



NEWSLETTER

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The Supreme Tribunal of Justice declared the constitutional nature of Presidential Decree No. 4.396, published in Official Gazette No. 6.606 Extraordinary of 12/26/2020, which declared the State of Emergency (including Economic Emergency) in all of the national territory and of Presidential Decree No. 4.413, published in Official Gazette No. 6.610 Extraordinary of 12/31/2020, which declared the State of Emergency of Alarm in all of the national territory. (Official Gazette of 03/02/2021. Decisions Nos. 0001 and 0002).

BANKING AND FINANCE

The Venezuelan Central Bank (VCB) established the interest rates applicable to the obligations derived from employment relationships (45.34% and 40.67%) and to transactions with credit cards (60.00% and 17.00%). (Official Gazette of 03/16/2020. Official Notice. Entry into force: Upon publication in the Official Gazette).

A Resolution of the Superintendence of the Institutions of the Banking Sector issued the Temporary Measures for Evaluation of the Credit Portfolio, Creation of Provision per Risk Category; Enforcement of Guarantees, Special Conditions for Credits granted before the Effectiveness of Decree No. 4.168 of 03/23/2020 (Decree No. 02 that establishes the Economic Protection Measures, published in Official Gazette No. 6.521 Extraordinary of 03/23/2020). Up to 06/30/2021, the guidelines that contravene the provisions of the Resolution will not be applied; with respect to the classification of credits, calculation of their provisions and accounting records, the rest of the provisions of the other regulations issued by the Superintendence continue to be in effect. (Official Gazette of 03/22/2021. Resolution No. 002.21. Entry into force: Upon publication in the Official Gazette).

MISCELLANEOUS

The National Assembly issued the Law that Repeals the Law of Regularization of Constitutional and Legal Periods of the State and Municipal Public Authorities, which fully repeals the Law of Regularization of Constitutional and Legal Periods of State and Municipal Public Authorities published in Official Gazette No. 6.013 Extraordinary of 12/23/2010. (Official Gazette of 03/08/2021. Entry into force: Upon publication in the Official Gazette).



Through a Presidential Decree, the Partial Regulations to the Decree with the Status, Value, and Force of Law of Amendment to the Organic Law of Identification, Relating to the Issue, Renewal, and Extension of Passports were issued. The Regulations on Passports, enacted by Decree No. 611 and published in Official Gazette of 02/28/1975, were repealed. (Official Gazette of 03/22/2021. Decree No. 4.571. Entry into force: Upon publication in the Official Gazette).

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

The National Telecommunications Commission (*Comisión Nacional de Telecomunicaciones* - CONATEL) issued and Administrative Ruling through which it resolved to publish the list of geographical areas and services subject to Obligations of the Universal Telecommunications Service, through CONATEL's official web site (www.conatel.gob.ve) and to publish the Guide of Requirements and Conditions for presentation of Universal Telecommunications Service projects intended to attend to the geographical areas to which said Ruling refers. (Official Gazette of 03/05/2021. Administrative Ruling No. 003. Entry into force: Upon publication in the Official Gazette).



A Presidential Decree declared the strategic character for the development of national economy of metallic, ferrous, aluminum, copper, iron, bronze, steel, nickel or other types of metal waste and residues, naval, aircraft, electric, and electronic scrap, in any condition, as well as of non-metallic solid residues, fiber optic and secondary fiber, resulting from paper and cardboard recycling, in any condition, which the Decree calls “strategic material capable of recycling”. The Decree establishes that the purchase of strategic material capable of recycling of the national public sector is reserved to the National Executive, through the Corporación Ecosocialista Ezequiel Zamora, S.A. (CORPOEZ). Also, the Decree prohibits the exportation of strategic material capable of recycling and establishes that only by way of exception and with a previous authorization may it be exported. Legal regime 4 for exportation of strategic material capable of recycling, established in Decree No. 2.647, published in Official Gazette No. 6.281 Extraordinary of 12/30/2016 and Decree No. 3.247, published in Official Gazette of 01/18/2018, are repealed, as well as any other provision of equal or lower status that contravenes the Decree. (Official Gazette of 03/22/2021. Decree No. 4.445. Entry into force: Upon publication in the Official Gazette).



The Ministries of the Popular Power for Productive Agriculture and Lands, for Defense, for Industries and National Production, for Petroleum, for Internal Affairs, Justice and Peace, and for Transportation, issued a Joint Resolution that establishes the mechanisms for control of carriers and end users of mineral or chemical fertilizers in the national territory. The requirements and formalities of control registration prescribed by the

Sole National Registry of Controlled Chemical Substance Operators (*Registro Nacional Único de Operadores de Sustancias Químicas Controladas* - RESQUIMC) continue to be in effect, as well as those of the General Directorate of Arms and Explosives (*Dirección General de Armas y Explosivos* - DAEX), for the companies that carry out activities and formalities for production, importation, and exportation of the mineral or chemical fertilizers mentioned in the Resolution, covered by legal regime 4, 7, and 11 of the Schedule of Customs Duties. Joint Resolution of the Ministries of the Popular Power for Productive Agriculture and Lands DM/No. 016/2020, for Defense DM/No. 034933/2020, for Industries and National Production DM/No. 13/2020, for Petroleum DM/No. 29/2020, for Internal Affairs, Justice and Peace DM/No. 032/2020, and for Transportation DM/No. 018/2020, published in Official Gazette of 05/27/2020, is repealed. (Official Gazette of 03/26/2021. Joint Resolution DM/No. 005/2021, DM/No. 039637/2021, DM/No. 004/2021, DM/No. 007/2021, DM/No. 053/2021, and DM/No. 003/2021. Effectiveness: From publication of the same in the Official Gazette to 03/31/2022).



The National Office against Organized Crime and Terrorism Financing issued the Set of Rules for the Consolidated Registry of Individuals/Entities subject to the National Office against Organized Crime and Terrorism Financing (RUSO-ONCDOFT). (Official Gazette of 03/30/2021. Administrative Ruling No. ONCDOFT-001-2021. Entry into force: Upon publication in the Official Gazette).





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