

Special Session of the OECD Working Party on Regulatory Management and Reform

Stocktaking and Future Actions: Law-making Procedures

THE MEXICAN FEDERAL REGISTRY OF FORMALITIES AND SERVICES (RFTS)

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- ▶ The RFTS was created on 2000 through the reform of the Federal Administrative Procedure Law. However, this reform established a three year period of time for the Registry to be totally integrated.
- ▶ The purposes for the creation of the Registry were to bring certainty to the population and increase transparency.

To achieve certainty, the Law established the following prohibitions for Federal Agencies:

- Not to apply unregistered formalities or services.
- Not to apply formalities or services in a different way in which they were registered.

To achieve transparency, any person must be able to consult the Registry.

- ▶ In practice, the RFTS is a public online catalog of almost all federal formalities and services. Its importance lies in the fact that it contains descriptive information that is fundamental for the fulfillment of those formalities and services. For instance:
 - Name of the formality or service.
 - Legal grounds.
 - Type of application (free writing or format).
 - Data, documents and number of copies required.
 - Places and schedules for the submission of the application.
 - Maximum period of time and criteria for resolution.
 - Duty rights, when applicable.
 - Places, e-mail and telephone numbers for complaints.

How is the RFTS updated?

- ▶ Federal Agencies submit to the Federal Regulatory Improvement Commission (Commission) the information regarding the formalities or services that they are willing to register or to modify, through an Internet-based system (www.cofemertramites.gob.mx).
- ▶ Once the Commission receives the information, it has 5 days to register the information in the RFTS. The Commission must make sure that the Federal Agency sent all the information required by law and that the legal grounds are the well based.
- ▶ Finally, when the registry is done, all citizens may consult the information of such formalities or services through the Internet (www.cofemer.gob.mx) and the Federal Agencies must make this information available to the public.

How is the RFTS updated?

- ▶ It is important to notice that the responsibility for the legality and content of the information in the Registry belongs to the Federal Agencies that submitted it to the Commission. The latter may only express its opinion with regard to that information.

The cost of the Internet-based system used to receive and publish the information in the RFTS was around \$100,000 dollars. It was implemented in one year including:

- ▶ The application development.
- ▶ The hardware acquisition.
- ▶ The software acquisition licenses (licenses for the database of SQL Server, application for the Visual Studio and ISA Proxy Server).
- ▶ The Housing contract (Internet Service Provider).

- ▶ Nowadays, the Registry contains the information of 3,095 formalities and services.
- ▶ Each year, the website of the Commission receives around 80,000 consultations of formalities and services.
- ▶ It is a model for the creation of local and municipal registries in México.
- ▶ Gives orientation, transparency and certainty to every citizen.
- ▶ Allows the Federal Public Administration to know the principal characteristics of the formalities and services. This information facilitates the identification of areas where it is possible to implement actions of regulatory improvement.

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