



Doing Business in Dominican Republic

Establishing Dominican Tax Free Gift Shops

I. Introduction

The establishment of Hotels in the Dominican Republic requires the assistance by qualified Dominican Legal Counsel that is certified to act before the Ministry of Tourism (MT), who will represent the petitioner and follow up throughout the tourism business license application process.

Dominican Tourism Regulations are updated every year and requirements often change without notice. The MT reserves its right to request additional information and short periods of time are provided to the requesting party to cure or satisfy any missing original documents or information in the form required by the MT.

Dominican Tourism license approval often depends on proper filing of legal documents proving Dominican legal entity existence, identification of owners, activities description, place, service level conditions, among others.

II. Dominican Gift Shops Norms for Classification

Dominican Republic Tourism Regulation 2123 of July 13, 1983 protects, authorizes and controls all commercial establishments that are dedicated to selling DR crafts or traditional items to individuals who visit the DR. The regulation defines gift shops as: "All commercial establishments that are dedicated to the sale of gifts of a traditional genre or crafts and all commercial entity mainly dedicated to selling to tourists".

An authorization permit granted by the Ministry of Tourism, exclusively, is necessary to install or open, which may be approved after the applicant presents a project before the Gift Shop Section of such Ministry and has complied with the necessary legal document requirements thereto for which legal assistance is advised.

The Ministry of Tourism will be in charge of controlling, supervising and inspecting as well as preparing and keeping such registers updated, and of establishing the penalties and misdemeanors arising due to non-compliance.

Questions about this information can be directed to Our Team at 809.472.2222 (info@aclaw.com) or to our lead contact Felipe Isa Castillo (fcastillo@aclaw.com).

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