



A&Z LAW FIRM

A&Z Monthly Newsletter

January 2018

Passion - Professionalism - Collaboration

Dear friends,

This is a monthly newsletter focusing on legal matters in China, and related issues that shape the general business environment for foreign companies operating in China.

Should you have any comments or questions, please do not hesitate to contact Ms. Mireia Paulo at mpaulo@a-zlf.com.cn, or visit [A&Z website](#).

Sincerely,

The Editors

Legal Updates

- [Three Authorities Expand the Pilot Program for Granting General Taxpayer Status to Enterprises in Areas under Special Customs Supervision](#)

Three government agencies, including the State Administration of Taxation, have recently issued the Announcement on Expanding the Pilot Program for Granting General Value-added Tax Taxpayer Status to Enterprises in Areas under Special Customs Supervision, effective from February 1, 2018. It states that the pilot program for granting general VAT taxpayer status to enterprises in areas under special customs supervision will be expanded to cover another 17 areas under special customs supervision, including the Ningbo Export Processing Zone, Tianzhu Comprehensive Bonded Zone, and Minghang Export Processing Zone.

- [MIIT Seeks Comments on Three Compulsory National Standards Including the Safety Requirements for Electric Vehicles](#)

The Department of Equipment Industry under the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology ("MIIT") has recently issued the Safety Requirements for Electric Vehicles (Draft for Comment), the Safety Requirements for Lithium-ion Traction Batteries Used in Electric Vehicles (Draft for Comment) and the Safety Requirements for Electric Buses (Draft for Comment) to seek opinions from all walks of life by February 24, 2018.

A&Z Upcoming events

11 February, Shanghai

A&Z will hold the annual party for all employees of the Firm as the Chinese New Year is coming. This party is to express the gratitude for all the members of the firm's contribution over the past year, while encouraging the Firm to maintain the passionate, collaborative and professional work throughout 2018.

9 February, Shanghai

Ms. Sophie An, Director and Principal Partner at A&Z Law Firm, is invited by the Japan External Trade Organization to give a speech in a seminar about Labor Issues in China and possible solution. Ms. An will focus on the Work Permit System for Foreigners Working in China and relevant regulations for foreigners in China,

8 February, Jiangsu

Mr. Peter Zeng, Senior Partner and attorney at A&Z Law Firm, is invited to participate in the ASICS annual party. Mr. Zeng will give a speech about the Labor Law. He will provide a detailed analysis and practical examples for employees.

A&Z Past events

- [SAIC Requires an Overhaul and Regulation of Authorized Registration of Foreign-invested Enterprises](#)

The General Office of the State Administration for Industry and Commerce has distributed the Circular on Overhauling and Regulating the Authorized Registration of Foreign-invested Enterprises. The overhaul program will focus on correcting such misconduct as changing the government bodies responsible for the registration of foreign-invested enterprises, or illegally issuing business licenses to foreign-invested enterprises, without authority or beyond the scope of authority.

- [MPS Launches Eight Exit-Entry Facilitation Measures](#)

The Ministry of Public Security has issued an announcement, deciding to implement eight exit and entry facilitation measures from February 1, 2018. It launches an array of measures to make it more convenient to apply for visas at near-by police offices, apply for visas via self-services, take pictures for free, apply for visas by expatriate Chinese, and pass through border controls via self-services.

A&Z Legal Opinion



Is the food that you bought at the supermarket expired?

Eric Zhang, Vice Director and Senior Partner

Lion Zhu, Attorney

Lately many restaurants in Shanghai have been broadcasting the work environment in the kitchen at their entrance (in real-time). What is that about?

On March 20th, 2017, Shanghai local government issued "The Shanghai Food Safety Regulations," which are the strictest in history. The aim of this regulations is that the food in Shanghai is becoming safer.

What do you need to know about these new regulations? [Read More.](#)

Industry News

[China's legislature discusses Constitution revision](#)
Global Times, 30 January, 2018

[EU agrees Brexit 'transition' negotiation guidelines](#)
BBC, 30 January, 2018

[ASEAN-India bonhomie seeks to balance power of China](#)
Global Times, 29 January, 2018

January, Shanghai



Ms. Sophie An, Director and Principal Partner at A&Z Law Firm, attended the first Congress of the 13th Session of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference of Shanghai. It is the third time Ms. An was elected as a member of Shanghai CPPCC. During her membership, Ms. An has continuously provided opinions and advice on Shanghai's economic and social developments. A&Z Law Firm keeps an eye on country's evolution and also provides political/legal suggestions.

23-24 January, Beijing-Shanghai



Ms. Mireia Paulo, Director of the European-American Market and Overseas Investment Projects, was invited to give a speech at Sovereign Annual Overseas Permanent Establishment Conference in Beijing and Shanghai. Ms. Paulo spoke about the overview of outbound investment regulations in China. Other relevant speakers coming from consulates and finance institutions also have the opportunity to share opinions on cross-border investments.

20 January, Shanghai

Ms. Sophie An, Director and Principal Partner at A&Z Law Firm, was invited to participate at the Global DBA Association (GDA) annual conference. GDA aims to be "a lifelong learning advocate and practitioner with global influence," thus the conference discussed the "Lifelong learning thinking in the world, building a global academic research ecosystem."

[Nepal opens the taps on hydropower investment](#)
China Daily, 29 January, 2018

[China calls for Japan's joint efforts to advance ties](#)
China Daily, 28 January, 2018

[China-ASEAN trade volume hits record high in 2017](#)
Xinhua, 28 January, 2018

[DPRK team inspects Olympic venues in ROK](#)
China Daily, 28 January, 2018

[British PM's China visit set to push forward "Golden Era" for ties: Chinese ambassador](#)
Xinhua, 26 January, 2018

[Eighteen More Chinese Companies Filed 100+ PCT Applications in 2017](#)
SIPO, 24 January, 2018

[What could China do in a US trade war?](#)
BBC, 24 January 2018

[China's economy grows by 6.9% in 2017](#)
BBC, 18 January 2018

[State Council, Interpreting data of CPI and PPI in Dec by NBS](#)
National Bureau of Statistics, 10 January 2018

The information contained in this Newsletter is for reference on matters of interest only, and is not intended to be comprehensive. Although we try to ensure accuracy, please note that the application and impact of laws can vary based on contextual and circumstantial variables. Before taking any action, please ensure that you obtain professional advice specific to your circumstances.

A&Z welcomes any and all questions pursuant hereto. For this reason, we recommend that you directly contact one of our attorneys in assisting you to address your needs.

There are numerous ways for you to keep up-to-date with legal updates, A&Z's practice, and valuable events:

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