-BLDTBXH announcing the list of legal documents issued by this Ministry, which became invalid.
- Decision No. 70/2008/QD-BLDTBXH of the Ministry of Labour, War Invalids and Social Affairs, dated December 30, 2008 on scholarships encouraging vocational education.
- On December 30, 2008, the Ministry of Labour, War Invalids and Social Affairs issued Decision No. 69/2008/QD-BLDTBXH promulgating the regulations on organization and management of the evaluation and grant of national professional skill certificates.
- Decision No. 1846/QD-LDTBXH of the Ministry of Labour, War Invalids and Social Affairs, dated December 25, 2008 on the pilot implementation of negotiating and signing a collective labour agreement of Vietnam's textile and garment branch.
- On December 19, 2008, the People's Committee of Ho Chi Minh City stipulated Decision No. 87/2008/QD-UBND promulgating the Regulation on organization and operation of the Department of Labour, War Invalids and Social Affairs.
- Circular No. 31/2008/TT-BLDTBXH of the Ministry of Labour, War Invalids and Social Affairs, dated December 22, 2008 guiding the implementation of regimes of labour and wages regarding scientific and technological enterprises converted from public scientific and technological research organizations under Decree No. 80/2007/ND-CP, dated May 19, 2007 on scientific and technological enterprises.

### Health

- On December 30, 2008, the Ministry of Health issued Decision No. 55/2008/QD-BYT providing the functions, duties, authority and organizational structure of the Anti-HIV/AIDS Department under the Ministry of Health.

- Decision No. 54/2008/QD-BYT of the Ministry of Health, dated December 30, 2008 providing the functions, duties, authority and organizational structure of the Preventive Medicine and Environment Department under the Ministry of Health.
- On December 30, 2008, the Ministry of Health stipulated Decision No. 53/2008/QD-BYT providing the functions, duties, authority and organizational structure of the Drug Administration under the Ministry of Health.
- Decision No. 50/2008/QD-BYT, dated December 30, 2008 of the Ministry of Health providing the functions, duties, authority and organizational structure of the Mother and Children Health Department under the Ministry of Health.
- On December 30, 2008, the Ministry of Health issued Decision No. 49/2008/QD-BYT providing the functions, duties, authority and organizational structure of the Department for Traditional Medicine and Pharmacy under the Ministry of Health.
- Decision No. 43/2008/QD-BYT of the Ministry of Health, dated December 30, 2008 providing the functions, duties, authority and organizational structure of the Legal Department under the Ministry of Health.
- On December 30, 2008, the Ministry of Health stipulated Decision No. 42/2008/QD-BYT providing the functions, duties, authority and organizational structure of the Health Insurance Department under the Ministry of Health.
- Decision No. 41/2008/QD-BYT of the Ministry of Health, dated December 30, 2008 providing the functions, duties, authority and organizational structure of the Inspectorate under the Ministry of Health.
- On December 26, 2008, the Ministry of Health issued Decision No. 40/2008/QD-BYT on the decentralization in State management of cosmetics regarding cosmetics made in Vietnam.
- Decision No. 173/2008/QD-TTg of the Prime Minister, dated December 25, 2008 promulgating the regulations on application of necessary measures meeting the demands for anti-HIV medicines in emergency cases.
- On December 19, 2008, the Prime Minister stipulated Decision No. 172/2008/QD-TTg on the addition to Decision No. 108/2007/QD-TTg of the Prime Minister, dated July 17, 2007 approving a programme on the national objective for preventing and controlling a number of dangerous social diseases, epidemics and HIV/AIDS for the period from 2006 to 2010.
- Decision No. 4015/QD-BNN-CN of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, dated December 17, 2008 on the temporary designation of laboratories testing and analyzing melamine in animal feeds for aquaculture.
- On December 15, 2008, the Ministry of Health issued Decision No. 39/2008/QD-BYT promulgating “Common method for processing medicines in accordance with traditional methods”.



- Decision No. 118/2008/QD-BNN of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development promulgating the Regulation on inspection and certification of foods quality and hygiene for safety of aquacultural goods.
- On December 11, 2008, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development stipulated Decision No. 117/2008/QD-BNN promulgating the Regulation on inspection and certification of establishments manufacturing and trading aquacultural products that are qualified in ensuring foods hygiene and safety.
- Decision No. 38/2008/QD-BYT of the Ministry of Health, dated December 11, 2008 promulgating the "Regulations on maximum limit of cross-contaminated melamine in foods".
- On December 30, 2008, the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Interior Affairs jointly issued Inter-ministerial Circular No. 12/2008/TTLT-BYT-BNV guiding the functions, duties, authority, organizational structure and personnel of Food Administrations under the Departments of Health of provinces and cities of central levels.

### Education

- Decision No. 60/2008/QD-UBND of the People's Committee of Hanoi providing the functions, duties, authority and organizational structure of the Department of Education and Training of Hanoi.
- On December 9, 2008, the Ministry of Education and Training stipulated Decision No. 68/2008/QD-BGDĐT promulgating the regulations on job guidance and advisory in universities and establishments for professional intermediate education.
- Inter-ministerial Circular No. 125/2008/TTLT-BTC-BGD&ĐT of the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Education and Training guiding the management and use of costs for implementation of a programme on national education and training objective till 2010.

### Transport

- On December 31, 2008, the Ministry of Transport issued Decision No. 35/2008/QD-BGTVT promulgating this Ministry's Statutes on settlement of claims and denunciations.
- Decision No. 3962/QD-BGTVT of the Ministry of Transport, dated December 30, 2008 on the disposal of assets recovered from projects.
- On December 26, 2008, the Ministry of Transport stipulated Decision No. 31/2008/QD-BGTVT on professional standards and professional certificates of crew and minimum safe limits applicable for Vietnamese sea liners.

- Decision No. 91/2008/QD-UBND of the People's Committee of Ho Chi Minh City, dated December 25, 2008 promulgating the collection level of registration fee applicable to under 10 seat cars in the area of Ho Chi Minh City.
- On December 16, 2008, the Ministry of Transport issued Decision No. 29/2008/QD-BGTVT on the titles and duties according to titles of crew and the registration of crew working on Vietnamese sea liners.
- Decision No. 28/2008/QD-BGTVT of the Ministry of Transport, dated December 11, 2008 promulgating this Ministry's programme on promulgation and education of laws from 2008 to 2012.
- On December 4, 2008, the Ministry of Transport stipulated Decision No. 27/2008/QD-BGTVT providing the functions, duties, authority and organizational structure of Vietnam Inland Waterway Administration.
- Decision No. 26/2008/QD-BGTVT of the Ministry of Transport, dated December 4, 2008 providing the functions, duties, authority and organizational structure of Vietnam Register.
- On December 1, 2008, the Prime Minister issued Decision No. 1734/QD-TTg approving the planning on development of Vietnam's express land road networks till 2020 with orientation to after 2020.
- Circular No. 126/2008/TT-BTC of the Ministry of Finance, dated December 22, 2008 providing rules, terms, fee schedule and liability levels under obligatory insurance for civil liability of the vehicle owners.
- On December 5, 2008, the Ministry of Transport stipulated Inter-ministerial Circular No. 12/2008/TTLT-BGTVT-BNV guiding the functions, duties, authority and organizational structure of professional authority on transport under the people's committees of provincial or district level.

## Construction

- Decision No. 17/2008/QD-BXD of the Ministry of Construction, dated December 31, 2008 on the amendment of and supplement to a number of contents of the frame programme on training and improving professional knowledge and skill in construction assessment accompanying Decision No. 01/2008/QD-BXD dated February 1, 2008 and the Regulation on grant of certificate of construction assessment engineers accompanying Decision No. 06/2008/QD-BXD of the Minister of Construction, dated April 18, 2008.
- On December 31, 2008, the Ministry of Construction issued Decision No. 16/2008/QD-BXD promulgating the Regulation on ensuring safety of water supply.

- Decision No. 1744/2008/QD-BKH of the Ministry of Planning and Investment, dated December 29, 2008 promulgating the standard forms for tender invitation dossiers for small-scale construction and installation tender packages.
- On December 27, 2008, the People's Committee of Ho Chi Minh City stipulated Decision No. 95/2008/QD-UBND of the People's Committee of Ho Chi Minh City, dated December 27, 2008 on the authorization to the Head of Management Board of City High Technology Park in tendering works with respect to projects of Groups B and C in the City High Technology Park.
- Decision No. 93/2008/QD-UBND of the People's Committee of Ho Chi Minh City, dated December 26, 2008 on the authority in evaluating and approving duties and projects of detailed planning on urban construction and planning on construction of rural residential clusters in the area of Ho Chi Minh City.
- On December 22, 2008, the Ministry of Justice issued Decision No. 689/QD-BTP on the decentralization and authorization in the management of the State budget funded investment projects for construction under Ministry of Justice's administration.
- Decision No. 57/2008/QD-UBND of the People's Committee of Hanoi, dated December 22, 2008 announcing a labour rate schedule, coefficient for adjustment of labour costs, machinery and equipment costs for work construction in the area of Hanoi.
- On December 22, 2008, the People's Committee of Hanoi stipulated Decision No. 56/2008/QD-UBND announcing a schedule of rates applicable for shift, machinery and equipment for work construction; unit prices for construction, installation, construction survey; unit prices for maintenance of roads and pavements, traffic organization and road surface structure restoration after renovating technical infrastructure works.
- Decision No. 55/2008/QD-UBND of the People's Committee of Hanoi, dated December 22, 2008 announcing estimation levels of construction – Construction part; levels of maintenance of roads and pavements, of traffic organization and road surface structure restoration after renovating technical infrastructure works.
- On December 22, 2008, the People's Committee of Hanoi issued Decision No. 54/2008/QD-UBND providing a number of regulations on the management of costs for investment in work construction - use of capital source from the State budget as stipulated by the Hanoi People's Committee.
- Decision No. 84/2008/QD-UBND of the People's Committee of Ho Chi Minh City, dated December 11, 2008 promulgating the process of local adjustment of detailed planning on urban construction at 1/2,000 scale in Ho Chi Minh City.

- On December 3, 2008, the Ministry of Public Security stipulated Decision No. 2039/2008/QD-BCA(A11) on the list of State secrets at Confidential level of the construction branch.
- Inter-ministerial Circular No. 20/2008/TTLT-BXD-BNV of the Ministry of Construction and the Ministry of Interior Affairs, dated December 16, 2008 guiding the functions, duties, authority and organizational structure of professional authority under the People's Committees of provincial and district levels, and the duties and authority of the People's Committees of communes in with respect to the State management of construction branch.

### Land – Real estate

- On December 22, 2008, the Hanoi People's Committee issued Decision No. 58/2008/QD-UBND promulgating the Charter of the Fund for Assistance in stabilization of life, education, vocational training and jobs for households whose 30% of the land area for agricultural production is recovered.
- Decision No. 89/2008/QD-UBND of the People's Committee of Ho Chi Minh City, dated December 20, 2008 promulgating the regulations on prices of land categories in the area of Ho Chi Minh City.
- On December 18, 2008, the People's Committee of Ho Chi Minh City stipulated Decision No. 86/2008/QD-UBND promulgating the regulations on management and use of social residential houses in the area of Ho Chi Minh City.
- Decision No. 12/2008/QD-BTNMT of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, dated December 18, 2008 promulgating the "National technical specifications for determination of administrative landmarks and documentation on administrative landmark at all levels.
- On December 12, 2008, the Prime Minister issued Decision No. 167/2008/QD-TTg on the policy on supporting households of poverty category in residential housing.
- Decision No. 5327/QD-UBND of the People's Committee of Ho Chi Minh City, dated December 10, 2008 promulgating a plan on renovation and re-construction of old apartments damaged or downgraded in the City area from now on to 2010.
- On December 4, 2008, the Ministry of Construction stipulated Decision No. 1408/QD-BXD on the correction of Decision No. 29/2007/QD-BXD of the Minister of Construction, dated December 31, 2007 promulgating the frame programme on training and education of knowledge in real estate brokerage, real estate assessment, and management and direction of real estate trading floors.
- Decision No. 1735/QD-TTg of the Prime Minister, dated December 1, 2008 on the transfer of duties and authority in land assessment, dossiers, documents,

organizations and public officials and servants for land assessment from the finance branch to the branch of natural resources and environment.

- On December 1, 2008, the People's Committee of Ho Chi Minh City issued Decision No. 82/2008/QD-UBND on the amendment of and supplement to Clause 2, Article 10 of the regulations accompanying Decision No. 17/2008/QD-UBND of the People's Committee of Ho Chi Minh City, dated March 14, 2008 on the compensation, support and resettlement when the State recovers land in the area of Ho Chi Minh City.

## Environment

- Decree No. 120/2008/ND-CP, dated December 1, 2008 on the management of river basin.
- On December 31, 2008, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment stipulated Decision No. 16/2008/QD-BTNMT promulgating the National technical specifications on environment.
- Decision No. 52/2008/QD-BCT of the Ministry of Industry and Trade, dated December 30, 2008 promulgating the temporary Regulation on environmental protection of the industry and trade branch.
- On December 24, 2008, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment issued Decision No. 13/2008/QD-BTNMT promulgating the regulations on geological mapping and mineral resource survey at 1:50,000 scale.
- Decision No. 88/2008/QD-UBND of the People's Committee of Ho Chi Minh City, dated December 20, 2008 on the collection of fees for hygiene and for environmental protection with respect to ordinary solid wastes in the area of Ho Chi Minh City.
- On December 17, 2008, the Ministry of Industry and Trade stipulated Decision No. 47/2008/QD-BCT approving the planning on survey, exploitation, processing and use of mineral group of chalky limestone (marble), feldspar, kaolin and magnesite till 2015 with orientation to 2025.
- Decision No. 158/2008/QD-TTg of the Prime Minister, dated December 2, 2008 on the programme of national objective to cope with climate changes.
- On December 12, 2008, the Ministry of Finance issued Circular No. 121/2008/TT-BTC guiding the regime of financial incentives and support for activities of investment in control of solid wastes.

## Science - Technology

- Decree No. 133/2008/ND-CP, dated December 31, 2008 detailing and guiding the implementation of a number of articles of the Law on Technology Transfer.

- On December 31, 2008, the Government stipulated Decree No. 132/2008/ND-CP detailing the implementation of a number of articles of the Law on Quality of Products and Goods.
- Decision No. 53/2008/QD-BCT of the Ministry of Industry and Trade, dated December 30, 2008 approving the strategy for development of industries applying high technologies till 2020.
- On December 30, 2008, the Ministry of Industry and Trade issued Decision No. 51/2008/QD-BCT promulgating the National technical specifications on safety in preservation, transportation, use and disposal of industrial explosive materials.
- Decision No. 90/2008/QD-UBND of the People's Committee of Ho Chi Minh City, dated December 25, 2008 on the amendment of Point c Article 3 of Decision No. 21/2001/QD-UB of the Chairman of the People's Committee of Ho Chi Minh City, dated March 6, 2001 on a number of incentive policies and measures for encouraging investment in Quang Trung software park.
- On December 19, 2008, the Ministry of Industry and Trade stipulated Decision No. 48/2008/QD-BCT approving the planning on development of the branch of electric equipment manufacture for the period from 2006 to 2015 with orientation to 2025.
- Decision No. 3704/QD-BGTVT of the Ministry of Transport, dated December 5, 2008 providing the functions, duties, authority and organizational structure of the Department of Science and Technology.
- On December 4, 2008, the Prime Minister issued Decision No. 160/2008/QD-TTg approving the overall strategy and policy on protection of domestic industrial manufacture in compliance with international commitments and WTO regulations for the period to 2020.
- Decision No. 159/2008/QD-TTg of the Prime Minister, dated December 4, 2008 approving a project on "Innovation and modernization of technologies in the branch of mineral exploitation to 2015 with orientation to 2025".
- On December 1, 2008, the Ministry of Science and Technology stipulated Decision No. 2669/QD-BKHCHN on the cancellation of Vietnam's standards.
- Circular No. 18/2008/TT-BCT of the Ministry of Industry and Trade, dated December 19, 2008 guiding the functions, duties, authority and organizational structure of the Industrial Promotion and Industrial Development Consulting Centre of provinces and cities of central levels.
- On December 19, 2008, the Ministry of Finance issued Circular No. 124/2008/TT-BTC providing guidelines on the regime of collection, submission, management and use of fees for evaluation and charges for grant of licences in the field of electricity.

**Information - Post**

- Decision No. 59/2008/QD-BTTTT of the Ministry of Information and Communications, dated December 31, 2008 promulgating the list of compulsory applied standards for digital signature and certification service of digital signature.
- On December 30, 2008, the Ministry of Information and Communications stipulated Decision No. 58/2008/QD-BTTTT promulgating the Regulation on reporting about certification activities of digital signature of organizations providing certification service of digital signature.
- Decision No. 97/2008/QD-UBND of the People's Committee of Ho Chi Minh City, dated December 30, 2008 promulgating the Regulation on organization and operation of the Department of Information and Communications of Ho Chi Minh City.
- On December 10, 2008, the Hanoi People's Committee issued Decision No. 50/2008/QD-UBND providing the functions, duties, authority and organizational structure of the Department of Information and Communications of Hanoi.
- Decision No. 2276/QD-BTP of the Ministry of Justice, dated December 4, 2008 providing the functions, duties, authority and organizational structure of the Information Technology Department.
- On December 2, 2008, the Ministry of Information and Communications stipulated Decision No. 52/2008/QD-BTTTT promulgating the Regulation on information source dertermination on newspapers.
- Circular No. 12/2008/TT-BTTTT of the Ministry of Information and Communications, dated December 30, 2008 guiding the implementation a number of contents of Decree No. 90/2008/ND-CP dated August 13, 2008 on Anti-spams.
- On December 26, 2008, the Ministry of Information and Communications issued Circular No. 11/2008/TT-BTTTT providing guidelines on the management of supports for development and maintenance of supplying telecommunication services for public use of fishmen.
- Circular No. 08/2008/TT-BTTTT of the Ministry of Information and Communications, dated December 23, 2008 guiding a number of articles of Decree No. 128/2007/ND-CP dated August 2, 2007 on the delivery services.
- On December 18, 2008, the Ministry of Information and Communications stipulated Circular No. 07/2008/TT-BTTTT providing guidelines on a number of contents with respect to activities of information supply on personal webpages (blogs) in Decree No. 97/2008/ND-CP, dated August 28, 2008 on the management, provision and use of internet services and electronic information on Internet.

**Judiciary**

- Decree No. 131/2008/ND-CP, dated December 31, 2008 guiding the implementation of provisions of the Law on Lawyers on socio – professional organizations of lawyers.
- On December 16, 2008, the Government issued Decree No. 128/2008/ND-CP detailing a number of the Ordinance on dealing with administrative violations in 2002 and the Ordinance of 2008 on amendment of and supplement to a number of articles of the Ordinance on dealing with administrative violations.
- Decree No. 126/2008/ND-CP, dated December 11, 2008 detailing and guiding the implementation of the Ordinance on protection of important works related to national security.
- On December 11, 2008, the Government stipulated Decree No. 125/2008/ND-CP on the amendment of and supplement to a number of articles of Decree No. 76/2003/ND-CP, dated June 27, 2003 providing and guiding the application of measures of enforcement into education centres.
- Decision No. 122/2008/QD-BTC of the Ministry of Finance, dated December 25, 2008 promulgating the process for reception of citizens, receipt and settlement of citizens' claims and denunciations in the bodies under the Ministry of Finance.
- On December 23, 2008, the Government Inspectorate issued Decision No. 2894/2008/QD-TTTP on the amendment of and supplement to a number of the Regulation on operations of inspection delegation.
- Decision No. 2861/2008/QD-TTTP of the Government Inspectorate, dated December 22, 2008 promulgating the Regulation on supervising and examining operations of inspection delegation.
- On December 8, 2008, the Ministry of Justice stipulated Decision No. 09/2008/QD-BTP promulgating the professional rules of legal assistance.
- Decision No. 08/2008/QD-BTP of the Ministry of Justice, dated December 8, 2008 promulgating the Regulation on organization and operation of the Fund for Legal Assistance of Vietnam.
- On December 5, 2008, the Ministry of Justice issued Decision No. 07/2008/QD-BTP promulgating the Regulation on improving professional knowledge and skills in legal assistance.
- Decision No. 2278/QD-BTP of the Ministry of Justice, dated December 4, 2008 providing the functions, duties, authority and organizational structure of the Adoption Department.
- On December 31, 2008, the Ministry of Justice stipulated Circular No. 10/2008/TT-BTP guiding the implementation of a number of provisions of



Decree No. 78/2008/ND-CP, dated July 17, 2008 on the management of legal cooperation with foreign countries.

### Agriculture

- Decision No. 162/2008/QD-TTg of the Prime Minister, dated December 4, 2008 on the policies of industrial promotion and fishery promotion in the localities under difficult conditions.
- On December 3, 2008, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development issued Decision No. 116/2008/QD-BNN promulgating the Regulation on assessment and designation of laboratories testing the quality of products of agriculture, forestry and aquaculture.
- Decision No. 115/2008/QD-BNN of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, dated December 3, 2008 promulgating the temporary regulations on requirements regarding laboratories testing the quality of products of agriculture, forestry and aquaculture.

### Miscellaneous

- On December 30, 2008, the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism stipulated Decision No. 91/2008/QD-BVHTTDL approving the overall planning on development of tourism in the Northern midland and mountainous regions till 2020.
- Decision No. 59/2008/QD-UBND of the Hanoi People's Committee, dated December 23, 2008 providing the functions, duties, authority and organizational structure of the Department of Culture, Sports and Tourism of Hanoi.
- On December 18, 2008, the Prime Minister issued Decision No. 171/2008/QD-TTg on the establishment of Vietnam Securities Depository Centre.
- Decision No. 51/2008/QD-UBND of the Hanoi People's Committee, dated December 16, 2008 on the decentralization of State management in a number of socio – economic fields in the area of Hanoi for the period from 2009 to 2010.
- On December 10, 2008, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs stipulated Decision No. 3207/2008/QD-BNG promulgating the Regulation on visa exemption for citizens of the Russian Federation bearing ordinary passports.
- Circular No. 09/2008/TT-BNV of the Ministry of Interior Affairs, dated December 31, 2008 guiding the implementation of a number of articles of Decree No. 148/2007/ND-CP, dated September 25, 2007 on the organization and operation of social funds and charity funds.

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