



**Dear Readers,**

Welcome to a new edition of our newsletter.

### **1. Compulsory use of, and conversion to, MMK**

On 25<sup>th</sup> May 2022, the Central Bank [requested high-level government organisations](#) to direct its subordinate public and private organisations to use only MMK in domestic procurement.

This is nothing new - similar letters had gone out for years previously, to not much discernible effect -, but still fits a pattern in which the SAC severely restricts the possession of, access to, and use of foreign currency.

To help clients keep track of this development, we have reserved a section on our [Laws in English](#) page for translations of directives, statements, etc. from the Central Bank and other authorities that we come across. If you have more such missives which you think should be included, please contact us.

### **2. Thai-Myanmar and Sino-Myanmar border trade**

On a more positive note, compulsory conversion [does not apply to the border trade](#) in Myawaddy, Tachileik and Muse/105 Miles, provided that payments are made in THB or CNY through an authorised bank. Those wishing to know more about this settlement mechanism (recently introduced) may wish to consult the Central Bank's guidelines for the [Thai-Myanmar](#) and the [Sino-Myanmar](#) border trade.

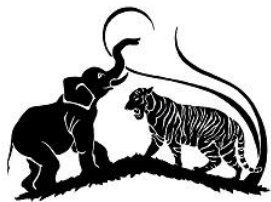
### **3. Intellectual property protection**

We have completely revised and updated our primer on [intellectual property protection](#) in Myanmar.

### **4. Labour law and social security checklist**

This is [part one of our new "checklist" series](#).

We have a large compliance handbook composed of checklists in the format "What to do? Which authority to deal with? When? Potential penalty?", arranged in chronological order from starting the business until its closure, from which we will publish excerpts over time.



This is the first post, covering labour law and social security for establishments other than factories.

### 5. Sanctions primer

This [primer on Myanmar-related sanctions](#) (with an easy-to-grasp summary in table-format) covers all (as far as we know) jurisdictions that have imposed Myanmar-related economic sanctions, i.e. the US, EU, non-EU countries that align their sanctions programme with the EU's, UK (with British Virgin Islands), and Canada, and provides answers to questions such as:

- We are from Asia, how can we possibly become entangled in these Western sanctions?
- Can we receive a license from, or pay a license fee to, a government department that itself is not sanctioned (such as the MIC), but headed by a sanctioned individual (such as the MIC chairman)?
- Can we sell goods or services to a government department that itself is not sanctioned, but headed by a sanctioned individual?
- Can we sell to, or procure from, a private business that has some exposure (e.g., rents land or office space from MEHL)?
- Can we pay taxes to Myanmar's IRD, which is overseen by the (sanctioned) finance minister?
- Can our subsidiary do what is prohibited to our headquarters?
- What to do to mitigate potential exposure?

### 6. INGOs

One possibly wouldn't expect it, but we are still receiving enquiries from INGOs that want to set up shop in Myanmar. We have therefore uploaded our [updated guide on doing so](#).

### 7. Oil and gas

In light of recent announcements by foreign oil and gas companies to withdraw from the country, we thought that readers might be interested in the [decommissioning obligations](#) of petroleum operators in Myanmar.

Furthermore, we uploaded a translation of the [Oilfield \(Labour and Welfare\) Act 1951](#).



## LINCOLN LEGAL SERVICES (MYANMAR) LIMITED

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We hope that you found this information useful.

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### About Lincoln Legal Services (Myanmar) Limited

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

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