On Some Activities Related to the Regulation of Production, Import, Wholesale and Retail Trade of Cigarettes in Georgia

For the purposes of accordance of the issues of regulation of production, import, wholesale and retail sale of tobacco products on the territory of Georgia with the Law of Georgia “On Protection of Consumers’ Rights”:

1. Production of cigarettes in Georgia to be conducted only on the basis of due licences.
   Licences for production of cigarettes will be issued by the relevant authorities of the Ministry of Agriculture according to the Temporary rules for licencing the production of food products on the territory of Georgia.

2. Import (Codes 2402 and 2403 of the catalogue of foreign economic activities) and retail trade of cigarettes on the entire territory of Georgia to be conducted only on the basis of due licences.

3. The Ministry of Trade and Foreign Economic Relations of Georgia:
   a) will issue the licences for import of cigarettes according to the existing rules;
   b) within a one month will prepare and approve in coordination with the Ministry of Economy the licencing rule for import and wholesale of cigarettes and after approval issue licences for wholesale of cigarettes.

4. According to the Law of Georgia Aon protecting customers’ rights sale of cigarettes through the retail network should be conducted as follows:
   a) information on the products produced in Georgia for sale on local market and imported products should be in Georgian language and should contain the following: the list and amount of the substances dangerous for health; date of issue that shall be indicated on box; text concerning negative effects of smoking - A Ministry of Health’s Warning: Smoking Creates Serious Risks to Your Health as well as one of the examples of the negative effect of smoking like ASmoking Causes Cancer, A Smoking Causes Premature Death, A Smoking of Pregnant Women is Dangerous for their Child, etc.
   b) information on the box of ready product concerning the product must be no less then 6 percent of a box;
   c) it is allowed to sell through the retail market network only the products, which satisfy all requirements of applicable normative acts;
   d) salesperson selling cigarettes, including imported ones, is required to have due documents on all products certified by the signature and stamp of producer or supplier, which contains information concerning certification of the product and its correspondence with the
registration document;

e) it is prohibited to sell cigarettes in educational, children and medical institutions and in
the canteens and buffets of educational, children and medical institutions on the entire territory of Georgia;

f) it is prohibited to sell cigarettes through the retail network: without exact marking and
instructions of producer; after the expiry of the validity date; to the citizens under the age of 18;

g) legal and natural persons working in the retail network must not accept from the
suppliers cigarettes without due licences, respectively - production, import or wholesale;

e) while selling cigarette the salesperson is required to put price tags on the products.

5. The Ministry of Justice (T. Ninidze), the Ministry of Finance (M. Chkuaseli), the Ministry of
Trade and Foreign Economic Relations (K. Zaldastanishvili), the Ministry of Agriculture (B. Gulua), the Ministry of Health (A. Jorbenadze), the State Anti-monopoly Service (V. Maisuradze) in coordination with the Ministry of Economy (V. Papava) within one month must
work out and present proposals concerning liabilities for breaching the rules and regulations in
the field of production, import, wholesale and retail trade of cigarettes in Georgia.

6. The rule concerning licencing wholesale and retail trade of cigarettes shall become effective
upon entry into force of relative normative acts of the Ministry of Trade and Foreign Economic
Relations.

7. From August 1, 1999 import or production of cigarettes for sale on domestic market, which do
not correspond to the requirements described in the paragraph 4 of this decree shall be banned.

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