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WEEKLY EXPRESS – INFORMATIONS JURIDIQUES

CHINA

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[NATIONAL] The State Council approved regulations adjusted for service trade in pilot areas

In a circular released on 9 October 2021, the State Council approved temporarily adjusting implementation of related administrative regulations in pilot areas for overall deepening of innovation and development in service trade.

The pilot areas cover the municipalities of Beijing, Tianjin, Shanghai and Chongqing, and the Xinjiang Uygur autonomous region, as well as 16 provinces.

The adjustments, proposed by the Ministry of Commerce and the Ministry of Justice, shall be effective until 1 August 2023, involving provisions of the regulation on travel agencies, regulation on the administration of commercial franchises, regulations on patent commissioning, regulation of the People's Republic of China on technology import and export administration, the decision of the State Council on applying administrative licensing to items to be retained for administrative approval, the decision of the State Council on canceling and delegating a group of administrative licensing items, and the circular of the General Office of the State Council on strengthening the administration over holding foreign economic and technological exhibitions in China.

The adjustments shortened the approval time limits for relevant service trade applications; in certain areas, the records filing of relevant commercial franchise operations has been suspended; the foreign investment access has been relaxed in those pilot areas. The purpose of such adjustments is to deepen opening up of service industry to foreign markets and relax the market access to the markets of the pilot areas.

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