



Doing Business in Dominican Republic

## Establishing Travel Agencies and Tour Operators

### 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 Travel Agencies and Tour Operators Norms for Classification

Dominican Tourism Regulation 2122 of July 13th, 1984 regulates specialized establishments authorized to act as intermediaries between service providers and the public in general, which organize, sale and execute tourism plans such as hotel reservations, flight tickets, excursions, transportation, lease of sport and other equipment. These establishments are classified according to the services they offer in: (a) Wholesale Travel Agencies; (b) Reservation and Tickets travel Agencies; (c) Inbound and Outbound Operating Tourism Agencies; 2) Local and Domestic Operating Tourism Agencies.

In order to offer Travel Agency Services, an authorization must be requested before the Ministry of Tourism filed with the required documents as set forth in the Regulation for the Classification of Travel Agencies and Tour Operators. This authorization shall be valid for four years and renewable when expired.

Tourism Operating Agencies shall provide the Ministry of Tourism a list of their tourist guides and supporting documents.

In order to insure compliance by the Travel Agencies and Tourism Operators, the Ministry of Tourism is responsible of organizing, biannually inspecting and intervening them for compliance.

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

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