

# Vietnam News Brief

An update from PwC Legal

01 February 2012

## LEGAL UPDATES

Vietnam is now in its sixth year of being a full WTO member. Since accession in 2007, Vietnam has progressively implemented its commitments with respect to permitting foreign participation in certain industries that were previously restricted. These have included banking, trading, distribution and retail.

While certain sectors are still subject to restrictions in terms of the form of establishment, such as joint venture (JV) or business cooperation contract, or limitations on maximum foreign holding, the 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary of accession this month results in the removal or relaxation of a number of restrictions. Some notable changes include:

Sector	Prior restrictions	From January 2012
Maintenance and repair of equipment	JV with 51% foreign ownership	100% foreign-owned company is permitted
Courier services	JV with 51% foreign ownership	100% foreign-owned company is permitted
Securities including trading, asset management and other related services	JV with 49% foreign ownership	100% foreign-owned company is permitted
Services incidental to mining	JV with 51% foreign ownership: OK	100% foreign-owned company is permitted
Entertainment services	Not permitted	JV with maximum 49% foreign holding
Customs clearance services	JV with 51% foreign ownership	No restriction on foreign holding