

NEWSLETTER 132 - 12 October 2023

Dear Readers,

Welcome to a new edition of our newsletter.

1. New minimum wage (again)

On 9 October 2023, the National Committee for Setting the Minimum Wage under the State Administration Council ("**SAC**") amended the minimum wage again, making the new minimum wage of MMK 5,800 per day uniformly applicable throughout the country for workers in Myanmar, regardless of location and type of business.

On 5 October 2023, the Commission had adjusted the minimum wage for workers in CMP factories and workshops only. This has now been repealed and replaced by an adjusted minimum wage for all workers.

There is (still) an exception for small businesses with less than 10 workers and family-owned businesses.

Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar National Committee for Setting the Minimum Wage Notification No. 2/2023 1385, 10th Waning Day of Tawthalin (9 October 2023)

Announcement that the rate of the minimum wage has been adjusted

- 1. The minimum wage rates, decided according to section 10(d) Minimum Wage Law 2013 after negotiations with the tripartite representatives as being "4,800 kyats (four thousand eight hundred kyats) for 8 working hours (one day) with a rate of 600 kyats (six hundred kyats) per hour uniformly throughout the country for workers in Myanmar, regardless of location and type of business" were promulgated with the approval of the Union Government by the National Committee with Notification No. 2/2018 dated 14 May 2018.
- The wages of daily workers in government departments and organisations were promulgated by Ministry of Planning and Finance Notification No. 70/2023 dated 30 September 2023 to the effect that "an additional allowance of 1,000 kyats

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(exactly one thousand kyats) is to be allowed on top of the wage currently set at 4,800 kyats (exactly four thousand and eight hundred kyats) for a day with 8 working hours, so daily workers are to be allowed a daily wage of 5,800 kyats (exactly five thousand and eight hundred kyats)."

- 3. Therefore, the minimum wage rates have been set to 5,800 kyats (five thousand eight hundred kyats) from 1 October 2023, adding an entitlement to an additional allowance of 1,000 kyats (one thousand kyats exactly) to "4,800 kyats (four thousand eight hundred kyats) for 8 working hours (one day) with a rate of 600 kyats (six hundred kyats) per hour uniformly throughout the country for workers in Myanmar, regardless of location and type of business" according to section 10(d) Minimum Wage Law.
- 4. These specifications shall not apply to small businesses with less than 10 workers and family-owned businesses.
- 5. Notification No. 1/2023 dated 5 October 2023 of the National Committee for Setting the Minimum Wage is repealed by this notification.

Myint Naung Union Minister Ministry of Labour (Chairman, National Committee for Setting the Minimum Wage)

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Distribution list: [Omitted.]

2. Industrial Design Registration Rules issued

The Ministry of Commerce under the SAC issued Industrial Design Registration Rules dated 29 September 2023. These rules closely resemble the trademark registration rules issued earlier, containing procedures for application for registration, representation of the industrial design, examination of the application, reinstatement of an application, correction of errors, withdrawal of an application, dividing an application, opposition, registration and recording, waiver of rights,

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amendments of the register, renewal, recordation of the transfer of an industrial design rights, recordation of a license and cancellation thereof, and appointment of a representative.

Please contact us if you wish to receive an English translation of the Rules (for a fee).

The Intellectual Property Department will hold a training course for prospective industrial design registration representatives from 23 to 27 October 2023, so the day when industrial designs may be registered is probably not far away.

In a related piece of news, the SAC reconstituted the Intellectual Property Rights Central Committee on 5 September 2023.

3. Formation of a "Central Body for Multi-Modal Transportation of Goods"

The Myanmar Gazette dated 6 October 2023 carried news of the establishment of a "Central Body for Multi-Modal Transportation of Goods" by the SAC on 28 August 2023.

The Multi-Modal Transport Law was enacted already in 2014, but this may be the first time (we are not sure) that the central body has actually been set up. It is responsible for, among others, the registration of multi-modal transport operators and their agents.

"Multi-modal transport" means cross-border carriage of goods by at least two different modes of transport (road, railway, rivers, sea or air).

We hope that you have found this information useful.

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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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