



Doing Business in Dominican Republic

Establishing Dominican Restaurants

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 Restaurant Norms for Classification

Dominican Republic Tourism Regulation 2116 dated July 13, 1984 establishes the norms for the classification, start-up, and good functional order regarding the establishments that offer food and beverage services. A "restaurant" is considered as: "service establishments that serve food and beverages to the public in general, in a regular or professional manner, for consumption in the same establishment for a determined price".

In order to obtain start-up authorization or license of the establishment and its classification, the law requires a classification application, together with the plan of the establishment premises in which the name, purpose, dining capacity and number of seats is established, along with multiple legal document requirements for which legal assistance is advised. This request shall be evaluated by the classification committee.

Once the license has been granted, the establishment shall keep up with the quality, organization, kind treatment, cleanliness of the place and the services offered in the same for the preparation of foods and beverages, always using food in perfect state and being creative with each presentation.

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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