

# THE DISCIPLINES ON SERVICES DOMESTIC REGULATION - *What's in it? \**

## ***Modalities and timeframes for submission of applications***

- Applicants to approach no more than one competent authority to obtain authorization
- Applications possible at any time throughout the year, or at least, reasonable time periods for submission are guaranteed
- Applications in electronic format are accepted
- Authenticated copies of documents are accepted in place of original documents
- Examinations for professionals are scheduled at frequent intervals and reasonable time periods are guaranteed to submit requests to take the examination

## ***Procedural benchmarks for processing applications***

- Indicative timeframes for processing applications are established
- Applicants can request information on the status of application
- Applicants are informed of the final decision concerning their application within a reasonable period of time after submission
- Applicants are informed if their application is incomplete and they are given an opportunity to provide the additional information required to complete the application
- Applicants are informed of the reasons for rejection of their application and they are provided with an opportunity for resubmission
- Authorizations granted enter into effect without undue delay
- Authorization fees are reasonable and transparent
- Decisions on requests for authorization are reached and administered by competent authorities in an independent manner

## ***Publication of information and stakeholder engagement***

- Information necessary for service suppliers to comply with requirements and procedures for obtaining authorization is promptly published, including electronically
- Service suppliers are granted a reasonable time period before their compliance with a new measure is required
- Proposed laws and regulations are published in advance before their adoption, with an explanation of their purpose and rationale
- Interested persons are granted an opportunity to comment on proposed laws and regulations, and their comments are to be taken into account as much as possible
- Appropriate mechanisms are established to address enquiries from service suppliers or persons seeking to supply services

## ***Transparency, objectivity, impartiality, and non-discrimination of authorization***

- Authorization measures are based on transparent and objective criteria
- Authorization procedures are impartial and adequate for applicants to demonstrate whether they meet the requirements
- Authorization measures do not discriminate between men and women

*\*This document provides an overview of the issues covered in the WTO Joint Initiative's draft Reference Paper on Services Domestic Regulation. It is not intended to reflect all the nuances of specific draft disciplines.*