

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

November 2015 through January 2016

LABOR

NEW LICENSING CONDITIONS FOR PRIVATE EMPLOYMENT AGENCIES

Ministerial Order No. 047/CAB.VPN/METPS/2015, of 8 October 2015, modified the conditions applicable to the opening, licensing and operation of private employment agencies, initially laid down by Ministerial Order No. 12/CAB.MIN/TPS/062/08, of 18 September 2008.

The new statute provides for a clearer procedure to be followed by the Office for Employment (ONEM) with a view to obtaining the authorization required for opening private employment agencies in the country. Also set forth are details on the subsequent procedure to obtain the necessary license from the Minister for Employment, Labor and Social Security.

Lastly, provision is made for the duties to be performed by private employment agencies, while safeguarding the rights of job applicants and workers placed by private employment agencies and assigned to user companies.

HEALTH

INFORMATION AND ADVERTISING OF DRUGS AND OTHER HEALTH PRODUCTS WITH NEW RULES

New rules on the publication of information on, and advertising of, drugs and other health products were introduced by Ministerial Order No. 1250/CAB/MIN/SP/012/CPH/OBF/2015, of 28 September 2015.

Pursuant to the new regulations, all advertising of drugs, prescriptions and traditional medicine to the general public is strictly forbidden. Advertising aimed at health professionals is permitted, subject to compliance with certain conditions.

All advertisements or information campaigns relating to other health products (including cosmetic products, certain dietary food products, vaccines, contraceptives, etc.) are subject to approval ("visa") by the national pharmaceutical regulatory authority.

REAL ESTATE

NEW LAW ON NON-PROFESSIONAL LEASES ENACTED

A new law on non-professional leases was recently enacted. Law No. 15/025, of 31 December 2015, regulates the formal requirements of lease agreements while also defining obligations of the parties and establishing mandatory particulars to be referenced in same, as well as formalities relating to their execution and renewal.

The provisions of the newly-enacted law will not affect the validity of leases entered into prior to its enactment. The parties to such leases will have a six-month grace period (from the date of entry into force of the new statute) within which to comply with the new regime.

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